Thesis Title: Knowledge, attitude and practice among teachers towards health promoting schools at 7 Makara district, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

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ABSTRACT

This research aimed to determine the knowledge, attitude and practice among teachers towards Health Promoting Schools at 7 Makara district of Cambodia, using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. The socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge and attitudinal factors of the schoolteachers were studied in relation to their practice on HPS in primary schools. Two hundred thirty four schoolteachers were surveyed during March 2000, through a self-administered questionnaire. Some in-depth interviews with purposefully selected directors were also conducted after the survey.

Results of the study showed that the majority of the schoolteachers had high levels of knowledge, attitude and practice on health promotion in schools. And the cross tabulation of socio-demographic characteristics, knowledge, attitude with practices on health promoting schools showed that the training of health personal skills, work experience and attitude have significant association with practice on health promoting schools (p-value < 0.05). Concerning sex, female teachers used participatory methods and lectures (16.3%) two time higher than male teachers (7.8%) and statistical tests showed the results to be (p-value = 0.06); while knowledge and age group of teachers revealed no relation with the practice (p-value > 0.05).

Qualitative study generally endorsed the results of this survey but reasons behind these findings were better understood by this method, and some weak points about the supervision and working condition of schoolteachers and administrators were brought into the lime light more elaborately.

The training manual based on the real and felt need is the first priority to improve health promoting schools. The benefit of the training could be improved knowledge and positive attitude of participants in activities, and increased experiences. In the end, healthier students through changed behaviors is a final result.

More research should be conducted on health promoting schools to find the problems and processes to solve problems and to find techniques to adopt activities with the children, and to make further plans. Any further studies of this kind should include some qualitative research such as direct observation of the schoolteachers and directors actual performance in the local areas.