ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to determine the association between the factors of interest, including mothers’ knowledge on diarrhoea, ORT and environmental sanitation & child’s factor; mothers’ attitude and belief on diarrhoea and ORT; availability and accessibility of ORT; advice on ORT and socio-demographic factors and ORT utilization of mothers for treating diarrhoeal diseases of children under 5 years of age in Kanchanaburi Provincial Hospital, Thailand.

A cross-sectional survey was conducted at Kanchanaburi Provincial Hospital in inpatient and outpatient pediatric departments. A standard interview questionnaire was used for data collection. The study sample included 145 mothers, who had children with diarrhoea or history of diarrhoea for the last 6 months, selected by the systematic random method.

For data analysis, the descriptive statistical analysis was used to determine the frequency and percentage of variables. Regarding association, chi-square test was used. The significance level was set at 0.05.

The result of the study shows that approximately 58 percent of mothers used ORT for treating diarrhoea among children under 5 years of age, while, 53.1, 57.9 and 40.7 percent mothers had good knowledge on diarrhoea, ORT and environmental sanitation and child’s factor. Approximately 55 percent mothers had positive attitude on ORT, while 53.1 percent mothers had strong belief on ORT. Approximately 48 percent mothers received advice on ORT from health workers/mass media.

This study found significant association between mothers’ knowledge on ORT, mothers’ belief on diarrhoea and distance of health center. But mothers’ knowledge on diarrhoea and environmental sanitation and child’s factor, mothers’ attitude, availability and accessibility of ORT, advice on ORT given by health workers/mass media, mothers’ age, education, occupation, marital status, income, number of children and age of children less than 5 years with diarrhoea did not show any significant association with the ORT utilization by mothers.

Therefore, it is strongly recommended that the strengthening of health education program of MOPH is of urgent importance for improving ORT utilization by mothers in diarrhoeal diseases of children under 5 years of age with proper supervision and follow up.