



Chapter 3

Background of Evening Clinic at Khon Kaen Hospital

Background of the evening clinic in Khon Kaen hospital is related to health care systems in Khon Kaen province. Therefore, this part will describe the overview of health care systems, and the utilization and financing of the evening clinic in Khon Kaen Hospital.

3.1 Health Care System in Khon Kaen Province

Khon Kaen province is located in the centre of the Northeastern region of Thailand, 445 kilometers away from Bangkok. The size of this province is about 10,886 square kilometers. The province is divided into 20 districts and 5 sub-districts, with a population of 1,719,296 (male, 862,039 and female, 857,257) in 1997; and most of them are in the agricultural sector. The income per capita reported by the National Economic and Social Development Board in 1994 was 29,989 baht/person/year (an average of 2,499 baht per month). The population by age group comprise: children aged 0-12, 20.6% (354,518); 13-59 years, 61.5% (1,057,942); and the elderly, 60 years and over, 17.9% (306,836).

Health infrastructure and human resources in Khon Kaen are illustrated in Tables 3.1 and 3.2, including both public and private sectors in the health care systems. These tables show that most of health care facilities and health personnel are in the public sector, and most of private clinics are also served by physicians from the public sector.

**Table 3.1 Health personnel of the public and private health care facilities
in Khon Kaen province**

Types	Number of personnel					Personnel: population
	MOPH	Other ministries	Municipal	Private	Total	
Physician	165	326	1	19	511	1:3,365
Dentist	47	112	1	3	163	1:10,548
Pharmacist	62	17	-	5	84	1:20,468
Registered Nurse	753	525	7	94	1,379	1:1,247
Technical Nurse	644	-	-	-	644	1:2,670
Practical Nurse	-	367	-	5	372	1:4,622
Health Administrator	213	-	-	-	213	1:8,072

Source: Annual Report of Khon Kaen Provincial Public Health Office (1996).

Table 3.2 Health care facilities in Khon Kaen province

Health care facilities	Size (bed)	Amount
1. Public sector		
1.1 MOPH:		
- Regional hospital	638	1
- District hospitals	120	1
	90	2
	60	2
	30	14
- Health centres	-	230
- Urban health centres	-	1
- Mother and child hospital	200	1
	60	1
- Communicable disease hospital	250	1
- Psychiatric hospital	370	1
- Others	-	-
1.2 Other Ministry:		
- University hospital	781	1
- Military hospital	30	1
- Municipal health centres	-	5
2. Private sector		
2.1 Private hospitals		
	200	2
	50	1
	30	4
	10	1
2.2 Private clinics	-	188
2.3 Dental clinics	-	23
2.4 Midwifery clinics	-	69
2.5 Drug stores	-	206

Source: Annual Report of Khon Kaen Provincial Public Health Office (1997).

Health status indicators of the people in Khon Kaen province in 1996 are: population growth rate, 1.01%; birth rate per 1,000 population, 15.34; death rate per 1,000 population, 5.2%; maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 0.08 (national average, 0.164); infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 8.83 (national average, 26.05); and mortality rate of children aged under 5 per 1,000 live births, 15.43.

A comparison of health statistics during period 1992-1996 has shown that the birth rate and growth rate are significantly decreasing, but the mortality rates in all groups are clearly increasing (see Table 3.3). However, this profile seems to be better than the national average.

Disease profiles, according to the outpatient services records in Khon Kaen province in 1996 are shown in Table 3.4, with the leading causes including diseases of the respiratory and the digestive systems, and the certain infectious and parasitic diseases, etc.

Table 3.3 Health status indicators of Khon Kaen province

Health Statistics	Target	Fiscal Year				
		1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
1. Birth rate (per 1000 population)	-	16.0	15.7	15.5	15.7	15.34
2. Death rate (per 1000 population)	-	4.6	4.5	4.9	5.0	5.2
3. Growth rate (%)	1.2	1.14	1.12	1.07	1.07	1.01
4. Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	23.0	5.5	8.6	8.79	2.45	8.83
5. Maternal mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	0.3	0.1	0.08	0.08	0.06	0.08
6. Mortality rate of children aged under 5 (per 1000 live births)	35	6.6	5.8	3.72	11.7	15.43

Source: Annual Report of Khon Kaen Provincial Public Health Office (1996).

Table 3.4 Major illness of outpatients in Khon Kaen province

No.	Illness	No. of cases	Ratio:100,000 pop.
1	Diseases of respiratory system	587,931	341.96
2	Diseases of digestive system	394,166	229.26
3	Certain infectious and parasitic diseases	197,166	115.14
4	Diseases of musculoskeletal system and connective tissues	155,789	90.61
5	Endocrine, nutritional, and metabolic diseases	144,954	84.31
6	Mental and behavioural disorders	139,448	81.10
7	Diseases of skin and subcutaneous tissues	124,195	72.23
8	Diseases of genitourinary system	78,525	45.67
9	Diseases of the eyes	69,885	40.64
10	Diseases of circulatory system	63,985	37.21

Source: Annual Report of Khon Kaen Provincial Public Health Office (1997).

