

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

Developing countries face a high prevalence of dental caries (Douglass, Wei, Zhang, and Tinanoff, 1995 qtd in Pitayarangsarit, 1996). Thailand is one of the more rapidly developing countries. In 1994, 85.1 percent of Thai children at the age of six were affected by dental caries with an average Decayed-Missing-Filling Teeth (DMFT) of 5.7 teeth. During the period 1984-1994, the percentage of six years old children who were affected by dental caries had increased from 71.6 to 85.1 percent (Dental Health Division, Health Department, Ministry of Public Health, 1994).

In Buriram province, one of the provinces in Thailand, the caries prevalence of school children was also high and had an increasing trend (Buriram Provincial Health Office, 1997). Within the Buriram provincial health office, the Dental Public health section has the responsibilities to promote good dental health and advice on the preventive program for school children.

This thesis applies quantitative and qualitative approaches to dental health promotion and prevention at Buriram Province.

In the second chapter, the essay explores effectiveness in preventing dental caries, meaning and etiology of dental caries are described as well as the strategies for controlling dental caries. This chapter also reviews the effectiveness of the various strategies of caries prevention and discusses the feasibility of programs.

Chapter three presents a research proposal for resin and glass-ionomer comparison when using as pit and fissure sealant procedure in mobile dental service for school children. The proposal includes the rationale, objectives, methodology, implementation plan and budget for the study.

Chapter four, the data exercise, deals with a rapid assessment using both quantitative and qualitative methods. In the quantitative part; this data exercise focuses on the collection of data on cost, analyzed and compared at the unit cost level. In qualitative part; data were collected in order to provide a rapid assessment the actual implementing of the dental health promotion and preventive program in a primary school compared to the planned program.

The fifth chapter provides an annotated bibliography on the main literature used for developing this thesis.

The sixth chapter offers a presentation on the key elements of the thesis. It includes a summary of the essay, an overview of the data exercise and the proposal in this study.

## REFERENCES

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