Abstract Title: Development of the Referral System for Enhancing Health of Adolescent Mothers and Their Families

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Abstract

This research and development study aimed at developing a referral system for enhancing health of adolescent mothers and their families based on continuing care and their actual needs. The system was collaborated working among health care providers, original family of adolescent mothers, their living community, and supporting agencies form government and private sectors. Data were collected using in-depth and focused-group interview techniques. Samples of the study were divided into three groups. First, 57 healthcare providers were doctors and nurses from nine departments of the Maternal and Child Health Hospital consisted of departments of counseling, parental school, antenatal care, intrapartum care, postpartum care, neonatal intensive care unit, family planning, baby & child health, and community and health promotion. Second, 19 officers were from six agencies settled in the community such as a secondary school, a center of non-formal education, a sub-district health promoting hospital, a sub-district administration organization, health volunteers, and the social development and human security office of Nakhon Sawan province. Lastly, 13 adolescent mothers and their families were included.

The qualitative data were analyzed and used to formulate a referral system model. The data reflected that the referral system should be a network of several agencies from community, and organizations of healthcare and social welfare. Moreover, the data reflected that each agency had potential to take care adolescent mothers and their families according to its responsibility. But, they lacked knowledge and guideline for working with and connecting to each other effectively. Some agencies were not sure whether adolescent mothers would come to use their services, what was important data they should forward to the others, and who should be the center of the system. They suggested that continuous trainings about knowledge, working skills, and referral guideline should be provided for making clear about their responsibilities and connections.

Keywords— *referral system, mother, adolescence, health*

Professional Biography

Jantakan Kanjanawetang had completed her PhD in nursing from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. She is the deputy director of the Center for Innovation and Educational Technology, and the former associate dean of Nursing Institute, Suranaree University of Thecnology, Thailand. She has long experience on teaching maternal nursing and midwifery for nursing students for more than 20 years.



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