ABSTRACT

Coping with many difficulties, MPHM’s students demonstrate the ability in research and knowledge gained from the course through the scientific works of theses following the new thesis guideline created by the Faculty of Graduate Studies in 1998. Critical review systematically described the contents, criticized it with certain criteria and explored common mistakes in MPHM theses. A qualitative design completely reviewed 40 theses and incompletely 5 absent theses based upon the guideline and verified with checklist. Theses from 1998 – 2000 were selected by simple random sampling and stratified with nationality. Detailed review of these theses against the criteria was done and expanded to analyze common mistakes, according to the research methodology, epidemiology and statistics requirements.

The majority of reviewed theses met the criteria of good theses and could have been better if some common mistakes had been corrected. Popular topics of theses were HIV/AIDS studying the qualitative variables of K,A,B,P covered almost all types of study population. There were two possible approaches, epidemiology and research methodology, to introduce the study problem. Most theses were designed with descriptive study, data collection by interviewing, purposive sampling and sample size formula of one proportion. Unbalance of information, uncompleted information and inappropriateness between chapter and chapters, structure and details, design and analysis, interpretation and presentation were the common mistakes among all reviewed theses.

Common mistakes can be explained and improved with the concept of the relationship between chapters, contents and details, such as, introduction-literature-methodology. All theses followed the structured thesis guideline but its details need to be improved. This thesis can be a reference for thesis conducting and writing. This study did not cover how to write each detailed chapter but the whole thesis as perfect research.