ABSTRACT

The study of factors affecting the utilization of village drug revolving funds (DRF) was conducted in Champhone District of Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR during the second week of March, 1997. The purpose was to determine the factors affecting the condition of use and non-use of the DRF by villagers.

The pilot project of the DRF was implemented in fifteen villages in 1995 and 386 households were selected using the proportion of 25 percent of all households from each village. A structured questionnaire was designed and used for data collection by interview method.

The result of this study showed that the utilization of DRF was affected by age group, marital status, knowledge about DRF, attitudes towards DRF, performance of VHVs in DRF and DRF service satisfaction.

The study found that those with high knowledge and positive attitudes about DRF were more likely to utilize DRF as compared to those who had low knowledge and negative attitudes. From this study, it was found that the performance of VHVs in the DRF was a significant determinant. Respondents who knew VHVs and their activities tended to utilize DRF more than the ones who did not know them. Based on this data, showed that the community is satisfied with DRF service. Satisfaction is an important factor especially in increasing the coverage of DRF utilization.

The variables of sex, family status, education status, occupation status and family income were found not to be related to the utilization of DRF in this study.

Therefore, it is suggested that a public relations program should be carried out to inform and motivate people to increase their knowledge and enhance their attitudes, perceptions and satisfaction towards DRF activities.