Thesis Title  The study on utilization of safe water and sanitation facilities among households in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand
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ABSTRACT

A cross-sectional study was conducted on utilization of safe water and sanitation facilities among households in Klong Yong 2, Nakhon Pathom province, Thailand. The aim was to identify socio-demographic profiles, knowledge and perception, enabling factors, appropriate technology and source of information related to utilization of safe drinking water and sanitation facilities. One hundred and forty-two households were selected in Krung Yong 2, Phutthamonthon District for the study. The respondents from the households were interviewed by use of structured questionnaire. Each household was inspected and an observation checklist completed. Data was collected from 1st to 18th April 2001. The results were as follows:

A majority (51.4%) of the respondents were female. The majority (84.5%) of the respondents had primary level education. 37.3% of the families were small, with up to four members. About 58% of the respondents had a monthly family income between 5,001- 10,000 baht. The main source of safe drinking water was rainwater (88.0%) and piped tap water (10.6%). The majority of the respondents (59.9%) consumed 2-5 liters of safe drinking water daily. 46.5% of respondents had above average knowledge while 43.0% had above average perception. Some 44.4% of the families had lived in the same area for more than 26 years. All households studied were using water seal latrines. Land ownership was predominately by inheritance (67.6%). Some families (50.0%) had latrines that had been used for more than 17 years. 83.8% of respondents repaired drinking water facilities themselves.

There were significant relationships between safe water use and gender (p = 0.016), occupation (p = 0.001), perception (p =0.001) and source of information (p <0.001). The findings also showed that there were significant associations between proper use of latrines and education (p=0.018), occupation (p <0.001) perception (p <0.001), self-built latrines (p =0.008) and age of latrine (p<0.001). Knowledge was not significant associated with both safe water use and proper sanitation use.

In summary, most of the residents were able to access the water source. The main source of drinking water was from rain water. 100% of latrines in Klong Yong 2 were included in this study, it was found that maintenance of the latrines was limited. Occupation and perception played major roles in both safe water use and sanitation. From the study, it is recommended that sources of information like television should be considered to disseminate important information about proper utilization of sanitation in order to improve the knowledge and perception of the residents. Health workers should rely more on village health volunteers or the public addressing system.