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Outcomes of home survey of children with CLP in Khon Kaen Province

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Background: The condition of Cleft Lip and Palate (CLP) is considered a birth defect of the head and face and the incidence has been found to correlate with economic status. CLP is prevalent in the Northeast of Thailand and long-term treatment has a significant impact on families' economy and lifestyle, especially their residence, which is a factor that affects development of CLP children. Therefore, Tawanchai Foundation, seeing the importance of the quality of life of CLP patients, conducted a home survey of children with CLP.

Objective: To survey the homes of children with cleft lip and palate in Khon Kaen province.

Material & Method: This is a descriptive study conducted with a group of 0-12-year-old children with CLP from 20 families, who received treatment from Srinagarind Hospital. The data was collected during five visits with the families and was based on observation and semi-structured interviews that covered two aspects, namely, general baseline information of the children and a home survey. The opinions of the survey team toward the home and surrounding conditions were considered. The informants who provided information were the children's caregivers. Each interview lasted 30 minutes. The data obtained was analyzed quantitatively using percentages and qualitatively by means of content analysis.

Result: Baseline data: There as an equal number of male and female children-10 of each (50%). Most were at the primary school level-9 cases (40%). Most had unilateral cleft lip and palate-15 cases (75%). Some families had economic problems and had needed to borrow money-8 cases (40%). Home conditions: In 3 cases, unsafe characteristics of the residence required an urgent solution.

Conclusion: Most CLP children in this study were born into poor families. Their houses and surroundings were not safe for living. Community leaders should aid these children's families.

Biography

Somchit Maneeganondh has completed her Bachelor's degree in Nursing from Boromarajonani College of Nursing, Thailand. She is the Specialist and Psychiatric Nurse and works at Outpatient Department, Srinagarind Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, Thailand.

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