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A Study of Needs and Behaviors of Elderly treatment by Traditional Chinese Medicine at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi District, Samut Songkhram Province

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Abstract

This research was aimed to study the needs of elderly treatment and behaviors of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province. The sample group was 220 elderly person at the age of 60 and above who were the members of elderly club, by using Taro Yamane formula with 0.95 level of significance. The data was compiled with using the questionnaire in 3 parts; part 1 – the general information, part 2 – the needs of elderly treatment and part 3 – the behavior of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine, which compiled for 2 months. The statistics for data analysis were percentage, mean and standard deviation. The findings revealed that 1) the needs of elderly treatment were; treatment services at home was in the high level, permanent doctor at the health promoting hospital, treatment by the alternative hospital, knowledge of the side effect of medicine and exercise, and male nurse 2) the behaviors of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine, most of them were treated by Chinese herbs.

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Keywords: Needs, Behaviors of Treatment, Traditional Chinese Medicine, Elderly Person

Introduction

Nowadays, the demographic structure change of Thailand is 10 percentages increasing the number of elderly person that leads to the condition of elderly person. The age of elderly person does not mean the good health, but the system deterioration that causes to the chronic disease and affects to the condition of dependence (National Statistical Office, 2012). Health is the fundamental of life, the good health would affect to the daily life efficiently. Therefore, health is a lifestyle that leads to the happiness and success of life including the behavior that changes from treating to prevent the disease, the hospitals are emphasized on developing products by the concept of alternative medicine, enhancing the hospital standard for promoting the alternative medicine to link with the current lifestyle of consumers.

Traditional Chinese medicine is one of the alternative medicines due to the western medicine could not solve all the health problem or illness. Therefore, traditional Thai medicine, traditional Chinese medicine and western medicine are applied. Traditional Chinese medicine is initiated in the Republic of China and popular in many countries around the world. Nowadays, the World Health Organization (WHO) has guaranteed this health treatment of the traditional Chinese medicine with the holistic concept. For Thailand, it was also more accepted and popular due to it works rapidly, no chemical ingredients and low cost of treatment. The system of traditional Chinese medicine is the local wisdom for many thousand years and inherited until now; using herbs, Acupuncture, Moxibustion, Tui Na massage, cupping and Guasa etc. (Kowit Khampeerapab, 2001:19).

The researcher realized how important to the elderly person at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province who does not know about traditional Chinese medicine. This research was aimed to study the needs of elderly treatment and behaviors of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine for providing the health service system to facilitate the public health and elderly person at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province by promoting

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the treatment by traditional Chinese medicine as the choice for people, model for the district and transfer to the local administration organization.

Objective

1. To study the needs of elderly treatment at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province.
2. To study the behaviors of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province.

Literature Review

Concept of Elderly Person

Elderly person is a person who is Thai at the age of 60 and above (Elderly Person Act, B.E. 2546). In order that, the elderly person has not the same characteristic but different by their age. World Health Organization (WHO) has determined the criteria as following;

- Elderly person: 60 – 74 years old
- Old person: 75 – 90 years old
- Very old person: 90 years old and above

Somsak Srisantisuk (1993:2) said, Elderly person is a person who is determined by the society at the age of 60 that it is the late period of life; physical, mental and social deterioration.

Surakul Jijen (1998, 6-7) states that the elderly refer to persons living in the last moments of life. This is the age of physical, mental and social change. Each person will have different degeneration. It is determined that the elderly. Individuals who are considered elderly are given different criteria. The criteria for determining the elderly are as follows.

1. Consider the elderly. From the chronological aging of the number of years or age that appear on the calendar year.
2. Without taking other factors into consideration.
3. Consider Elderly. From the physiological aging or biological aging. This change process will increase with age in each year.
4. Considering Elderly. From the psychological aging. Through the process of change in the mind, intellect, perception and learn to regress.
5. Considering Elderly. From the sociological aging. And changing social roles. Being together with a group of people As well as reduced responsibility for work.

The study of the meaning of the elderly. In conclusion, the elderly are people aged 60 years and over is the last age of life. The age of the change in the way the body. Psychosocial and social support, as well as person-to-person support, and caregivers from close relatives to better the elderly.

