

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Malaria is one of the most common and deadly parasite diseases in the world. Every year, six to nine percent (300-50 million) of the global population suffers from Malaria. And more than 1 million people die from malaria each year (WHO, 2000) Although more than 80% of malaria cases happen in Africa, but South East Asia has become the most serious anti-malarial drug resistant in the world. This phenomenon also includes Cambodia.

At present, about 18% of entire population or 2 million Cambodian people are at risk of malaria. In 1999, among Mekong sub- region countries, the average clinical malaria incidence was about 1-2 cases/1000/pop/year, while in Cambodia was 11-12 cases/1000/pop/year (UNICEF, WHO, RBM, 2000), which is about 10 times over the average. And availability of fake drugs covering the whole country has made the malaria situation in Cambodia is worsen.

Samrong district is newly resettlement area for the displaced persons and former refugees, which were affected from the civil war during 1997-1999. In the beginning of their resettlement, UNHCR conducted the survey and found that malaria was the

major health problem. As following the situation, Malteser set up the six roadside clinics, later ANC clinics were attached. The statistic reports of Malteser supported the assessment of UNHCR that malaria was the major cause of morbidity of the people. Especially in pregnant women, the reported shown that 76% of them who enrolled in ANC program had malaria positive and 40% of follow up cases still presented malaria slide positive after 4 weeks of treatment. This could reflect the sign of drug resistant in the area.

In pregnant women, all types of malaria could lead to anemia and fatal in mother or may cause abortion, stillbirth, intrauterine growth retardation and premature labor, which also one of the main reasons for neonatal death later. As the pregnancy is associated with increased incidence and adverse outcome of malaria infection, therefore the malaria control strategy is needed to take place as a priority in this particular group.

However, in different social context may need different control strategy. Such as personal and community background and environment is determine the malaria situation in each setting. Hence, well understanding of people behaviors, social context and its environment could lead to successful malaria control program.

This study focuses on the promotion of health education on malaria for pregnant women by mobilizing of community: which includes training TBAs to be health educators and using IEC strategies to improve knowledge and hoping that increasing knowledge will lead people to change attitude and behaviors later.

The thesis contains six chapters. In chapter one is an introduction part, chapter two is an essay, chapter three is the proposal, chapter four is data exercise on rapid assessment, chapter five is the thesis presentation part and the last, chapter six is the annotated bibliography.

In chapter two: it mentions about malaria and its determinants, and possible control strategies in general. Also the malaria situation in Cambodia is explored as well as its constraints for malaria control program based on reviewed literature from secondary data. In addition, the problem: malaria in pregnant women in study area, Samrong district is addressed in this chapter too.

In chapter three: the proposal study: Training Traditional Birth Attendants as Health Educators is a proposed strategy for malaria control in pregnant women. This Health Education Training Program includes the promotion of early detection and treatment, promotion of individuals environmental modification for vector control and using IEC strategies for improving KAP in pregnant women by mobilizing the community. The strategy composts of four components: (1) Setting up Health Education Committee by mobilizing support of the community members such as Chief of the village, pregnant women and TBAs (2) Developing materials and training educators, (3) Health Education implementation, (4) Monitoring and Evaluation.

In chapter four: the data exercise. This chapter presents about rapid assessment and KAP survey on pregnant women towards malaria in one selected village of Samrong district namely O' Smarch. The objectives of the rapid assessment are

identifying the existing of malaria control activities and exploring socio- economic, cultural and environment of the study area in order to gain more information for developing appropriate malaria control strategy.

In chapter five: the presentation, which is used in the final examination. It includes briefly all three parts of the essay, data exercise and the proposal study. At the end, chapter six, the annotated bibliography is presented in describing the major used literature for consulting of this thesis.