



CHAPTER I

Introduction

Diarrhoeal diseases, known medically as a common illness among children, is a major cause of children's death in the world. Of these deaths, 99.6% occur in the Third World (Booth et al., 1982). In Vietnam, similarly with other developing countries, diarrhoea is in tenth leading caused morbidity and mortality. It is estimated that are approximately 5 million diarrhoea episodes in the Mekong delta among the children every year. This area has highest diarrhoea morbidity and mortality in Vietnam. And it takes nearly 21 million USD each year on the treatment cost for these cases (Ninh,1998).

This study will focus on home care for children with diarrhoea, the problem was pointed out by some previous studies in the Mekong delta. The thesis title is “an action research on improving knowledge, attitude and practice of mothers in home care for acute diarrhoea in children under five years of age through a health education program in Thien Tri village, Vietnam”

This thesis contains six chapters: Chapter 1 is introduction. Chapter 2 is the essay; Chapter 3 is the data exercise; Chapter 4 is the proposal; Chapter 5 is the presentation; And chapter 6 is the annotated bibliography.

In chapter 2, the essay, I explore the issue of “incorrect home care for children under five years of age with acute diarrhoea in the Mekong delta, Vietnam”. Based on

the findings of some previous studies, this chapter indicates that incorrect home care for children is a problem in the Mekong delta. The essay also describes the consequences of incorrect home care for children. The factors affecting incorrect home care are analyzed as well. These factors are classified into three main groups such as factors associated with the community, factors associated with mothers and factors associated with health care providers. Exploring the issue is of particular use to identify a possible strategy of intervention to address the problem of home care.

In chapter 3: the data exercise. I present the finding of “an rapid assessment on guidance by doctors and practice by mothers in home care for children with diarrhoea in children’s hospital in Ho Chi Minh city”. The objectives of the rapid assessment were to gain more evidence on lack of guidance of doctor in home care for mothers, and incorrect home care among mothers for children with diarrhoea and also testing KAP questionnaire.

In Chapter 4, the proposal study, I present the intervention “An action research on improving knowledge, attitude and practice of mother in home care for acute diarrhoea in children under five years of age through a health education program in Thien Tri village, Vietnam”. Based on the analysis of factors affecting incorrect home care in chapter 2, this chapter present a strategy that contains three components: (1) education on home care for mothers, (2) mobilizing support of community members and collaboration with women’s union, and (3) developing material and training educators. This strategy will be used for achieving the objective to explore the feasibility and effectiveness of a community-based education program to improve

knowledge, attitude and practice of mothers in home care of acute diarrhoea among children. The effectiveness will be evaluated by using pre and post-test design having a control group. The support of the community will be evaluated through assessing their participation. The contribution and satisfaction of women's union members involving in the home care education program are the criteria for feasibility assessment.

In chapter 5, offers a presentation that will be used in the final examination. It includes briefly three parts of the essay, the data exercise and the proposal study.

In chapter 6, the annotated bibliography, describes some of the literature are used for consulting and writing this study.