

4238480ADPM / M : MAJOR: PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT
M.P.H.M. (PRIMARY HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT)
KEY WORDS : HEALTH BEHAVIOR & CONGESTED AREA

FREDERICK BEDA C. ALLI: HEALTH CARE SEEKING BEHAVIOR AMONG THE CONGESTED AREA DWELLERS IN KLONG TOEY, BANGKOK, THAILAND. THESIS ADVISORS: PHITAYA CHARUPOONPHOL, M.P.H.M., DIPLOMA OF THAI BOARD OF PREV. MED., SUTHAM NANTHAMONGKOLCHAI, Bsc., M.A., Ph.D. (DEMOGRAPHY), SOMJAI PRAMNAPHOL, M.A., 77 p. ISBN 974-662-155-6

A cross sectional descriptive study was conducted on the health care seeking behavior of the congested area dwellers in Klong Toey, Bangkok, Thailand, with the aim of establishing the pattern of their health care seeking behavior. The pattern of health care seeking behavior was based on the sick individual in the household whose illness occurred for the past three months. The data was from 132 respondents, 16 to 60 years of age at Klong Toey congested area. The data was collected in the month of March using an interviewer-assisted questionnaire

The result of the study revealed that most of the respondents are in the age group 35 – 44 years old. Most of the respondents were married (69.7 percent) with the educational level of the respondents mostly at grade school level (56.8 percent). Most belonged to a family with household members ≤ 4 persons. The majority has an income of ≥ 6000 baht per month. Most of the respondents were not covered by a health insurance (68.6 percent).

The health care seeking behavior study included other members of the household whose illness occurred within the past three months. Of the 132 respondents, there were 118 individuals who got sick during the past three months, either personally ill or another family member, with most of the household having one sick person for the past three months at 81.8 percent. There were 90.0 percent of those who got sick that sought consultation to a health personnel. Of the 118 sick individuals, the highest utilization was the private clinic (30.5 percent), followed by the public health center (23.7 percent), public hospital (20.3 percent), self prescription of drugs (16.1 percent), and no treatment (9.0 percent). Most of the illnesses were respiratory in nature (34.7 percent).

It was found that health care seeking behavior is not dependent on the predisposing components: age, sex, marital status, occupation, educational status and family size with p-values > 0.05 . In the enabling components, the health care seeking behavior was dependent on family income, equipment at the health facility, waiting period, travelling time with p-values < 0.05 , although it was not dependent on health insurance coverage and the cost of care with p-values > 0.05 . In the need component, it was found that health care seeking behavior was dependent on the severity of the illness of the individual with p-value < 0.05 .

In this study, the respondents considered the expertise of the health service provider, hour care of service of the health facility, modernity of equipment and cost of care, to be on the highest level of importance in determining their health care seeking behavior.