Concept and Theory of Human Needs

Rungnapa Jangrungrueng (2007), the human needs many things in the different level; physiological needs, food, drinking water, air, home, clothes, medicine, safety, security, self- esteem, and self-actualization. Nevertheless, human needs are never end and sufficient; if he doesn't receive the primary step, he will need the next step. Therefore, it would have to know what he needs to actually respond to it.

Jirawat, Kullaphat and Kwanjai (2017) in their recent research paper found, the study of health care behaviors of the elderly people in Trat municipality, Trat province revealed that it was in the moderate level due to a physical and mental change, and body system deterioration in 3 sides as following; 1. The health promotion, the elderly people emphasized on dietary which the findings revealed that most of the average satisfaction was having 3 meals a day, and having vegetable and fruit. 2. The health rehabilitation, the elderly people emphasized on exercise or playing sport which suited to their body, and always warmed up before and after the exercise. and 3. The health prevention, the elderly people emphasized on cleanness of cooking, and using a biodegradable and ecological substance.

Concept of Behaviors of Treatment by Traditional Chinese Medicine

The principle of traditional Chinese medicine is emphasized on balancing the body, it believes that disease or illness are caused by the unbalance of the body. Therefore, if the body is balance, it would heal those disease or illness. The treatment by traditional Chinese medicine; using herbs, acupuncture, fumigation, cupping and Tui Na massage etc. which the doctor has chosen one or many of them due to the disease or symptom of the patient. (Kowit Khampeerapab, 2001:23)

Suwanna Hadsamad and Jirawat Sudsawart (2017), the behaviors of treatment by traditional Chinese medicine, herbs and acupuncture tend to increase.

Methodology

This research was the qualitative research by using the questionnaire with 3 parts;

Part 1 – the general information which consisted of gender, age, marital status, occupation and chronic disease.

Part 2 – the needs of elderly treatment at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province which assessed by using percentage (X) and standard deviation (SD).

Part 3 – the behaviors of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province which assessed by using percentage (X) and standard deviation (SD).

which assessed by the rating scale (Likert Scale);

5 represented to very high level

4 represented to high level

3 represented to moderate level

2 represented to low level

1 represented to very low level

Population and Sample Group

The population was 490 elderly persons at the age of 60 and above who were the members of elderly club at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province.

The sample group was 220 elderly persons who were the members of elderly club at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province by using Taro Yamane formula (Taro Yamane', 1973 : 727-728) with 0.95 level of significance, and by considering on their qualification as following;

1. Be able to participate in any activities.
2. Good communication.
3. Good participation.

Data Compilation

This research has compiled the data from 220 elderly persons who were the members of elderly club at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province as following;

1. Asking for the permission for data compilation from Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province.
2. Informing and coordinating with the header of the hospital and the header of the elderly club.
3. Collecting the data from elderly person by using the interview and questionnaire.

Data Analysis

The researcher has compiled, analyzed and processed the data as the qualitative research by using the questionnaire; the general information, the needs of elderly treatment and the behavior of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine which assessed by using percentage (X) and standard deviation (SD) for concluding the result afterwards.

Statistics for Data Analysis

The researcher has checked the data completion of 220 questionnaires from compiling for 2 months before analysis and processing as following;

- 1) Analyzing the general information which consisted of gender, age, marital status, occupation and chronic disease by using percentage (X).
- 2) Analyzing the needs of elderly treatment at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province by using percentage (X) and standard deviation (SD).
- 3) Analyzing the behavior of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine at Bang Nok Kwaek

Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province by using percentage (X) and standard deviation (SD). With the Best Criteria as following;

- 4.51 – 5.00 represented to very high level
- 3.51 – 4.50 represented to high level
- 2.51 – 3.50 represented to moderate level
- 1.51 – 2.50 represented to low level
- 1.00 – 1.50 represented to very low level

