ABSTRACT

This cross-sectional descriptive study is being conducted on the need assessment of malaria practices among housewives in Long An province, Vietnam, with the aim to identify targets for a project to promote malaria control among housewives.

230 housewives in one commune of a high transmitting malaria area, were interviewed by structured questionnaire.

General knowledge about malaria was not good. Knowledge concerning the way to keep impregnated mosquito nets was quite different when compared with practices. A small percentage of respondents said that treatment of malaria at the health center was expensive and some were afraid of pain due to blood examination. Availability of examination and treatment of malaria was better than that of health information. Accessibility to diagnosis and the treatment of malaria was also good, however, some respondents thought that they spent much money and time of waiting for malaria diagnosis and treatment. Forms of malaria health information were not quite clear. This study showed that housewives played a good role in taking care of their families but they didn’t pay much attention to the activities of their neighbors. So malaria practices among housewives are needed to be improved.

A small qualitative survey PRA to find out at the reasons why some patients refused to take medicine for malaria treatment at commune health service and why some housewives slept out door without mosquito nets should be conducted. Health staff need to check the procedure for the examination and treatment of malaria at the commune health station and a deep health education program will be necessary to improve general knowledge on malaria, perception about susceptibility to the malaria parasite and to change housewife’s behaviors of the use of impregnated mosquito nets.