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KEY WORD : SOCIAL SUPPORT/FEMALE WORKERS IN THE
TEXTILE INDUSTRY/HEALTH PROMOTING BEHAVIOR

WALIDA SAKBUNDITSAKUL: SOCIAL SUPPORT AND HEALTH PROMOTING
BEHAVIOR OF FEMALE WORKERS IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN SARABURI
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Female workers in the textile industry need sufficient and appropriate health promoting behavior to reduce potential risks which may be harmful to their health. The purposes of this study are to explore the relationship between social support and health promoting behavior and also to compare the health promoting behavior of female workers who had different age, educational levels, incomes, marital status, duration of working and overtime working hours. The sample comprised 480 female workers in two textile factories in Saraburi province. Data were collected by using three questionnaires consisting of personal data, social support and health promoting behavior, and analysed by using Pearson's Product Moment correlation coefficient, one way analysis of variance, and t-test.

The results reveal that most female workers in the textile industry demonstrated fair level of social support and health promoting behavior. There was significantly positive correlation between social support and health promoting behavior ($r = .4846$). It was also found that the female workers in the textile industry who had higher income, longer over time working hours, longer duration of working, and who were married female workers demonstrated better health promoting behavior. Therefore, it is recommended that occupational nurses should encourage and provide sufficient social support to female workers by coordinating with the owners and significant others to implement activities to promote appropriate optimum health behavior of the workers.