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SCHOOL/ ACTION RESEARCH

PANIYA LEUVISADE: DENTAL HEALTH PROMOTION PROGRAM FOR  
SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS, NAKHONRATCHASIMA PROVINCE.

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Dental public health problems are serious public health problem since the prevalence of dental caries and periodontal disease are rapidly increasing in secondary school students. The development of dental health promotion in school program may be likely effective and sustainable in problem solving. The objective of this action research was to assess the effectiveness of the dental health promotion program for secondary students in Nakhonratchasima province. The 6 components of health promoting school were applied to this program. The research design was a pretest – posttest one group design. The sample of this study consisted of 30 members of the committee of dental health promotion program and 70 secondary school students. Interview techniques with structured questionnaires regarding knowledge, attitude, practice, satisfaction, plaque index record, and the observation checklist of the implementation of the program, were conducted for data collection. Percentage, mean, standard deviation, and paired sample t-test were used for qualitative data and quantitative data analysis.

It was found that after experimentation, the school dental health promotion program organized could significantly affect an increase in behavioral changes with regard to knowledge, attitude, and practice, and significantly decrease the plaque index ( $p - \text{value} < 0.001$ ). In addition, satisfaction of the students and the members of committee of the dental health promotion in the school was high. Therefore, this research suggests that the implementation of the dental health promotion in schools through the concept of health promoting school should be applied to other schools. Furthermore, the participation of Sub-district Administration Organization such as budgets support could make the implementation of the program sustainable and effective.