

Thesis Title Socialization of Rural Mothers Regarding Child Nutrition

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Abstract

This reaearch aimed at studying socilization of rural mothers regarding child nutrition, factors relating of their belief system, values, rituals and practices about mother behaviors, and also investigating the transfer process of knowledge in the community on the same issue.

The research selected Oy village, House Sai sub-district, Mae Rim District Chiang Mai Province for this study. She found village still had social relationships existed in the kinship system, seniority respectation, belief system, ritual practices with special relations to the villages' way of living. She applied participant and non-participant observation, indepth interview and focus group discussion to collect data.

The results of this study were as follows:

In the post, knowledge about child nutrition was transfered to mothers from their elder generations such as their parents and grand parents through their social and cultural environments, belief, values and ritual practics. Then, the mothers who had kept transferring the knowledge on child metrition to their next generations, However, there were some taboos restrictedly controlled by their social system. Those were some practices during the mothers' pregnancy, post-delivery of infants' sickness. Those knowledges

indirectly and directly transferred were derived from the old traditional belief and value systems within the village, resulting in nutritional behaviors of the mothers. Such behaviors could affect both the mothers and infants. Most mothers in the past kept practising along with what had been taught in order to go along with the community way of living and their own benefits.

At present, changes in social, economic and cultural environments affected the community beliefs, values and ritual practices. New concepts and values on nutrition, materialization and "fast-consumption" made people relying on readily cooked food or packed food. These practices were found as new wisdom from outside of the community such as learning from friends, government and non-government organization's officers, mass communication and advertisements. Additionally, the new generations with better education than that of the old generations, could affect the consumption behaviors of new mothers. This matter was found as a significant factor affecting nutrition of mothers and infants according to the new values which were being integrated with the current way of living of the community.