

Abstract of Master's Dissertation

No.1

Course	Master of Public Health	Name	Suong Davy
Thesis Title	A case study on the influence of traditional beliefs and practices on maternal healthcare in post-delivery in Chhouk Operational District, Kampot Province, Cambodia		
Abstract of Master's Dissertation Background: In Cambodia, postpartum mothers commonly follow traditional beliefs and practices in the postpartum phase, focusing on warming the body through diet, steaming, and other heat applications and obtaining injections from private healthcare practitioners. The effects of these traditional beliefs and practices on maternal and child health are not adequately documented; therefore, the need to explore the reasons and challenges that contribute to the continuity of these practices among postpartum mothers. Objectives: To explore the influence of Khmer traditional beliefs and practices on postpartum mothers' health-seeking behavior in Chhouk Operational District, Kampot Province, Cambodia. Methods: A qualitative study was conducted from July- September 2022 in Chhouk Operational District, Kampot Province, Cambodia. Postpartum mothers and midwives were purposively selected as key informants. In-depth interviews were conducted among six postpartum mothers who consented to participate at their residences. Three focus group discussions, each with eight midwives, were conducted at the Chhouk Operational District office. The interviews and discussions were conducted using the research topic guides in the Khmer language, and the recorded audio was transcribed and translated into English. Thematic analysis was adapted to identify recurring themes of traditional beliefs and practices, their influences, reasons, and midwives' challenges.			

* The abstract, containing background, objectives, methods, results and conclusion should not exceed 300-500words and printed double sided on A4 paper)

Abstract of Master's Dissertation

No.2

Course	Master of Public Health	Name	Suong Davy
<p>Results: The study finding showed that postpartum mothers followed forms of traditional beliefs and practices, namely, the use of Khmer medicine (<i>Thnam Khmer</i>) in boiled water, Khmer medicine (<i>Thnam Khmer</i>) soaked in Khmer rice wine (<i>Sra Thnam</i>), restricted diets, roasting on charcoal and pressing hot stone on the abdomen. Additionally, there was a shift to alternative forms of warming the body by using medical heat injections and oral heat medicine. Midwives perceived these practices negatively affect mothers' and babies' health with slight advantages. Factors to follow the practices were influenced by advice from grandmothers and family members. Midwives' challenges in implementing maternal and newborn care were related to the duration of postpartum mothers wanting to stay at the health center, misinformation and follow-up dates, mothers' and family advice, and economic status.</p> <p>Conclusion: The research paper explored and reflected on the influence of Khmer traditional beliefs and practices on postpartum mothers' health-seeking behavior. Despite its adverse effects and banning promotion against the Khmer traditional practice still exists. It is mainly due to advice from the grandmothers and family members. It might be reasonable to make the mother's body warm to facilitate circulation in the body; therefore, traditional practices may be reasonable in their local context, so it cannot be ignored to some extent. Continuous dialogue between healthcare professionals and community members would be the only solution to improve maternal and neonatal health.</p>			