

Factors related to home visit behavior of village health volunteers for hypertensive patients who missed appointments

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ABSTRACT

Hypertensive patients was at risk of severe complications especially stroke leading to disability or death. Continuous treatment was important. The village health volunteers (VHVs) were a voluntarily who were trained to visit the patients at homes and to encourage patients to continue their treatment. The purpose of this research was to examine factors related to home visit behavior of VHVs for hypertensive patients who missed appointments. This study was a Cross-sectional descriptive research. The sample consisted of 90 VHVs who worked in the Muang district of Nakhon Ratchasima province.

Data were collected using a questionnaire that included questions related to personal characteristics, knowledge regarding hypertension and home visit patients (19 items), perceptions of empowerment (11 items) and home visit behaviors (20 items). The reliability of questionnair on knowledge and perceptions of empowerment was 0.63 and 0.61, respectively. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics and Chi-square.

The results showed that the average age of the samples was 54.0 ± 10.4 years. Most of them had graduated from elementary school (48.9%), monthly income less than 10,000 baht (82.2%), and had more than 5 years' experience of being VHVs (80.0%). Knowledge, perceptions of empowerment, and home visit behaviors were all at high level, 64.1%, 49.0%, and 52.2%, respectively.

The factors that significantly correlated with home visit behaviors of VHVs were knowledge and income. The results indicated that training was important to the home visit behaviors and can be used as guideline for the development of the empowerment model of VHVs in follow-up visits to community homes.

Keywords: knowledge; empower perceptions; village health volunteers; Home visit behavior for hypertensive patients

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Table 1 Characteristics of participants (n =90)

Variables	n	%
Age (years)		
<30	1	1.1
30-39	8	8.9
40-49	19	21.1
50-59	37	41.1
>60	25	27.8
\bar{X} = 54 S.D.=10.45		
Sex		
male	2	2.2
female	88	97.8
Marital status		
single	7	7.8
married	63	70.0
widowed/divorced/separated	20	22.2
Occupations		
Unemployed	22	24.4
agriculture	29	32.2
employee	21	23.3
own business	13	14.4
government employee	1	1.1
other	4	4.4
Monthly income (baht)		
<10,000	69	76.7
10,000-50,000	21	23.3
\bar{X} = 7,447 S.D.= 7674		
Educational level		
Primary school	44	48.9
Secondary school	13	14.4
High school	24	26.7

Table 1 Characteristics of participant (n =90) (Cont.)

Variables	n	%
High school		
Vocational school	24	26.7
Bachelor	2	2.2
Work experience (years)	7	7.8
<5		
5-9	18	20.0
10-14	13	14.4
15-19	22	24.4
20-24	7	7.8
>25	11	12.2
$\bar{X}= 14$ S.D.= 10	19	21.1

Table 2 Relationship between income, knowledge, empower perception and home visit behaviors of VHV's

Variables	Home visit behavior		χ^2	df	p-value
	Good	Poor			
Income (baht)			4.046	1	0.044
<10,000	35(47.3)	39(52.7)			
$\geq 10,000$	12(75.0)	4(25.0)			
Knowledge			3.893	1	0.048
High	25(64.1)	14(35.9)			
Low	22(43.1)	29(56.9)			
Empower perception			0.453	1	0.501
High	24(49.0)	25(51.0)			
Low	23(56.1)	18(43.9)			

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