3.2 Utilization and Financing of Khon Kaen Hospital

Because of limitation of information provided, the researcher will describe some aspects of the utilization and financing of Khon Kaen Hospital and its evening clinic.

3.2.1 Utilization and Financing of Khon Kaen Hospital

Khon Kaen Hospital is the target province for the Health Care Reform Project under the mainstream of health care reform in Thailand. The administrative board of hospital has intended to improve their services system and to ensure the sustainability of the activities in the long run. A re-organizations in Khon Kaen Hospital has been undertaken since 1995 with an effort of decentralization and the increase in the role of department chiefs for budgeting and financing actions.

The 1996 annual report of Khon Kaen Hospital stated that proportions of the outpatients were 23.0 % from urban areas, 29.9 % from rural areas in Muang district, 26.2 % from other district, and 21.0 % from other provinces.

Table 3.5 illustrates the outpatients of Khon Kaen Hospital which classified by outpatient unit during period 1994-1997. The outpatients of the emergency unit are the largest group (17.28%); followed by general practitioners, (13.49%); and while patients at the evening clinics are 4.97%.

Table 3.5 Utilization of the outpatient services in Khon Kaen Hospital

Outpatient unit	FY 1994		FY 1995		FY 1996		FY 1997	
	No. of cases	%	No. of cases	%	No. of cases	%	No. of cases	%
Emergency	38,484	13.04	52,644	16.19	60,960	17.53	65,942	17.28
Surgery	46,887	15.89	35,115	10.80	36,726	10.81	37,946	9.94
Pediatric	19,637	6.66	25,272	7.77	28,427	7.96	30,787	8.07
Internal Medicine	61,424	20.82	38,321	11.79	41,550	12.15	46,540	12.19
Obstetric	34,645	11.74	18,577	5.71	22,144	6.64	21,660	5.67
Gynecological	-	-	17,305	5.32	16,650	4.76	18,147	4.75
Orthopedic	13,814	4.68	9,394	2.89	11,885	3.13	15,848	4.15
Dental	15,941	5.40	15,746	4.84	15,947	4.70	16,540	4.33
Ear, Nose, Throat	9,892	3.35	10,325	3.18	10,808	3.12	11,954	3.13
Eye	13,068	4.43	14,110	4.34	18,675	5.18	21,776	5.71
General Practitioners	12,272	4.16	43,031	13.24	50,465	14.91	51,484	13.49
Evening Clinic	8,608	2.92	11,941	3.67	13,494	3.79	18,985	4.97
Others	20,355	6.90	33,309	10.24	20,494	5.33	24,068	6.31
Total	295,027	100.0	325,09	100.0	348,67	100.0	381,67	100.0
			3		1		7	

Source: Annual report of Khon Kaen Hospital (1994-1997).

The financing of Khon Kaen Hospital during the period 1995- 1997 are illustrated in Table 3.6, with the revenue and expenditure provided by Khon Kaen Hospital and the Division of Provincial Hospitals (MOPH). Personnel expenditure includes salaries for civil servants, permanent laborers, temporary laborers, and remuneration, which tends to increase every year.

Table 3.7 compares the average charges per outpatient visit by various source of finance during the period 1996-1997 in Khon Kaen Hospital. Most of these average charges tends to decrease, except for patients who are covered by Social Security Scheme.

Table 3.6 The financing of Khon Kaen Hospital

Unit: Baht

Revenue & Expenditure	1995	1996	1997 ³
1. Source of revenue ¹			
- Private and insurance funds	133,214,639.94	168,706,710.40	178,319,386.44
- Public finance	262,261,841.81	270,872,705.82	284,416,341.11
Total	<u>395,476,481.75</u>	<u>439,579,416.22</u>	<u>460,735,727.55</u>
2. Expenditure ²			
- Capital	44,171,951.44	119,754,761.21	83,479,216.89
- Labor	182,013,772.15	191,130,133.94	200,703,098.98
- Material	164,686,248.80	138,599,575.89	152,459,533.48
- Other	847,063.35	4,339,861.18	3,905,875.06
Total	<u>391,719,035.74</u>	<u>453,824,332.22</u>	<u>440,547,724.41</u>

Sources: ¹ Khon Kaen Hospital (1997).

² The Division of Provincial Hospitals (MOPH).

³ Adjusted from the 6 month Report of the Division of Provincial Hospitals (MOPH).

Table 3.7 Comparison of average charges per outpatient visit by source of finance in Khon Kaen Hospital

Unit: Baht

Health insurance scheme	1996	1997
1. Health Card (MOPH)	416	230
2. Health Welfare	221	208
3. Social Security	181	199

Notes: Average charge of outpatient = Total charges of outpatient/No. of visits

Source: The Health Insurance Office of Khon Kaen Hospital (1997).

