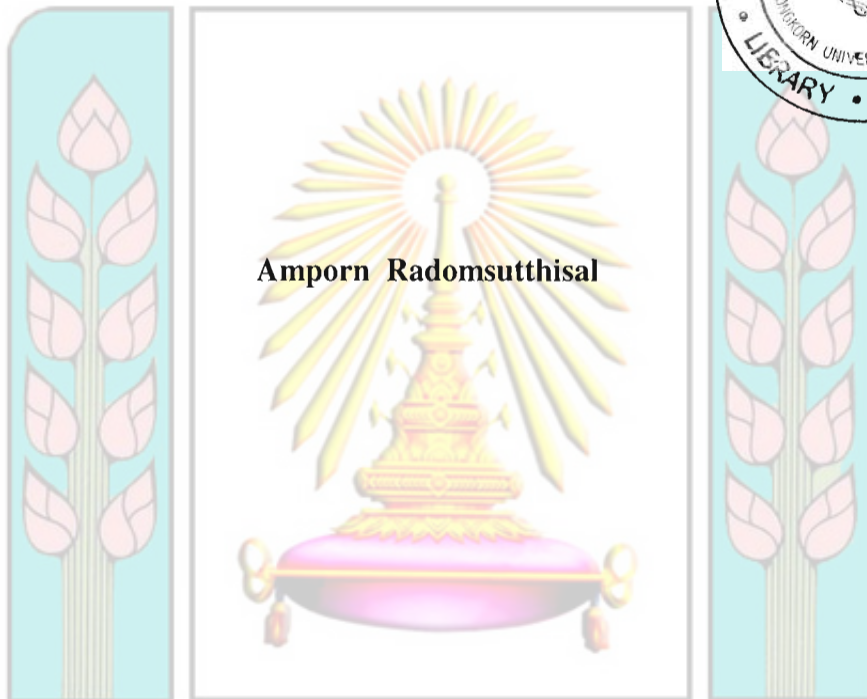


**EVALUATION OF THE POSTPARTUM EDUCATIONAL
SERVICES IN SENA HOSPITAL,
PHRA NAKHON SI AYUTTHAYA PROVINCE**



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Abstract

The purpose of this study; Evaluation of Postpartum Maternal Care Service, was to assess the knowledge of mothers before and after receiving the postpartum maternal and infant care service in self-care and infant care. Forty-five mothers who delivery at Sena Hospital from 1-30 April 2000 and resided in Sena District were selected. A 40-question-questionnaire was used to assess their knowledge before and after receiving the service. The assessment of knowledge was conducted two times; the first started two hours after delivery and the second before their discharge from the hospital. These mothers received the four-step-service while they were staying in the hospital and they must re-visit the hospital to have postpartum checkup one month after delivery. The study applied several methods as follows; the survey of postpartum clinic of Sena Hospital within 1-2 months, recording of frequency of the mothers' postpartum checkup, family planning, cervical cancer screening and home visits and observations about the infant feeding. The number of infants who were fed breast milk more than four months and those who were fed supplement food at the age of four months were recorded. After gathering all data, data analysis was conducted by using SPSS to determine means, percentage, standard deviation, pair T-test and Chi-square.

The result revealed that the mothers gained more knowledge after receiving the service and their average score was 35.2 points (SD=2.6), comparing with the score taken before receiving the service; 31.2 points (SD=3.3). This showed that their knowledge was improved significantly (P-value < 0.001). In addition, all of the mothers

involved in this study had postpartum checkup and practiced family planning. The majority of the mothers (77.8%) had cervical cancer examination while the rest (23.3%) didn't as they had the postpartum checkup at the health center where cervical cancer test was not available. Regarding to breastfeeding, it was found that 55.6 percent of mothers breastfeeding their infant for equal or more than four months, 13.3 percent nursing the infant with breast milk for three months, 17.8 percent feeding breast milk for two months and 13.3 percent giving breast milk for one month. Concerning supplement food, this study found that 51.1 percent of mothers using the supplement food with the infant aged four months, 49.9 percent starting the supplement food with their baby aged less than four months. Among those who started the supplement food with the infants aged less than four months, 47.7 percent using it with the infant aged three months and only one case was reported using the supplement food with her baby at age of two months. As seen from the results, not only did the postpartum maternal care service improve the knowledge of postpartum mothers but it also increased the practice of postpartum checkup, family planning and cervical cancer screening. In addition, the postpartum maternal care service helped increase the period of breastfeeding for the infants and helped raise the awareness of mothers in the use of supplement food with the infants at the age of four months. Finally, maternal care should be implemented continuously and should be monitored periodically for future development.