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SRIVIPA LEANGPUNSAKUL : EFFECTS OF A DENTAL HEALTH
EDUCATION PROGRAM ON ORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDED TO PRESCHOOL
CHILDREN BY THEIR MOTHERS. THESIS ADVISORS : SUPREYA TANSAKUL,
Ph.D., TUE YOUNGNOI, M.P.H., ANCHALEE VONGTANGSAWAT, M.Ed. 123 p.
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This research studies the effects of a dental health education program aimed at improving mothers' behavior in giving oral health care to their preschool children. Self-efficacy theory was used as a construct for behavioral change. This study was quasi-experimental research which studied a sample comprised of 117 mothers from the Hospital Branch of the Maternal and Child Hospital, Health Promotion Center Region 1. The mothers were selected by simple random sampling from their children who were identified at level 2-cleanliness (fair and poor) by the researcher using simplified debris index. The mothers had to meet certain criteria, such as literacy. There were 52 mothers in the experimental group and 65 in the control group. Oral cleanliness was registered by simplified debris index in a pre-test and a post-test conducted five weeks later in both groups. The experimental group participated in a two session program teaching effective dental practices. The control group received no instruction of any kind. Data was collected using a questionnaire and an oral health record from November, 1999 to January, 2000. Statistical analysis was done by using percentage, mean, standard deviation, paired t-test and t-test.

The results of the research revealed that after the experiment, the experimental group's knowledge, attitude, perceived self-efficacy, outcome expectation and mothers' behavior on oral health care for children were statistically significantly increased. The mean of debris index was significantly decreased. Thus, it is recommended that this program should be applied and extended to guardians or other sample groups with different demographic characteristics.