

LEARNT EXPERIENCES FROM COMMUNITY MEDICINE FIELDWORK, KHON KAEN UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

Rational & Background: Fieldwork education should promote student-centered practice, self-directed learning, knowledgeable of community resources. Khon Kaen University, Thailand, has set up a fieldwork for community medicine. The learning purposes of each activity in the fieldwork have been set up and therefore should be evaluated.

Objectives: To determine whether the learning purposes of field work activities were achieved.

Methodology: Exact objective of each activity was clarified. The researcher participated in the field with the students. All 12 students who stayed in the same house of fieldwork were in-depth interviewed after finishing the fieldwork. Content analysis was performed and interpreted into learnt experiences.

Results: The students have learnt the villager's lifestyle which helped them to understand the correlation between lifestyle and illness. They learned about villager's culture which was reflected to people's health belief and attitude to health. They have learnt and understood better that villagers often chose alternative treatment instead of modern treatment which sometime included supernatural spirit. Staying with the villagers for 10 days trained the students to adapt themselves and taught them to work together as a team.

Conclusion: Community medicine fieldwork offered a way of learning and gaining experiences to students which may have significant impact on students' attitude to the community health.

KEYWORDS: Community Medicine, Ethnographic Medicine, Ethnography, Fieldwork Education.