Conceptual Framework

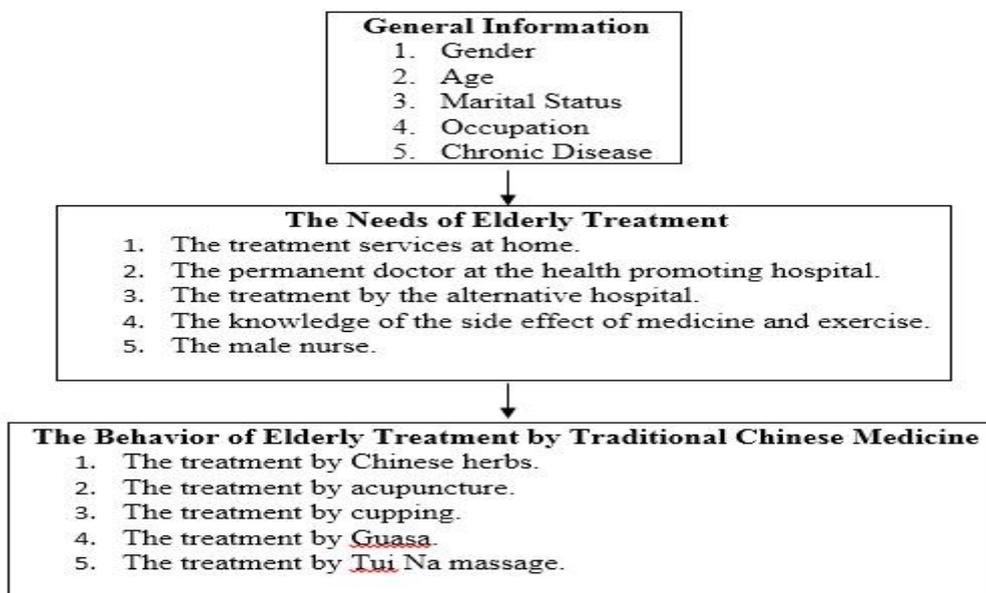


Figure 1: Conceptual framework of the research.

Results

This research was aimed to study the needs of elderly treatment and behaviors of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine for creating the guideline of health promotion for elderly person at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province. The researcher has presented in 3 parts as following;

- Part 1 – the general information which consisted of gender, age, marital status, occupation and chronic disease.
- Part 2 – the needs of elderly treatment at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province.
- Part 3 – the behaviors of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province.

Part 1 Analyzing the general information which consisted of gender, age, marital status, occupation and chronic disease by using percentage (X).

The findings of the general information of 220 elderly person revealed that; most of them was female (124, 56.36%) and male (96, 43.63%), most of their age was 60 – 69 years old (135, 61.36%), most of their marital status

was married (117, 53.18%), most of their occupation was agriculturist (90, 40.90%), most of their chronic disease was hypertension (82, 37.27%), backache or lumbago (54, 24.54%), arthralgia or ostealgia (32, 14.54%), diabetes mellitus (23, 10.45%), eye disease (17, 7.72%), cardiovascular disease (11, 5%) and brain disease (10.45%) as shown in Table 1.

Table 1
Number and percentage of the general information (n = 220)

General Information		Number	Percentage
Gender	Male	96	43.63
	Female	124	56.36
Age	60 – 69 years old	135	61.36
	70 – 79 years old	56	25.45
	80 – 89 years old	19	8.63
	90 years old and above	10	4.54
Marital Status	Single	30	13.63
	Married	117	53.18
	Widowed	64	29.09
	Divorced	9	4.09
Occupation	Agriculturist	90	40.90
	Employee	23	10.45
	Government officer	15	6.81
	Company officer	-	-
	Business owner	48	21.81
	Housekeeper	44	20
	Freelance	-	-
	Others	-	-
Chronic Disease	Hypertension	82	37.27
	Backache or lumbago	54	24.54
	Diabetes mellitus	23	10.45
	Arthralgia or ostealgia	32	14.54
	Brain disease	1	0.45
	Cardiovascular disease	11	5
	Eye disease	17	7.72
	Others	-	-



Figure 2: Provides traditional Chinese Medicine knowledge to the elderly.



Figure 3: Provides advice and health check to the elderly.

Part 2 Analyzing the needs of elderly treatment at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province by using percentage (X) and standard deviation (SD).

The findings of the needs of elderly treatment at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province revealed that; treatment services at home was in the high level (X = 4.39, SD = 0.70), permanent doctor at the health promoting hospital (X = 4.28, SD = 0.58), treatment by the alternative hospital (X = 4.27, SD = 0.70), knowledge of the side effect of medicine and exercise (X = 4.21, SD = 0.67) and male nurse (X = 4.13, SD = 0.70) was in the high level as shown in Table 2.

Table 2

Mean, standard deviation and result of the needs of elderly treatment at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital.

