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RATCHNINTORN SATUSAEN: THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL NETWORKS IN FACILITATING HYPERTENSION AND DIABETES MELLITUS SCREENING AMONG RISK GROUPS IN MUANG DISTRICT OF TAK PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISORS: CHANINAT VAROTHAI, Dr.P.H. VASON SILPASUWAN, Dr.P.H. CHANCHAI YAMARAT, M.S.P.H. 118P. ISBN 974-664-946-9

Hypertension and diabetes mellitus are chronic non-communicable diseases. If continuously untreated, they may cause complications leading to disability and death. Prevention of these diseases, therefore, is necessary. One of the preventive measures is a screening individuals without symptoms who may or may not have disease at early stage.

This quasi-experimental research was to study the effectiveness of social networks in facilitating hypertension and diabetes mellitus screening among risk group in Muang Distric of Tak Province. The social networks concept and health belief model were applied to the form of intervention activities. Eighty subjects were assigned as the experimental group and another eighty subjects as the comparison group. The experimental group was divided into 16 cliques based on their identification of social network in the community. The social network representatives were selected by using the sociometric technique, attended the participatory meeting two days. So that, they should be able to transmit information of hypertension and diabetes mellitus screening among their network the members via individual and group meeting approach with flipchart, booklet of hypertension and diabetes mellitus. Network members were persuaded, followed up, and advised after getting screening service. The intervention was conducted for 12 weeks. Data were collected twice in pretest and posttest by interview and analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively, Percentage, mean, standard deviation, paired t-test, and t-test were used in statistical analyses.

It was found that after implementing the program, the experimental group had significantly affect increase of perceived susceptibility to and perceived severity of hypertension and diabetes mellitus, perceived benefits of and barriers to hypertension and diabetes mellitus screening (p -value < 0.001). Screening had covered all studied samples and further extended to others 77 risk persons. Therefore, network approach should be applied to facilitate screening for hypertension and diabetes mellitus among risk groups in other settings, as well as general physical examination.