

**A SIMULATION APPROACH TO FINANCING
SCHISTOSOMIASIS CONTROL IN CHINA**



Mr. Yu Dongbao

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Graduate : Yu Dongbao

Department : Economics.

Advisor : Associate Professor Dr. Kaemthong Indaratna.

Co-advisor : Dr. Chev Kidson

Accepted by the Graduate School, Chulalongkorn University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Degree of Master of Science in Health Economics.

Santi Thoongsuwan

..... Dean of
(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Santi Thoongsuwan) Graduate School

Thesis Committee:

Pongsa Pornchaiwiseskul

..... Chairman
(Dr Pongsa Pornchaiwiseskul)

K. Indaratna

..... Advisor
(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kaemthong Indaratna)

Chev Kidson

..... Co-advisor
(Dr. Chev kidson)

P. Kamolratanakul

..... Member
(Prof. Dr. Pirom Kamolratanakul)

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The objectives of the study are to simulate the predicted "resource gap" which will follow a World Bank Loan Programme for schistosomiasis control in China using the cost information and to derive policy implications for financing the programme in the future.

Firstly, methodologies and cost models for calculating the cost and unit costs of different control options have been established. Using hypothetical and actual cost data of the schistosomiasis control programme in China, the study simulated and analyzed the resource adequacy after the termination of the World Bank Loan programme under different scenarios. It is concluded that financial constraints would occur once the Bank Loan finishes. Government financing for the programme would be inadequate even to maintain the level that pertained before the start of the loan programme. Further, in reviewing the financing mechanisms of the current control programme, it is realized that government financing is unlikely to increase substantially based on the situational analysis. On the other hand, the current attempt to integrate snail control into agriculture or aquaculture production projects is evaluated high as an alternative financing scheme for continuing the programme in certain regions. External financing was not and will not be the principal and reliable financing mechanism for China's schistosomiasis control programme.

Based on the above analysis, some important policy implications for the current financing problems of the programme are derived and discussed. It is recommended that health planners should still rank control of the disease as high priority. New delivery structure to integrate the control programme into primary health care should be probed. Community involvement for local control activities should be pursued with regard to the possibilities of cost sharing and community financing. The current drug/molluscicides production/importing policies should be reviewed. The domestic production of praziquantel should be oriented to provide the domestic market, while the factory producing niclosamide should continue its production but reduce the cost.

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ลายมือชื่อนิสิต *Y. Dongbao*

ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษา *Prof. Kaemthong*

ลายมือชื่ออาจารย์ที่ปรึกษาพร้อม *Ch. Indaratna*

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CONTENTS

	Page
Abstract	iii
Acknowledgments	iv
Contents	v
List of Tables	vii
List of Figures	viii
Chapters	
1 Introduction	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Rationale	6
1.3 Research questions	7
1.4 Objectives	7
2 Conceptual framework	9
2.1 Conceptual framework	9
2.2 Literature review	12
3 Research methodology	16
3.1 Research design	16
3.2 Technical definition	16
3.3 Operational definition	17
3.4 Research methodology	17
4 Costing and cost models	22
4.1 Internal costs	22
4.2 External costs	30
4.3 Time factors for cost calculation	32
4.4 Aggregate cost	33
5 Assessing cost and simulating resource adequacy ...	34
5.1 Assumptions	34
5.2 Cost analysis	35
5.3 Simulating resource adequacy	46
6 Assessing program financing	59
6.1 Government financing	60
6.2 Community financing	63
6.3 External source of financing	65

7 Discussion, Policy implication and conclusion	66
7.1 The epidemiological perspectives	66
7.2 Policy implications of program financing	69
7.3 Limitations of the study	76
7.4 Conclusion	76
References	78
Biography	81

LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
4.1 Cost Menu for Chemotherapy	26
4.2 Cost Menu for Snail Control	29
5.1 Illustration of Cost Calculation for Mass Chemotherapy (Provider)	37
5.2 Illustration of Cost Calculation for Selected Population Chemotherapy (Provider)	40
5.3 Illustration of Cost Calculation for Mollusciding (Provider)	43
5.4 Illustration of Cost Calculation for Mollusciding (Community)	44
5.5 Illustration of Cost Calculation for Environmental Modification (Provider)	47
5.6 Illustration of Cost Calculation for Environmental Modification (Community)	48
5.7 Data on Chemotherapy in Hunan Province from 1989 -1993	49
5.8a Simulation of resource Requirement for Mass and Selective Group Chemotherapy Under Different Scenarios	50
5.8b Simulation of Resource Requirement for Selected Population Chemotherapy under Different Scenarios ..	51
5.9 Earth Work and Work Days for Snail Control During 1988-1992 in Hunan Province	53
5.10 Simulation of Resource Requirement for Snail Control Operations under Different Scenarios	53
5.11 Budget Estimation for Schistosomiasis Control In Hunan Province, China	54
5.12 Simulation of Resource Gap of the Schistosomiasis Control Programme	56
6.1 The Budget for Schistosomiasis Control from 1980 -1990	61

6.2	The Snail Control Effectiveness and Economic Return of a Snail Control-Integrated Low Dam and High-Nets Fishing Projects	64
7.1	Illustration of Resource Requirement by Changing Combination of Control Measures	72
7.1	Expenditure Categories of World Bank Loan in Hunan Province	75

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
1.1 The Schistosomiasis Endemic Areas and Their Features in China	4
1.2 Organization of Schistosomiasis Control in China	5
2.1 General Conceptual Framework of Cost Model	9
2.2 General Framework of Evaluation	11
5.1 Cost Components of Mass Chemotherapy	38
5.2 Cost Components of Mass Chemotherapy by Activities ..	38
5.3 Cost Components of Selected Population Chemotherapy .	41
5.4 Cost Components of Selected Population Chemotherapy by Activity	41
5.5 Cost Components of Mollusciciding	45
5.6 Cost Components of Mollusciciding by Activities	45
5.7 Cost Components of Snail Control by Environmental Modification	48
6.1 Resource Flow of China's Schistosomiasis Control Program	60