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AMPHAI SUPHAPHA : PREVENTIVE HEALTH BEHAVIOR REGARDING
CERVICAL CANCER AMONG AGRARIAN HOUSE-WIVES IN WESTERN THAILAND.

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Cervical cancer is the most common cancer among women and it is the leading cause of death. However, it is preventable if its first stage is diagnosed early. The objectives of this study are :1) to investigate preventive health behavior regarding cervical cancer; 2) to identify the relationships among related factors and preventive health behavior regarding cervical cancer. The study was conducted with 400 women by random sampling. Data collection was done by using the interview technique with structured questionnaires on preventive health behavior. The percentage, mean and correlation using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient and chi-square were employed for data analysis.

The results show that the subjects had undesirable health behavior in cervical cancer prevention. The majority of agrarian house-wives in western Thailand possessed undesirable primary (70.5%) and secondary (93.0%) preventive health behavior. The perception of cervical cancer was correct (54.0%) and incorrect (46.0%). There were significant relationships between information known about cervical cancer and primary and secondary prevention. The perception of cervical cancer was statistically low related to primary prevention ($r = .107$).

Regarding the research findings, it is recommended that health teams should be encouraged to provide more information concerning cervical cancer and pap smear service for agrarian house-wives to encourage them to continuously perform preventive health behavior.