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DOAN PHUOC THUOC: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FEEDING-
PRACTICES AND MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH CARE SERVICES WITH
NUTRITIONAL STATUS OF UNDER-FIVE CHILDREN IN PHONG SON
VILLAGE OF THUA THIEN PROVINCE IN VIET NAM. THESIS ADVISORS:
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This study was conducted in a remote village of Phong Dien district in Viet Nam during March 1999. One hundred and fifty five mothers were interviewed and measurements of their children were taken. Prevalence of malnutrition (combined first, second and third degree) was 45.8 % by weight for age. Among socio-demographic factors, age of mothers and age of children had relationship with nutritional status. More than half of mothers had poor breast-feeding practices but good complementary feeding practices. More than half of mothers had poor utilization of child health care services but good utilization of maternal health care services. Results showed that better feeding practices and utilization of maternal child health care services brought better nutritional status.

In this study, almost all mothers were farmers. Risk factors were children of big households, mothers with age above 34 years old, age of child between 13- 59 months, suffered from diarrhea and living in remote rural areas. As results of this study show it is important to train mothers about feeding practices and promote utilization of basic maternal child health services. In addition, nutrition programs, health education, health services and agricultural development programs should be given high priority in order to improve quality of life in remote areas. It is necessary to reform the management and supervisor system at the grassroots level.