ABSTRACT

An analytical study was conducted on the practice of Thai traditional medicine among health professionals in community hospitals in Nakhorn Pathom Province, Thailand. The purpose of the study was to explore the level of the practice of respondents as well as the factors related to the practice of Thai traditional medicine at community hospitals.

Two hundred fifty-six questionnaires were distributed in eight hospitals in Nakhon Pathom province during 15th to 30th of March 2001. The data gathered included socio demographic characteristics, such as age, gender, marital status, education, occupation, level of income and Religion. Moreover, knowledge and attitude as well as previous experience with Thai traditional medicine was studied. The data was analyzed using SPSS analytical statistics.

Concerning the socio-demographic factors of the practice of Thai traditional medicine, it was found that there was a significant relationship between respondents’ age and practice of Thai traditional medicine. Regarding the education and the practice a significant association was found between education and the practice of Thai traditional medicine. More than fifty percent of the respondents (58.7%) had a high level of practice of Thai traditional medicine professionally or personally, and a majority of the respondents had a positive attitude related to Thai traditional medicine.

The major finding of study revealed a relationship between attitude and practice; there was highly significant relationship between such variables at 0.0000*the P value. In addition, there was a significant relationship between previous experience and practice of Thai traditional medicine at 0.033 P value. Additionally, the study predicates the relationship between knowledge and practice, and hospital activities and practice; there was no significant association between knowledge and practice, and hospital activities and practice of Thai traditional medicine.

Finally, the study predicates the factors influencing the practice of Thai traditional medicine, such as age, level of education, attitude, and previous experience. Furthermore, hospital activities related to Thai traditional medicine were Thai massage, herbal therapy, and acupuncture, which were mainly provided in community hospital. Following the
results of this study, it is recommended that further qualitative research be conducted on the practice of Thai traditional medicine.