

A study on traditional medical knowledge of the Phu Thai ethnic group in northeast Thailand (Poster)

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Introduction

Phuthai is considered to be one of many Thai-Laos ethnic groups in Asia. They were originally from the district of 12 juthai, but migrated to live in the northeastern part of Thailand during 2387-2421 (The Buddhist Era). Prominently, most of Phuthai people have been in the areas of Kalasin, Sakornnakorn, Nakornpanum, Mukdahan, Aumnajalearn, Yasothon, Roi-et, Ubonratchathani, Udonthani, and Nongkhai provinces ever since. The Phuthai people always have their own distinctive culture, and beliefs. They also preferring more on using the native knowledge in order to look after their health's regardless of western medicine being available everywhere.

Objectives

To study a thinking theory of Phuthai ethnic group on the issue of ethno medicine (Especially on herb medicine) and treatment that being used by Phuthai's folk healer in order to cure sickness.

Methods

This is a qualitative type of study that took place in 2548-2549. In order to understand the Phuthai ethnic group thinking theory on the issue of ethnomedicine; the research team has gathered the information through twenty folk healers such as herb healer, yao healer, traditional blowing healer, sanding healer and predict healer. They were studied to know the remedy procedure of ethnomedicine that used native's herb to cure sickness.

Results

The folk healer would use herb to cure a sickness according from the symptom of that sickness. All of the herb medicines were made by boiling, soaking, smoking, baking, and employing sanding medicine. The patterns of health's care and cure disease were originated, which depended upon the practice method of native culture, and nature treatment. We actually are able to say that the way Phuthai people look after their health's has touched their own minds, bodies, spirits, and souls.

Conclusion

We have also realized that the Phuthai people only used the ethnomedicine to cure the diseases, and maintain their health before the entrance of western medicine.

Keyword : Ethnomedicine, Phuthai Ethnic Group, Local Wisdom

Selected references

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