The Needs of Elderly Treatment at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital	Mean	Standard Deviation	Result
1. The treatment services at home.	4.39	0.70	high level
2. The permanent doctor at the health promoting hospital.	4.28	0.58	high level
3. The treatment by the alternative hospital.	4.27	0.70	high level
4. The knowledge of the side effect of medicine and exercise.	4.21	0.67	high level
5. The male nurse.	4.13	0.70	high level

Part 3 Analyzing the behavior of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province by using percentage (X) and standard deviation (SD).

The findings of the behavior of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital revealed that the treatment by Chinese herbs was in the high level (X = 4.05, SD = 0.79), treatment by acupuncture was in the high level (X = 3.79, SD = 0.85), treatment by cupping in the high level (X = 3.73, SD = 0.91), treatment by Guasa was in the moderate level (X = 3.48, SD = 0.93) and treatment by Tui Na massage (X = 2.23, SD = 1.12) was in the low level as shown in Table 3.

Table 3

Mean, standard deviation and result of the behavior of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital

The Behavior of Elderly Treatment by Traditional Chinese Medicine at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital	Mean	Standard Deviation	Result
1. The treatment by Chinese herbs.	4.05	0.79	high level
2. The treatment by acupuncture.	3.79	0.85	high level
3. The treatment by cupping.	3.73	0.91	high level
4. The treatment by Guasa.	3.48	0.93	moderate level
5. The treatment by Tui Na massage.	2.23	1.12	low level



Figure 4: The treatment by acupuncture.



Figure 5 : The treatment by cupping.

Conclusion and Discussion

A Study of Needs and Behaviors of Elderly Treatment by Traditional Chinese Medicine at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram Province was aimed to study the needs of elderly treatment and behaviors of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine by gender, age, marital status, occupation and chronic disease. The sample group was 220 elderly persons at the age of 60 and above, who were the members of elderly club, by using Taro Yamane formula with 0.95 level of significance. The data was compiled using the questionnaire with 3 parts; part 1 – the general information, part 2 – the needs of elderly treatment and part 3 – the behavior of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine, which compiled for 2 month. The statistics for data analysis were percentage and standard deviation.

The findings of the general information of 220 elderly person revealed that; most of them was female, most of their age was 60 – 69 years old, most of their marital status was married, most of their occupation was agriculturist, most of their chronic disease was hypertension, backache or lumbago, arthralgia or ostealgia and brain disease. Additionally, it revealed that the difference of age would not affect to the behaviors of elderly treatment which it was consistent with the study of Somrat Khammak (2016).

The findings of the needs of elderly treatment at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram province revealed that;

1. The treatment services at home ($X = 4.39$, $SD = 0.70$).
2. The permanent doctor at the health promoting hospital ($X = 4.28$, $SD = 0.58$).
3. The treatment by the alternative hospital ($X = 4.27$, $SD = 0.70$).
4. The knowledge of the side effect of medicine and exercise ($X = 4.21$, $SD = 0.67$).
5. The male nurse ($X = 4.13$, $SD = 0.70$).
- 6.

All needs above are the primary needs of elderly person for their convenience and their good health, it was consistent with the study of Wilai Tapasi, Prapaiwan Danpradit and Sinuan Rattanavijit (2017) which it revealed that most of them need the treatment services at home.

The findings of the behavior of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital revealed that the treatment by Chinese herbs was in the high level ($X = 4.05$, $SD = 0.79$), treatment by acupuncture was in the high level ($X = 3.79$, $SD = 0.85$), treatment by cupping in the high level ($X = 3.73$, $SD = 0.91$), treatment by Guasa was in the moderate level ($X = 3.48$, $SD = 0.93$) and treatment by Tui Na massage ($X = 2.23$, $SD = 1.12$) was in the low level. Additionally, it was consistent with the study of Suwanna Hadsamad and Jirawat Sudsawart (2017) which it revealed that most of the patients were applied Chinese herbs but the treatment by Tui Na massage was not well-known at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Samut Songkhram province.

Suggestions

A Study of Needs and Behaviors of Elderly Treatment by Traditional Chinese Medicine at Bang Nok Kwaek Health Promoting Hospital, Bang Khon Thi district, Samut Songkhram Province which revealed that the needs of elderly treatment and the behaviors of elderly treatment by traditional Chinese medicine were in the high level.

1. The public section should support and promote the number of traditional Chinese medicine services in any areas.
2. It should provide the training course for elderly person in the community for their daily life.
3. It should conduct the operational research or participation of elderly person in the community for their accessibility.

Acknowledgment

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