

Thesis Title :A Comparative Study of Knowledge,Attitude and Practice of Women in Reproductive Age,Concerning Maternal and (Antenatal care) Child Health Care Activities with Blue Card and without Blue Card Programme, in Ratchaburi Province.

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#### ABSTRACT

This study is about a comparison of knowledge, attitude and practices, concerning maternal and child health care activities of women with blue card and without blue card system in Ratchaburi province, Thailand.

The objectives of this study were:

1. Assessment of knowledge ,attitude and practices of women concerning maternal and child health care.
2. Assessment of the impact of blue card program on knowledge, attitude and practice of women.
3. To explore the area of deficiencies regarding knowledge, attitude and practices of women in study area.
4. Determine the differences between knowledge, attitude and practices of women having blue card and not having blue card by making comparative judgement based on statistical test and analysis.

5. To test the relationship between knowledge, attitude and practices of women concerning maternal and child health care activities.

To fulfill the above stated objectives, 63 women with blue card and 100 women without blue card were selected purposively and they were interviewed by structured questionnaire related to maternal and child health care, knowledge, attitude and practices.

The study could partially reject the hypotheses. Though total KAP scores could not be found significantly different in two groups of study population, but on deeper observations, it could be found that there was positive contribution of the program on cognitive domain. Further study could identify that it was the child care component that was significantly different in member groups. It could be seen from this study that those which are associated with seeking care regarding antenatal visit, immunization etc. were significantly higher in blue card members. It could be seen from this study that those who are close to hospital or health centre, they utilized the health services more frequently. Due to some other social factors, family planning practices and starting of supplement food to baby was found better in control subject than members. Multiple regression analysis of knowledge, attitude and practice scores revealed that Knowledge is correlated with attitude and practice separately, but there is no correlation between attitude and practice. It was also observed that maternal education was correlated significantly with practice scores, signifying importance of maternal education.

The opinion of mothers regarding Blue card Programme was not very encouraging. They were not very much satisfied with benefits of the programme including referral services.

It is recommended that Blue card programme should be extended upto village level so that more mothers can take benefit from the scheme. Health education should become an integrated part of the activity. Steps should be taken to improve MCH through multiple means like mobile services, involvement of voluntary organizations etc. Future research should include identification of constraints to improve programme implementation.