

Infant Feeding in the Rural Area of Sri Sa-ket Province : A Focus Group Technique Approach

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Data obtained from 8 focus group discussions among mothers aged 15-44 years who currently get pregnant or whose last child aged under 60 months in the rural area of Sri Sa-Ket, a Province in the Northeast of Thailand, reveals that some mothers still have malpractice concerning food for babies. The practice of early introduction of carbohydrate and late introduction of protein supplementary food to infants still prevails. However some mothers have some good knowledge on infant feeding and practice. In case of children's sickness, almost all of studied mothers are cautious with their diet and deny their babies from consumption of animal protein.

Belief in abstinence of some taboo food or *Kalum* still plays an important role in pattern of childrearing especially during the time when their babies get sick. Poor geographical condition of the Northeast force the Northerner to be more concerned about making a living rather than on food consumption. Poverty-stricken of a family is also an important factor affects the pattern of childrearing. Mothers who have some knowledge of childrearing and practice rightly are those who had antenatal care and delivered at the hospital. One of the best way believed to be an essential in changing behavior of childrearing is to promote the practice of receiving antenatal care among pregnant women in the rural area.