THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SOCIAL SUPPORT FROM HUSBAND ON PRE-NATAL CARE, POST-NATAL CARE AND CHILD HEALTH CARE

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ABSTRACT :

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The authors'objective is to study the effectiveness of health education programme provided to the husbands concerning pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months by comparative study in four aspects as knowledge, attitude, practice and social support from husband. In addition, to find the correlation between social support from husband with maternal and child care behavior.

The experimental group of 48 mothers gained significantly more scores on knowledge, attitude, practice and social support from husband about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child care from birth to 6 months than the comparison group of 52 mothers after experimentation. Furthermore, there are correlation between pre-natal care, post-natal care and child care behavior with social support from husband.

Introduction

The problems on maternal and child health care in Thailand nowadays still exist in both aspects of maternal and child health which includes antenatal care, post-natal care, family planning, breastfeeding, supplementary food, immunization and developmental promotion, in order to attain good health status, all mothers and children have to be given good care during pregnancy until birth as a comprehensive care. Thus, the authors tried to find the strategy to help solving MCH care problem.

Patients and Methods

By using sample random sampling techique, 48 persons of Amphur Muang were experimental group and 52 persons of Amphur Banpong were comparison group.

The husband of experimental group received health education programme 3 times at 24 weeks, 36 weeks of pregnancy and after delivery, After that, the husband gave social support to their wives by following the supported plan. The researcher sent monthly postcard to warn the husband 5 times at 7^{th} month, 8^{th} month of pregnancy and after delivery as one month, three months and five months. Furthermore when the babies 3 months old, mother were visited by researcher.

The comparison group received health education programme from Maternal and Child Hospital when they came to attend ante-natal care and delivery.

Study area

The study was conducted in two districts of Ratchaburi Province namely Muang district and Banpong district which have mostly the same general characteristic such as main education, occupation, communication and population literacy rate. Muang Distric was randomly choosen as an experimental area and Banpong District as a control area.

Study population

1. Primary pregnant women.
2. Age of pregnancy ≥ 24 weeks.
3. Attend pre-natal care and delivery at Maternal and Child Hospital, Health Promotion Center Region 4 Ratchaburi Province.

Sample Selection

Choosen from characteristics of samples size.

1. primary pregnant women.
2. Age of pregnancy ≥ 24 weeks.
3. Pregnant women aged 17-35 years old.
4. The women living in Muang Distric and Banpong District of Ratchaburi Province.
5. Living with their husbands at home.

Data Collection

1. Survey the names of specific characteristic women who will give birth during June - September 1991.
2. Explain details about project and activities of research for assistants of research.
3. Collect data during June 1991 - June 1992.

The data were collected by interview with two form (Interview one are knowledge, attitude and practice about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child care, interview two are social support from husband about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child care) before and after experimentation.

Statistic Analysis

The data were analysed by using computer with SPSS+ programme and using percentage, means, standard diviation t-test, paired t-test and correlation.

Research Instrument

1. video tape on father and family consisting of
   1.1 maternal care.
      - Pre-natal care.
      - Post-natal care.
      - Family planning.
   1.2 Child health care.
      - Infant care.
      - Breastfeeding.
      - Supplementary food.
      - Immunization.

2. Hand-book for father on Maternal and Child Health with consists of similar video tape contents.

3. Post card for reminding husbands in experimental group to support maternal and child care to their wives.

4. Supporting plan for husbands, produced by research team to guide husbands of experimental group to support maternal and child care for their wives. The plan will be practiced 18 times (every 2 weeks); 6 times for pre-natal care and 12 times for post delivery.

5. Testing social support table. (evaluate social support for husbands) The research team will give to pregnant women of experimental group.

6. Interview form are formulated for objective research and social support concept such as :-

6.1 Interview form for interviewing wives about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care which consists of knowledge, attitude and practice.

6.2 Interview form for interviewing wives evaluate social support from husbands about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care for information, emotion, appraisal and instrumental support.

Results

The findings of the study can be summarized as follows :-

1. The experimental group gained significantly more score on knowledge about child care from birth to 6 months than comparison group after experimentation.

2. The experimental group achieved significantly higher score than the comparison group on the attitude toward ante-natal care, post-natal care and child care from birth to 6 months after experimentation.

3. The experimental group had significantly more score on practice about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child care from birth to 6 months than the comparison group after experimentation.

4. The experimental group gained significantly more score on social support from husband than the comparison group after experimentation

5. There are correlation between per-natal care, post-natal care and child care behavior with social support from husband.

Discussion

The results obtained from this study showed that the concept of social support from close rela-

tives or from leader of family e.g. father or husband played an important role for the success of the maternal and child care in health education programme. Either father or husband was suggesed to teach knowledge concerning maternal and child care step by step to mother. Furthermore, the mother was given social support such as information support, emotional support, appraisal support and instrumental support, however, availability of money, time and labour were another significant factors allowing mother to be able to practice herself correctly during prenatal period, postnatal period as well as taking care of her own child with appropriate cares.

Therefore, either father or husband was the most important person to have most influences (natural social power) on encourage mother to know appropriate procedures for taking care of herself starting from pregnancy period up to child care. This action result in higher quality of life for both mother and child in the respects of healthiness of body and mind. Also, in the future, they would create a good social life and develop themselves to be as high quality human resource of the nation.

