



Title	Maternal and Child Health Handbook among the Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines : The Case of Tagbanua Mothers and Children of Coron Island, Palawan
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論文内容の要旨

Indigenous peoples in the Philippines are at the center of many conflicts: land dispute, cultural and intellectual property rights, sovereignty, identity and health – threatening their way of life and very survival. Their current maternal and child health status is assumed to be worse compared to the general population. Geographical barriers pose one of the challenges in accessing vital health care services, of which the actual costs of transportation/accommodation and effects on their dependents threatens their access to primary health care.

One effective public health measure used to aid in meeting the needs of mothers and their children to access primary health care in the community is the maternal and child health handbook. It functions as a health education material which contributes to the mother's knowledge and as a comprehensive health record book which integrates health records. It allows mothers and health service providers to easily address the maternal care and child health continuum, starting from pregnancy to child rearing. As a comprehensive record book, it is used to chronologically record mother's condition from pregnancy to the post-delivery period and infant's growth. It enables the integration of existing health cards which have been used for community health services.

This study has a general objective of determining the feasibility of utilizing the maternal and child health (MCH) handbook and assess its influence on the maternal and child health of Tagbanua mothers and children in Coron Island, Palawan one year after the introduction of the handbook (August 2007 to August 2008). It specifically aims: to determine the knowledge, attitude and practice of Tagbanua mothers regarding MCH at baseline; to develop and introduce an indigenous-specific MCH handbook suited to the needs of the community; to assess the influence on the Tagbanua mothers' MCH knowledge, attitude and practices after the introduction of the MCH handbook; and to determine the extent of utilization of the MCH handbook among Tagbanua mothers.

The study focused on Tagbanua indigenous peoples residing at Barangay Cabugao, Coron Island, Coron Municipality, Palawan Province, Philippines. The target group of this study consisted of Tagbanua mothers, pregnant and or has been pregnant for the last 6 years. Data on their knowledge and practice were gathered through a field survey. Semi-structured, pre-tested, questionnaire was conducted among fifty Tagbanua mothers. From the preliminary results it was found that all of the mothers lack the basic and necessary maternal and child health knowledge and practices. The baseline study showed that the current knowledge and practices of Tagbanua mothers is in need of improvement.

Cultural barriers pose the most challenge in providing appropriate health care since there is a dearth of information on their indigenous knowledge, attitudes and practices. To overcome this barrier, it is necessary to determine health measures that are

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appropriate to indigenous communities, with emphasis to their language, culture and traditions. The Tagbanua MCH Handbook developed in this study recognized the importance of understanding the indigenous group's culture and ethnic views. In the development of the handbook, Tagbanua members together with the health providers were allowed to have a venue in creating a health intervention which struck a balance between the indigenous views and existing conventional maternal and child health systems.

The study also assessed the influence of the MCH handbook among Tagbanua mothers and children in Coron Island, Palawan one year after the introduction of the handbook. In assessing the influence on the Tagbanua mothers' maternal and child health knowledge after the introduction of the handbook the results showed very highly significantly improved knowledge of mothers from baseline to follow-up. However, in assessing the influence on the Tagbanua mothers' MCH practices after the introduction of the MCH handbook the results showed that there was no statistically significantly improvement on the practices maternal and child health. In terms of utilization a significant number of mothers read, complete and bring their handbook to health care facilities.

Tagbanua mothers are capable of keeping, reading and bringing the MCH handbook and be very satisfied with their utilization of the public health measure. This may be due to the sense of pride and ownership among Tagbanua mothers. Since it was developed by their fellow Tagbanua mothers, endorsed by their community leaders and elders, written in their own dialect and highly reflected their sense of Tagbanua identity – they were able to value the handbook. The Tagbanua MCH Handbook addresses the maternal and child health situation in Coron Island, Palawan by allowing mothers to have access on information pertaining to their and their children's health, as well as helping local health providers in delivering MCH services. It is may serve as a feasible public health measure among indigenous populations, such as the Tagbanua.

論文審査の結果の要旨

本論文は、フィリピン共和国パラワン州コロンの少数民族タグバヌア人社会において、母子保健改善のために導入された母子手帳の活用の可能性をアクション・リサーチの手法を用いて分析したものである。

母子手帳の導入前に50名のタグバヌア人母親に対して母子保健の知識と行動に関する半構造化質問票を用いたインタビュー法による事前調査を行い、母子手帳の導入後に同様の内容の事後調査を行った。

住民参加型手法を用いて、母親や保健医療関係者のニーズ分析を行い、少数民族住民の視点から母子手帳の開発を行った。母子手帳の導入後には、母親たちは母子手帳を保管し、56%の母親が検診などのすべての機会に母子手帳を活用していた。母親の知識に関しては、妊婦検

診の適切な回数(事前36%、事後92%)、母乳育児(事前8%、事後72%)、離乳食(事前24%、事後86%)などと大きな改善がみられた。一方、母子手帳の導入前後で、母親の大きな行動変容は認められなかった。

グローバル化の潮流のなかで、国際保健分野においては、世界各地の少数民族における保健医療のあり方が大きな課題となっている。少数民族の当事者が深くかかわるなかで母子手帳を開発したことは、世界でも初めてに近い取り組みである。本論文は、フィリピンの少数民族の母と子どもの健康に焦点を当て、住民参加型アプローチで母子手帳を開発し、その評価を行ったアクション・リサーチであり、少数民族の母子保健における成果と今後解決すべき課題を明らかにすることにより、国際保健分野における実践的研究に大きな貢献を果たした。本研究の独自性は国際的にも高く評価され、博士号授与にふさわしいと判断された。