

Basic health status of remote rural community in the northern region of Thailand

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ABSTRACT

The pattern of health service utilization reflects many influencing factors. To begin with, the local people do not have much confidence in the service of the health station especially for severe illness. The economically well off group frequently choose to the general hospital in Chiangmai city for their health problems. Some still have belief in traditional healer. Many simply go to the drug selling places near their home to purchase the medicine and consult with the seller. The risk of drug misuse rarely occur to the villagers. Toxicity of the medicine has never been considered despite of the fact that these drug selling places sell many dangerous drugs. For example, the most common antibiotic in all selling places is chloramphenicol, which is well known about its toxic minifesstation of plastic anemia. Among the large variety of analgesic – antipyretic drugs are the patent medicine novalgin* and sulpyrin* which despite of their efficacy have high toxicity as well, especially with inappropriate use. The use of analgesic – antipyretic is far more common than the study reveals. Physical ache and pain from hard work and poor basic health also need relieve. Some villagers use the analgesic – antipyretic drug frequently and become habituated to their use.

The community apart from having severely limit facility for health care is suffering from wide range of health, social and economic consequences from their pattern of health care service utilization. The lack of knowledge on health care service is another major underlying cause of the health problem.

*Active ingredient is metamizol which can cause agranulocytosis

Key words : Basic health status, Remote rural community, Northern region, Thailand.

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