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RATANA ARAYASOMPHO : KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS THALASSEMIA IN SUB-DISTRICT HEALTH PERSONNEL MAHA SARAKHAM PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISORS: PRATAK O-PRASERTSAWAT, M.D.(THAI BOARD OF OB.& GYN.),SANYA PATRACHAI, M.D.(THAI BOARD OF OB.& GYN.), ADITHEP JAOVISIDHA, M.D.(THAI BOARD OF OB.& GYN.), YUNGYONG AMPAWA, M.S.STAT 91 P. ISBN 974-664-712-1.

This study aimed to examine knowledge and attitudes towards thalassemia in sub - district (tambon) health personnel , association between knowledge and attitudes towards thalassemia, and association between ages, educational attainments, the number of years of work experience in public health as well as thalassemia training and knowledge and attitudes towards thalassemia in sub - district health personnel. The sample consisted of 383 personnel performing their tasks in all health centers in Maha Sarakham province from 29 March to 30 April 2000. Data were obtained from the response to a researcher - constructed questionnaire on knowledge and attitudes towards thalassemia. The statistics used were descriptive statistic and analytical statistic. To find out the association Chi-square was employed and to find out the association between knowledge and attitudes towards thalassemia. Pearson Product - Moment Correlation Coefficient was employed.

The study results were as follows. Sub-district health personnel had knowledge of thalassemia at a "fair" level and "indifferent" attitudes towards thalassemia. Their knowledge of thalassemia had positive association with their attitudes towards it at the level of statistical significance ($r = .34$; $P < 0.01$). Ages and work experiences in public health of sub-district health personnel had statistically significant association with knowledge of thalassemia ($P < 0.05$). However, educational attainments and thalassemia training of sub-district health personnel were not associated with knowledge. Ages, educational attainments and thalassemia training of sub-district health personnel had statistically significant association with their attitudes towards thalassemia ($P < 0.05$). In contrast, work experience in public health of sub-district health personnel were not associated with their attitudes towards thalassemia.

Based on the study results mentioned above, the researcher's suggestion is that: Involved agencies should support all the sub-district health personnel to be trained for additional knowledge of thalassemia continually and regularly. Sub-district health personnel, aged over 39 years with more than 10 years of work experience in public health, should be considered as a special case.