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NGUYEN THI NGOC LAN: SELF-CARE OF MOTHERS WITH CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE ON ACUTE RESPIRATORY INFECTION IN THANHONG COMMUNE, BINHMINH DISTRICT, VINHLONG PROVINCE, VIETNAM. THESIS ADVISORS: PHITAYA CHARUPOONPHOL M.P.H.M., CHAWEEWON BOONSHUYAR M.S.P.H., JAREET JANRASAMEEWILAI M.P.H.M., 70 P. ISBN 974-662-146-7

This study was intended to assess the self-care practice toward acute respiratory infection (ARI) of mothers who were living in a commune of Binhminh district Vinhlong province, Vietnam. The subjects of this study were 200 mothers of children under five years of age in Thanhong commune of Binhminh district, Vinhlong province, Vietnam. The study was conducted during the second semester of the 1998-1999 academic year within a period of 3 weeks. The mothers were interviewed by using the structured questionnaires.

The study revealed a high number of mothers with a good level of knowledge on home care. However, the number of mothers with good level of knowledge on ARI disease, and self-care practice was rather low. The associations between maternal marital status, maternal education, sufficiency of mothers' income and number of living children and self-care practice of mothers toward ARI, p-values were .034, .009, .008 and .033, respectively. The knowledge on ARI and knowledge on home care were significantly correlated with self-care practice of mothers with p-values .000 and .000. In order to decrease the morbidity of ARI in the population of children under five, community based health education through Primary Health Care should be strengthened. Training for health providers at all levels of health care should be ensured at the national level.