

4138184 ADPM/ M: MAJOR: PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT;
M.P.H.M. (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT)

KEY WORDS : MALARIA PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR

OU SOVANNDARA : MALARIA PREVENTIVE BEHAVIOR OF THE
RURAL VILLAGERS, TAKEO PROVINCE, CAMBODIA. THESIS ADVISORS:
PIITAYA CHARUPOONPHOL M.P.H.M., Dip. Thai Board of Prev. Med.,
CHAWHEWON BOONSIHUYAR M.S., M.S.P.H., SOMSAK WONGSAWASS
M.Sc. 64 P. ISBN 974-662-162-9

A cross-sectional study involving 202 respondents was conducted to determine the knowledge, perception and behavior on malaria prevention by socio-demographic characteristics as well as the relationship of the knowledge, perception and malaria preventive behavior. All the respondents were recruited from 6 villages in Takeo province, Cambodia from 1st to 25th of March, 1999.

Based on the results of the study, the knowledge on malaria prevention was categorized into 3 levels. More than half of the people (59%) had good overall knowledge. However, the knowledge about "control, preventive and curative measures" was poor, particularly the knowledge of insecticides. There were significant differences in the knowledge by sex, marital status, education, occupation and status of family ($P < 0.05$). In addition, all the levels of the knowledge had significant positive correlation with malaria preventive practice ($P < 0.001$). For the perception levels, more than half of the respondents positively perceived towards "susceptibility", "severity" and "benefit and barrier" of malaria. Differences in perception by sex and education were significant ($P < 0.05$) and all the levels were significantly correlated with malaria preventive practice ($P < 0.001$) except the malaria severity level. Concerning the preventive behavior, which was defined as "treatment seeking behavior" and "preventive practice", the majority of the people went to public hospital when sick. But the preventive practice was poor, 90.6 percent had poor practice. Though subjects (95%) regularly used bed net, but they rarely checked for holes before sleeping (89%) and 52.5 percent of respondents neither used DDT insecticide spray indoors nor prophylactic drug. The findings indicated that there were significant differences in preventive practice by age, sex, marital status and status of family ($P < 0.05$). In summary, the study suggested that there was significant positive correlation among the knowledge, perception and subject preventive practice on malaria. Therefore, the government should promote the Primary Health Care Approach to improve knowledge, perception as well as the achievement of malaria programmes.