ASSESSMENT OF USE OF FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES AMONG MINORITY WOMEN OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE IN THONG PHA PHUME MINORITY SETTLEMENT, KARNCHANABURI PROVINCE, THAILAND

Umakon Sithong[1,*] Ratana Somrongthong[1]

[1]College of Public Health, Chulalongkorn University, 10330

ABSTRACT: The use of family planning services among 224 minority women age 14 – 49 years was assessed. Thong Pha Phume Minority Settlement, Karnchanaburi Province, was purposively selected based on a potential to participate the study. A structured questionnaire was used to gathers the data. Chi-square was used to analyze association between independent and dependent variables. The result shows that the use of family planning service among the study population was lower than the use of the services nationwide. The use of family planning services among the study group was 64.9 percent while the contraceptive prevalence rate in the country was 81.1 percent. Three factors influencing the use of family planning services were legal status of the women (p=.009), the perception of the services availability (p=.003), and Thai speaking ability (p=.014). In conclusion, the information dissemination, and the effective communication are needed to promote the use of the service among minority women at the study area.

Key words: reproductive health, family planning, minority women

INTRODUCTION: In Thailand there was a group of people who was so called minority. Definition was given as "an ethnic person" who is not considered as a national by any state, mostly reside along border"[1]. Until 2004, there are 19 groups, 514,420 minority people in Thailand[2]. They are registered by Ministry of Interior, after registration "color identity cards" will be issued for them. Even though those minorities have identity cards, they do not have rights equal to those people who have Thai identity card because they are not Thai Nationality by law[3]. They have limitation of access to public services[4] such as reproductive health services. This study aimed to assess use of reproductive health services among the minority women living in Thong Pha Phume minority settlement, Karnchanaburi province.

METHODS: The study was designed as a descriptive and analytical study to assess the use, and factors influencing the use of reproductive health services among minority women. Thong Pha Phume minority settlement was purposively selected based on the potential to participate the study. There were 250 households, 1,120 people in the community. Most of community members held alien identity card (color identity card) issued by Ministry of Interior for non-Thai nationality. The majority of the people speak Burmese or Tovoy languages. Structured questionnaire in Thai language was used to collect the data. Six interviewers and six interpreters were trained to obtain data. Two hundred and twenty four respondents were selected by simple random sampling. Factors influencing use of reproductive health services were determined. The level of significance for the association was set at p-value = .05.

RESULTS: The majority of the women aged between 35 – 49 years (40.6%). Most of women never attended school (75.4%). Ninety two percent of them are Burman or Tavoy ethnicity. Over one third of them have been living in Thailand for 16 – 20 years (37.9%). Most of them could not speak Thai (71.0%).

*To whom correspondence should be addressed.
E-mail: umakons@gmail.com, umakon.sithong@ifrc.org

Twelve point five percent of them did not have identity card. One third of them did not have any health insurance. One focus of the study was use of family planning service. It was found that the majority of the women (68.8%) were married. Among the currently married women (n = 154), 64.9 percent currently use contraception, 23.4 percent never use the services, and 11.7 percent ever use the services but stopped. About contraceptive methods, 46 percent have gotten female sterilization, 26 percent used contraceptive pills and injection method equally. There were 3 factors that were significantly associated with the use of family planning services, legal status, perception of the service availability, and Thai speaking ability. It was found that percentage of the use of the services among the women who have identity card greater than the women who do not have identity card (p = .009). The percentage of use of the service among the women who perceived that the service was available at the district hospital was greater than the women who perceived that the service was not available at the district hospital (p = .003). Of the women who were good or very good in Thai speaking, their use of the service was greater than whose their Thai speaking ability was fair or poor (p=.014).

Table 1 Characteristics of the respondents (n = 224)

	Number (%)
Age	
14 – 24 years	89 (39.7)
25 – 34 years	44 (19.6)
35 – 49 years	91 (40.6)
Mean ± SD	30.5 ± 11.5
Marital status	
Single	54 (24.1)
Married	154 (68.8)
Divorced, widowed and separated	16 (7.1)
Thai speaking ability	
Poor (cannot understand and speak Thai)	60 (26.8)
Fair (understand but cannot speak Thai)	99 (44.2)
Good, very good (understand and can speak Thai)	65 (29.0)
Health insurance	
Not available	74 (33.0)
Available	150 (67.0)
Color ID card	
Not available	28 (12.5)
Available	196 (87.5)

