ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to describe factors affecting Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever prevention behavior of housewives. The researcher examined the following study areas: socio-demographic characteristics, social activities, knowledge and perception on DHF as well as attitude on community based DHF prevention methods.

Data were collected by interviewing 223 housewives. The sample population was randomly selected in Nhatchanh commune, Benluc district, Longan province in the South of Vietnam. In order to obtain supplementary data, a survey concerning the water container situation was carried out simultaneously.

The study reveals a statistically significant relationship of the following variables with housewives’ DHF prevention behavior: housewives’ knowledge on DHF, perception on severity, susceptibility to DHF and benefit, difficulty of DHF prevention, attitude on community-based DHF prevention methods and social activities. The age group of 35-45 years, as well as the occupational group of farmers, show higher levels of prevention behavior than others. No significant difference is found for the various levels of education.

It is recommended that the content of future education programs on DHF concentrates on improvement of housewives’ knowledge on home care of DHF patients as well as on prevention methods. Health education methods should be kept as simple as possible, while the time of meeting must be adapted to the agricultural calendar.

The following community-based DHF prevention methods were widely accepted: cover for each container, environmental clean-up and letting children sleep in a mosquito-net. The concept about “tight covers” should be made clear to assure the contribution of this method to mosquito density reduction. In addition, it was acceptable to keep larvivorous fish for each container during rainy season. However, to ensure sustainability of this method, the source of fish as well as the allocation system, must be taken into account.

The role of school children was confirmed as a positive factor of DHF prevention. The researcher recommends school children for a key role in fish raising and distribution, as well as in environmental clean-up campaigns.