3.2.2 Utilization and Financing of the Evening clinic

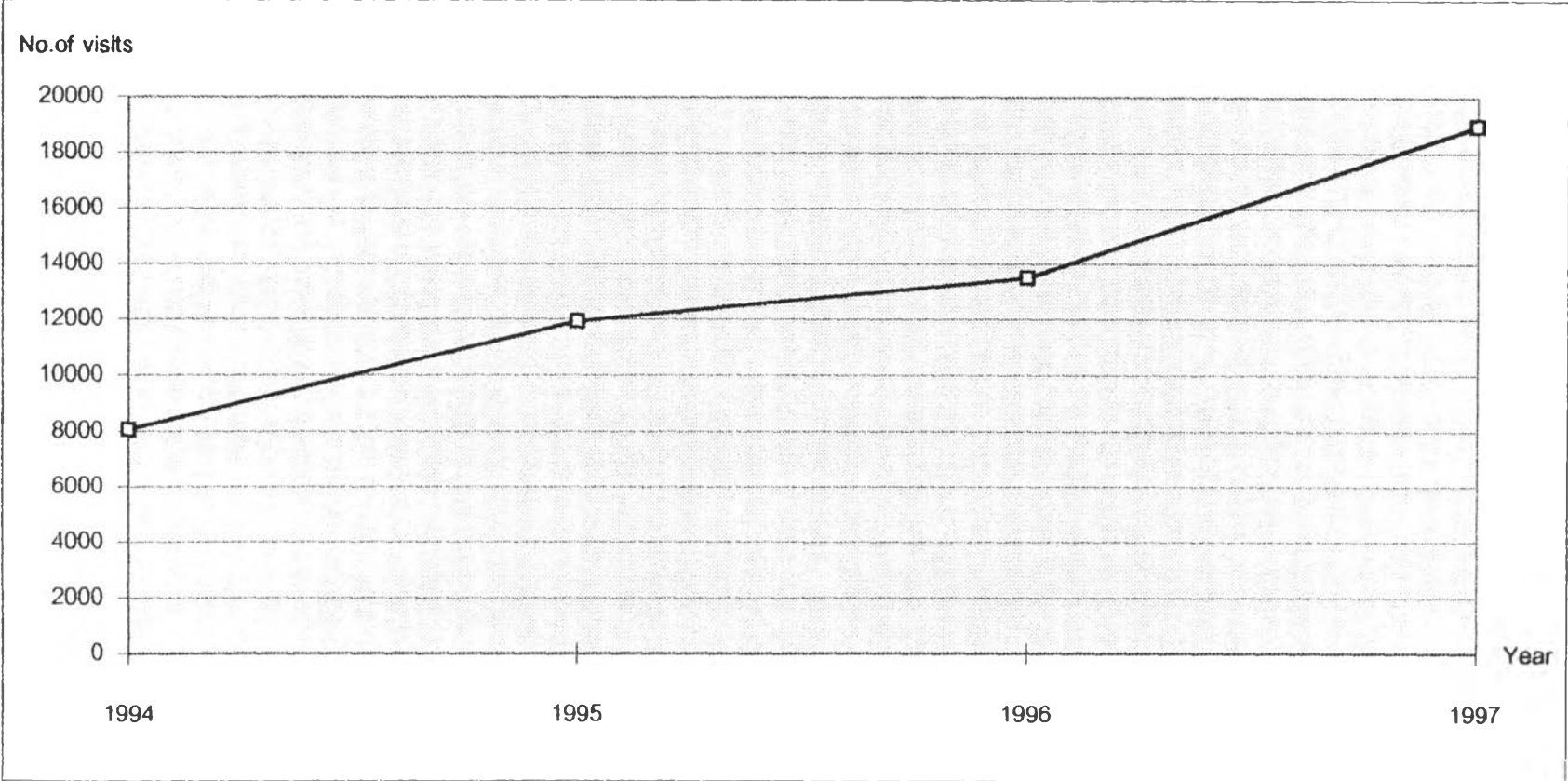
The Division of Provincial Hospitals (MOPH) reported that, in 1997, out of 73 hospitals operating evening clinics; only 37 hospitals could gain revenues more than cost, and 5 hospitals incur loss. However, financial reports of those hospitals showed that the aggregate revenues gained from patients' out-of-pocket payments was about 74.17% but the payment mechanisms are not clearly informed.

According to implicit objective of the evening clinic to generate hospital revenue, most hospitals, particularly those in the high economic growth areas and industrialize areas, could achieve this objective. And some hospital administrators are concerned about the recommendation guidelines of evening clinics, which states that clients have to pay full charge for services, except the clients who are covered by the Health Card Scheme and the Social Security Scheme. Thus, the poor in urban areas who are covered by the Health Welfare Scheme may be unable to have access to services provided by this intervention, due to their inability to pay the full charge.

However, some hospital administrators have adjusted this requirement and set up their own implementation guideline for another health insurance scheme. For example, some of them collect a user charge of 50 Baht per service from clients and exempt only the medical charge (drugs, laboratory, and radiology, etc.), but some of them may exempt all charges.

Figure 3.1 shows that the utilization of evening clinic in Khon Kaen Hospital during the period 1994 - 1997. It tends to increase every year and such an increase could affect the hospital financing.

Figure 3.1 Utilization of the evening clinic in Khon Kaen Hospital: 1994 - 1997



Source: The Technical Department of Khon Kaen Hospital (1997).