Conclusion and Recommendation

Giving health knowledge concerning maternal and child care step by step to husband according to health education programme and followed by warning with check list table as supported plan, would make them able to give their wives social support by encouraging expectant mothers having proper knowledge, attitude and practice about taking good care during pregnancy until birth as a comprehensive care. It is one of important strategies to assist in solving maternal and child health (MCH) care problem of the country at one level. So, it is recommended to distribute and integrate this method into routine work of MCH care.

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1. General characteristics of sample.

Table 1 number and percentages of experimental group and comparison group about general characteristics of samples.

Characteristics of samples	experimental gr. number	experimental gr. percentage	comparison gr. number	comparison gr. percentage
Maternal age				
20-24 years	23	47.9	24	46.2
Maternal education				
5-7 years	26	54.1	25	48.1
Husband education				
5-7 years	24	50.0	25	48.1
Maternal occupation				
Housewife	27	56.3	21	40.4
Husband occupation				
Labour	21	43.7	34	65.5
Family income/month				
2,001-3,000	13	27.1	17	32.7
3,001-4,000	14	29.2	15	28.9
Number of person in family				
0-2	16	33.3	14	26.9
3-5	21	43.8	25	48.1
Characteristic of family				
neuclear family	16	33.3	14	25.9
extended family	32	66.7	38	33.1

Table 2 In comparison $\bar{x}$ of knowledge about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months in experimental group during before and after experimentation.

Experimental group	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
before experiment	48	22.25	8.83	.000***
after experiment	48	76.13	9.51	

*** significant p-value 0.001

Table 3 In comparison $\bar{x}$ of knowledge about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months in comparison group during before and after experimentation.

Comparison group	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
before experiment	52	19.46	7.58	.000***
after experiment	52	38.50	8.69	

*** significant p-value 0.001

Table 4 In comparison $\bar{x}$ of knowledge about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months in experimental group and comparison group before experimentation.

Before experiment	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
experimental group	48	22.25	8.84	.046*
comparison group	52	19.46	7.59	

* significant p-value 0.05

Table 5 In comparison $\bar{x}$ of knowledge about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months in experimental group and comparison group after experimentation.

After experiment	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
experimental group	48	76.13	9.51	.000***
comparison group	52	38.50	8.69	

*** significant p-value 0.001

Table 6 In comparison of the experimental group's $\bar{x}$ of knowledge about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months after the first and after the second experimentation.

experimental group	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
after the first	48	62.66	10.32	.000***
after the second	48	76.12	9.51	

*** significant p-value 0.001

Table 7 In comparison of the experimental group's $\bar{x}$ of attitude toward pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months before and after experimentation.

experimental group	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
before experiment	48	113.88	10.44	.000***
after experiment	48	148.87	6.44	

*** significant p-value 0.001

Table 8 In comparison of the comparison group's $\bar{x}$ of attitude toward pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months before and after experimentation.

comparison group	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
before experiment	52	109.48	7.82	.000***
after experiment	52	124.38	11.98	

*** significant p-value 0.001

Table 9 In comparison of the experimental group and comparison group's $\bar{x}$ of attitude toward pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months before experimentation.

before experiment	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
experimental group	48	113.88	10.84	0.01**
comparison group	52	109.48	7.82	

*** significant p-value 0.01

Table 10 In comparison of the experimental group and comparison group's $\bar{x}$ of attitude toward pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months after experimentation.

after experiment	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
experimental group	48	148.88	6.44	.000***
comparison group	52	124.85	11.98	

*** significant p-value 0.001

Table 11 In comparison of the experimental group's $\bar{x}$ of affitude toward pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months after the first testing at 3 months and after the second testing at 6 months.

experimental group	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
after the first testing	48	141.08	11.79	0.01**
after the second testing	48	148.87	6.44	

** significant p-value 0.01

Table 12 In comparison of the experimental group and comparison group of practice about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months after experimentation.

after experiment	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
experimental group	48	83.29	8.55	.000***
comparison group	52	64.96	9.98	

*** significant p-value 0.001

Table 13 In comparison of the experimental group's $\bar{x}$ of practice about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months after the first testing at 3 months and after testing at 6 months.

experimental group	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
after the first testing	48	71.99	9.18	0.45**
after the second testing	48	72.44	10.85	

Table 14 In comparison of the experimental group of social support from husband about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months before and after experimentation.

experimental group	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
before experiment	48	48.19	15.98	.000***
after experiment	48	87.48	9.87	

*** significant p-value 0.001

Table 15 In comparison of the comparison group of social support from husband about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months before and after experimentation.

comperison group	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
before experiment	52	50.36	16.75	0.000***
after experiment	52	66.15	13.43	

*** significant p-value 0.001

Table 16 In comparison $\bar{x}$ of the experimental group and comparison group of social support from husband about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months before experimentation.

before experiment	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p - value
experimental group	48	48.18	15.97	0.27
comparison group	52	50.36	16.75	

Table 17 In comparison $\bar{x}$ of the experimental group and comparison group of social support from husband about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months after experimentation.

after experiment	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
experimental group	48	204.91	23.46	.000***
comparison group	52	154.82	26.81	

*** significant p-value 0.001

Table 18 In comparison $\bar{x}$ of the experimental group's $\bar{x}$ of social support from husband about pre-natal care, post-natal care and child health care from birth to 6 months after the first testing at 3 months and the second testing at 6 months.

experimental group	n	$\bar{x}$	SD	p-value
after the first testing	48	200.22	26.07	.075
after the second testing	48	204.92	23.46	

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