

## Abstract

Needs for Thai Muslim: Gaps in Thai Health Service System

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This research aims to study needs and problems of Thai Muslim as health service receivers who have experiences in Thai health services system including knowledge, understanding and obstacles of nurses and doctors as service providers and hospital administrative committees to provide health services in Islamic ways approach and encourage receiving health services. The mixed methods research was used for data collection. The 3 groups of key informants were selected based on purposive sampling, which consisted of 1) 52 health service receivers 2) 47 health service providers and 3) 11 hospital administrative committees. Interview, questionnaire and In-depth interview were conducted at 8 government hospitals that comprising 5 regional hospitals and 2 hospitals in Bangkok. Content and statistical analyses were used for qualitative and quantitative data conclusion, respectively.

The results show that the three main needs and problems for Thai Muslim in health services are halal food, prayer room and place for ablution. Health service providers and hospital administrative committees have not the correct knowledge and understanding of halal food and place for ablution. Limitations for health care providers and hospital administrative committees are 1) knowledge and understanding about Islamic ways 2) environmental contexts and 3) economic cost benefits. Recommended approaches to observe Islamic ways are 1) Muslim health personnel in the hospitals should give advices and feedbacks the problems to health providers and hospital administrative committees and 2) Muslim communities/organizations in local areas should participate to prepare health development based on Islamic ways.

**KEYWORDS:** need, health service, Thai Muslim, Islamic way