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KNOWLEDGE OF MOTHERS WITH BABIES AGED 6-12 MONTHS AND CHILD
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This cross sectional descriptive study was carried out to identify the relationship between maternal and child health (MCH) knowledge existing in the MCH handbook of mothers with babies aged 6-12 months and child health status and care, such as birth weight, nutritional status, condition of breast-feeding, completeness of immunization and episode of diarrhea and ARI at Well Child Clinic in MCH hospital, Ratchaburi Province, Thailand. The study population was mothers with MCH handbook who came to Well Child Clinic for their babies' health check. The sample size was 133 mothers selected by systematic random sampling. A constructed questionnaire consisting of socio-demographic characteristics of mothers, utilization of MCH handbook by mothers, MCH knowledge existing in the MCH handbook of mothers and opinion toward MCH handbook was used as instrument of data collection. chi-square test was performed to identify the association between independent and dependent variables.

The study revealed that almost one-fifth (22.4%) of mothers had "good" utilization of the MCH handbook and half of mothers (51.9%) had "good" MCH knowledge. Almost two thirds of babies (68.8%) had weight equal to or more than 3000 grams at birth and 93.8% of them had a normal nutritional status the time of the study. Only one-fourth (25.0%) were fed only breast-milk until 4 months. Almost three fourths (70.7%) received the complete immunization. One-third and 91% got diarrhea and ARI, respectively, within the last three months. There was no significant between utilization of MCH handbook of mothers and MCH knowledge existing in MCH handbook of mothers. There was no significance between socio-demographic characteristics of mothers and child health status and care. Only the education of mothers was significantly related to the condition of breast-feeding. This study revealed that there were two extremely deferent types caused poor child health status and care. One was happened among poor socio-demographic characteristics of mothers. Other was happened among high socio-demographic characteristics of mothers. It is recommended that mothers should use MCH handbook more. Child health promotion and program should focus not only children whose mothers had poor socio-demographic characteristics but also children whose mothers had high socio-demographic characteristics. Mothers who had had high socio-demographic characteristics, such as high education and income should take care of their babies more and spend time with them more.