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M.M.HABIBUR RAHMAN: FACTORS AFFECTING UTILIZATION OF DRUG COOPERATIVES IN KAMPANG SEAN DISTRICT OF NAKORN PATHOM PROVINCE, THAILAND. THESIS ADVISORS: SOM ARCH WONGKHOMTHONG M.D., D.H.Sc., JAREET JANRASAMEEWAILAI M.D., M.P.H.M., KANITTHA NITATPATTANA M.Sc., 78 p. ISBN: 974 - 662 140 - 8

A comparative study was conducted to identify the factors affecting the utilization of drug cooperatives among high and low utilization drug cooperatives in villages in Kampang Sean district of Nakorn Pathom province. Factors for the study were socio-demographic status, membership in drug cooperatives, knowledge and attitude towards drug cooperatives, availability and accessibility in drug cooperatives, health facilities and customer-provider relationship. A cross sectional survey was conducted at two villages, Rangemau and Aoukrating, of Kampang Sean district. A standard interview questionnaire was used for data collection. By simple random method, 100 respondents (50 from each village) were selected as the study sample and the two villages were selected purposively.

For data analysis, the descriptive statistical analysis was used to determine the frequency and percentage of variables. The researcher used Chi-square or Fisher's exact test and odds ratio regarding association and effect. The significant level was set at 0.05. The result of the study showed that utilization of drug cooperatives was 57.7% in the high utilization village and 20.83% in the low utilization village. For comparison between the two villages t or z test was conducted. This study found that the two villages had significant difference in availability and accessibility of other health facilities (distance, travel time to tambon health center and community hospital), interpersonal relationship with village health volunteers (VHV), drug availability in drug cooperatives (p- value <0.05.). This study found significant association between membership of drug cooperatives, interpersonal relationship with VHV (p value <0.05). The other factors (age, sex, income, occupation, knowledge & attitude) had no significant association with drug cooperative utilization. To improve the utilization of drug cooperatives, the number of shareholders of drug cooperatives and the variety of drug items should be increased, as should the skill of VHV to make them confident and active to develop interpersonal relationship with villagers.