Table 2 Use of family planning services among currently married women

	Number (%)
Married women use family planning services (n = 154)	
Never use	36 (23.4)
Ever use but stop	18 (11.7)
Currently use	100 (64.9)
Family planning methods (n=100)	
Female sterilization	46 (46.0)
Contraceptive pills	26 (26.0)
Contraceptive injection	26 (26.0)
Emergency pills	2 (2.0)

Table 3 Factors influencing use of family planning services among ever-married women

	Never use FP (n = 45)	Ever use FP (n = 125)
Legal status[a]		
Color ID Card not available	7 (58.3)	5 (41.7)
Color ID Card available	38 (24.1)	120 (75.9)
Perception of FP service availability[b]		
Not available	20 (42.5)	27 (57.5)
Available	25(20.3)	9 (79.7)
Thai speaking ability[c]		
Poor	23 (39.7)	35 (60.3)
Fair	17 (21.8)	61 (78.2)
Good, very good	5 (14.7)	29 (85.3)

[a]p=.009, [b]p=.003, [c]p=.014

DISCUSSION: The use of family planning service among the study population (64.9%) was lower than the use of the services nationwide (81.1%)[5]. Considering the factors influenced use of the service, legal status that refers to the color identity card, was significantly associated with the use of the services. It was similar to a number of qualitative and quantitative studies that were conducted in the marginalized people, such as illegal migrant workers or minorities, that were found that the people with illegal status tended to use the public services less than others because of fear of arrest, detained, and deportation from the country[4,6]. Furthermore, Thai speaking ability and perception of the service availability in the district show statistical significant association with the use of family planning services. Various studies among migrant or minority women stated that the language

was one of the important barriers in access to reproductive health services, including reproductive health information[7].

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การประเมินการใช้บริการอนามัยเจริญพันธุ์ในหญิงชนกลุ่มน้อยวัยเจริญพันธุ์ในชุมชนชนกลุ่มน้อย อำเภอทองผาภูมิ จังหวัดกาญจนบุรี

***อุมากร สีทอง*[1,*] *รัตนา สำโรงทอง*[1]**

[1]*วิทยาลัยการสาธารณสุข จุฬาลงกรณ์มหาวิทยาลัย*

บทคัดย่อ: เป็นการสำรวจการใช้บริการวางแผนครอบครัวของหญิงชนกลุ่มน้อย ที่มีอายุระหว่าง 14 – 49 ปี ซึ่งเจาะจงเลือกชุมชนชนกลุ่มน้อยแห่งหนึ่งในอำเภอทองผาภูมิ จังหวัดกาญจนบุรี เก็บข้อมูลโดยมีผู้สัมภาษณ์ตามแบบสอบถาม วิเคราะห์หาความสัมพันธ์ระหว่างตัวแปรอิสระ และตัวแปรตาม โดยใช้ Chi–square ผลการสำรวจพบว่า การใช้บริการวางแผนครอบครัวในกลุ่มที่ศึกษา น้อยกว่าการใช้บริการวางแผนครอบครัวในภาพรวมของประเทศ ซึ่งการใช้บริการวางแผนครอบครัวในกลุ่มที่ศึกษาเท่ากับร้อยละ 64.9 ในขณะที่การใช้บริการวางแผนครอบครัวทั้งประเทศมีร้อยละ 81.1 ปัจจัยที่มีผลต่อการใช้บริการวางแผนครอบครัวคือ สถานะทางกฎหมาย (p = .009), การรับรู้ว่ามีบริการวางแผนครอบครัวในโรงพยาบาลอำเภอ (p = .003) และ ความสามารถในการพูดภาษาไทย (p = .014) ของกลุ่มตัวอย่าง ดังนั้นการส่งเสริมการใช้บริการวางแผนครอบครัวของหญิงชนกลุ่มน้อย ควรจัดให้มี การกระจายข้อมูลข่าวสารเรื่องบริการอนามัยเจริญพันธ์ และการสื่อสารที่มีสอดคล้องต่อสังคมวัฒนธรรมของชนกลุ่มน้อย

คำสำคัญ: การใช้บริการวางแผนครอบครัว หญิงชนกลุ่มน้อย อนามัยเจริญพันธุ์

[*]ติดต่อได้ที่ umakons@gmail.com, umakon.sithong@ifrc.org โทรศัพท์ 0 8730 02422