A cross-sectional study was conducted with the aim of examining mothers’ home care practices in dealing with ARI children, fathers’ roles in facilitating mothers’ home care practices together with the relationship between fathers’ roles, mothers’ related factors, child related factors and mothers’ home care practices. The sample studied was 180 mothers whose their children aged under five years old, got ARI, and visited Quang Ngai General hospital during January, 2002 to have their children examined and treated.

The results of the study showed that among 180 mothers, their age ranged between 20 to 45 years old. The levels of mothers’ home care practices in dealing with ARI children and the levels of fathers’ roles that the mothers perceived in facilitating mothers’ home care practices were quite high. The results of mothers’ home care practices were divided into the levels to be good (88.3%), fair (11.7%). The levels of mothers’ perception about fathers’ roles were comprised of high (56.7%), moderate (42.2%) and low (1.1%). There were statistically significant association between knowledge, experience of the mothers about home care on ARI and mothers’ home care practices in dealing with ARI (P<.05). The study also found that there were relationships between some socio-demographic characteristics of the mothers (such as residence, education, occupation, working hours, monthly family income) and mothers’ home care practices (P<.05). Moreover, the study also found a statistically significant association between child related factors (such as number of children in the family, birth order of the ARI child, severity of the ARI child from mothers’ perception) and mothers’ home care practices (P<.05). Though, comprehensively, the study didn’t show the relationship between mothers’ home care practices and fathers’ roles in facilitating mothers’ home care practices in dealing with ARI children, in analyzing details, some roles of the fathers had correlation with mothers’ home care practices in dealing with ARI children (p<.05).

These findings would be very useful for healthcare policy makers to find out proper approaches in preventing and controlling ARI; it may be an important information to support the idea that health personnel should supply optional health services for children at risk and improve mothers’ home care practices as well as fathers’ roles, for example, health education to the parents on child care at home.

Further research utilizing other methods such as mother and father self-recording of practices in dealing with ARI children should be used to gain better understanding about mothers’ home care practices and fathers’ roles.