

THESIS TITLE : THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRAFFIC ACCIDENT
PREVENTION PROGRAMS OF THE HEALTH CENTRES
ALONG THE HIGHWAY, : A CASE OF UDON THANI
PROVINCE

AUTHOR : MRS. KANCHANA PANYATHORN

THESIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE :

..... *Aree Prohmso.* Chairman

(Dr. Aree Prohmso)

..... *Witaya Chadbunchachai* Member

(Dr. Witaya Chadbunchachai M.D.)

..... *S. Wongthanavasu* Member

(Assistant Professor Supawatanakorn Wongthanavasu)

ABSTRACT

This descriptive research studied the implementation of the traffic accident prevention programs of the health centres along the highway. The objectives of this study were three - folds. Firstly, to examined the potential of health centres along the highway in Udon Thani province in preventing traffic accident. Secondly, to described how the traffic accident prevention programs were implemented at these health centres. Lastly, to described the problems encounter while implementing the traffic accident prevention programs at both health centre and community levels.

Fourty - eight health centres located along the highway were studied. Accordingly, 48 health personel and 48 school teachers who were responsible directly for the traffic accident prevention programs, and 48 villagers from villages which the health centres located were interviewed. Data collection was carried out using three types of tools: questionnaires, interview guide, and observation form. Descriptive statistics and content analysis were used to analyse the data.

It was found that most of the health centres were classified as the general health centres which were relatively good communication and transportation system to hospitals in towns and other health centres. In term of health personel, 67 per cent of health centre was reportly understaffed, 54 per cent was perceived lack of knowledge concerning accident prevention, 33 per cent was not confident in providing services and 68 per cent of the health centre was underequipped.

Concerning surveillance system, three - fourth of the health centres had initiated a program on the traffic accident prevention. Forty - six per cent of the staff did not considered traffic as a major health problem in their areas. All schools have introduced the "Accident - Free School Project." This project included activities such as health education on accident prevention, traffic and warning signs in schools and pedestrain crossing. For the "Accident - Free Village Project", 83 per cent of the villages improved the road condition, 33 per cent had the traffic and warning signs. Desimination of information concerning, traffic accident was done mainly through the village broadcasting system while the figures for health exhibition and poster accounted for 17 per cent and 19 per cent respectively.

In terms of curative care, 92 per cent of the health centres provided services around the clock; 85 per cent was well prepared; all of them were considered to be capable to perform dressing, suture, temporary cast and first aid. However, they were varied in quality of care and services. Seventy - three per cent gave advice and visited the patients at home to encorrage early recovery and rehabilitation.

Shortage of supplies, equipments, budget and staff were among many problems facing health centres in implementing the project. It is suggests that all parties both private and public need to be involved in the implementation of the program.