

Thesis Title Knowledge, Perception and Child care
Practices by Mothers of Pre-school
Children for Acute Respiratory Infections
in Sriprachan District, Suphanburi
Province, Thailand.

Name Khushmer Singh

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Thesis Supervisory Committee

 Orapin Singhadej, M.D., M.P.H., Dr.P.H.
 Kanda Vathanophas, M.D., M.Sc.(Hygiene).
 Somsak Wongsawass, M.Sc.(Biostatistics).

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ABSTRACT

In Sriprachan District, Suphanburi Province, Thailand, 222 mothers of children under five years were interviewed concerning their socio-demographic characteristics and information relating to knowledge, perception, with regard to Acute Respiratory Infections, and their practices in caring for children during illness.

Statistical test for association between practices, perception, knowledge and other socio-demographic factors was performed. The results showed an association between practice and the number of children with a p-value of 0.04.

Mothers perception is related to her knowledge about ARI and her educational status.

The study reveals that even though mothers perceive some of the ARI symptoms as mild illness, they do not delay in seeking care from health personnel.

An additional finding of the study was that in 50% of the families with under five children, had at least one smoking parent. This is a matter of concern as passive smoking is a predisposing risk factor for occurrence of acute respiratory infections in children. Hence ARI control programme should actively utilize the Primary Health Care approach to implement a strategy to reduce this risk factor.

Community participation should play a major role in the national ARI programme together with a revitalized health education programme for mothers on current information on supportive care for sick children with acute respiratory infections.