

Abstract

This research and development is conducted in the area of the health promotion for the mother and infants by using the local wisdom of Thai traditional medicine in the community. This study aims to promote the use of local wisdom on the healthcare in order to enhance their self reliance and the economy of their community, including encouraging the new generations to acknowledge the knowledge and wisdom upon the traditional health medicine so that they shall pay interest towards the wisdom within their community, especially the health promotion for the mother and infants. This research can be divided into 3 phases. The first phase is the study of situation where the traditional knowledge and wisdom is being used. The integration pattern of the traditional knowledge to the community healthcare system shall be studied in the second phase. The third phase shall cover the policy recommendations. This study is the first phase of the research. Its objective is to study the situation promoting the health and hygiene of the mother and infant by using the traditional health medicine of the community wisdom and to select the commonly used methods for an in-depth analysis and further promotion development. The study of knowledge and wisdom upon the health promotion for the mother and infant includes the treatments during the pregnancy, during labor and after the labor, traditional food, herbal medicine, rituals and any relevant behavior whereby these shall be used to conduct the manual of the health promotion for the mother and infant for the public and traditional healers of each suburb. The study is conducted in 2 areas i.e. Tamboon Panga, Padad District, Chiang Rai and Tamboon Maesuk, Maejai District, Payao. The survey of situation, where the traditional knowledge and wisdom is used, is conducted on the group of mothers with their child less than 1 year old and the focus group of the group of housewives, elders and traditional healer is also conducted in order to conduct the in-depth analysis of the knowledge and wisdom, and to promote the use of the traditional medicine in the family and the linkage to the healthcare system. The study shows that most of the knowledge has been transferred and conducted from one generation to the next generation. It is also found that this knowledge not only has good impact towards the health and hygiene of the mother and infant but also can be used to take care of each other in the family, especially the husband who has the important role in looking after the health of his wife and child and the mother and grandmother are responsible for transferring the knowledge and providing assistance. At the same time, they have followed the instructions of the nurse in charge during the pregnancy and after the labor. The healthcare system for the mother and infant in the community can be considered as the relations between the people in the family and the community