

Thesis Title Behaviour of Mothers During Their Puerperal Period, A Study in Prachinburi Provincial Hospital, Thailand.

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ABSTRACT

A hospital based descriptive retrospective study was carried out to study the behaviour of mothers in terms of their own health care and care of their babies during puerperal period. Some areas were chosen which are recommended by modern medical science as well as approved by national health policies to assess to what extent mothers followed those recommended behaviours during their puerperium. This study was conducted in the out patient department of the MCH unit of Prachinburi provincial hospital using structured questionnaire interviewing 163 purposively selected mothers having child or children 3 or below 3 years of age. After analysing data in Epi info package program of the computer, it was found that 97.5 percent of the mothers were delivered by

doctors or nurses or midwives, 81 percent fed colostrum to their babies, 47.9 percent gave breast feeding, 42 percent of mothers could explain the importance of breast feeding, 20.9 percent of mothers continued breast feeding for less than 6 months. Only 3 percent of mothers went for recommended number of postnatal check up visits(at least 3 visits), 17 percent of mothers took more nutritious foods during puerperium, 47.9 percent of mothers used herbal medicine, 98.8 percent mother's babies received BCG vaccination during puerperium. From this study it was also found that those mothers with less number of parity and living children followed better score of recommended behaviour during their puerperium.

It was recommended that health education program should be enhanced to raise the number of postnatal check up visits as well as to remove the non recommended traditional beliefs and practices. Further studies were also recommended on this aspects selecting villages as the study area.