

THE ACTIVITIES OF HEALTH VOLUNTEER CHAMPIONSHIP IN ORAL HEALTH

Kemanat Chuachaitas, Duanpen Sakorn.
Bureau of Dental Health, Department of Health, MOPH. Thailand

Objective This study aimed to explore the activities of health volunteer who won the national championship in oral health function in the year 2018, which was the first year that Thailand launched the national contest.

Methods The methods included; 1) Formulate the main criteria of health volunteer contest. 2) Motivated provincial level to find out the most active health volunteer who work in the area of oral health 3) The committee visit the provinces/communities to observe and to interview the health volunteer, the local authorities and other concerned people about role and activities of the volunteer. 4) The committee selected 4 most active volunteers from 4 regions. 5) The 4 volunteers presented their work to the committee (round 2) and the committee selected the most popular one for the national winner.

Results There were 66 volunteers from 66 provinces (out of 76 provinces = 86.8%) entered the contest. The general oral activities of those volunteers included oral health education for community leaders, pregnant women and elderly, accompanied dental personnel to do activities in day care centers or schools, communicated with household about oral health, and referred dental patients to the hospitals. The volunteer who won “Health volunteer Championship in oral health” showed her evidence about reducing prevalence of dental caries in 3-years old children from 75 to 25% within 4 years. She also motivated tooth brushing after lunch in school children and provided home care oral hygiene practice for dependent elderly patients.

Conclusion This study showed a practical and effective activities of health volunteer in the area of oral health. The process of contest motivated volunteers to pay more concern about oral health and have more confidence on their role regarding oral health care for their responsible communities.