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Executive Summary

This report presents the nature and the character of SafeMa Research Cluster, as it has developed under our project along with the activities that have been implemented throughout its operation, until the end of the project. The SafeMa research cluster was consisted of a group of researchers, who shared a common field on expertise in midwifery and mother-child care. Its aim was to foster knowledge and research in the countries of Vietnam and Cambodia, operating with SafeMa Hubs as well as with the support of European Universities (National and Kapodistrian of Athena and University College of Northern Denmark).

The Research Cluster was established by the University of Health Science in Cambodia supporting the development of a network form of organizations, institutions and health centres that are working in the field of midwifery and obstetrics, encouraging the development and progress of international, national, and local research. The lead researchers were the Assist Prof. Tann Ngy (UHS), Asst. Prof. Ung Sakhorn (IU), Mai Thi Thanh Thu (NDUN), Dr. Hoang Thi Ngoc Tram (TNU) and Lê Ngọc Anh (HMU).

Although Cluster's activities, initiation and the work performed faced important constraints due to the pandemic, throughout the last year of project's duration the work performed by the Research Cluster reached an important audience in national and local level and attracted significant visibility at national and local level. Additionally, the cluster supported networking with key stakeholders in both countries, representatives of the government, midwifery NGOs, WHO, the EU delegation in Kingdom of Cambodia, UNFPA for the sustainability of the project.

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Research Cluster

Research clusters serve as interdisciplinary and interprofessional networks among researchers from different universities, research centres, and organizations, addressing specific cultural and societal challenges with special focus on research interests. These clusters cooperate to encourage research development by engaging with the academia, the research community, and other stakeholders to detect clusters of research excellence, engage with them with strategic planning, as well as seek funds to support and encourage research activities needed to attract further opportunities for growth.

The research clusters are consisted of a group of researchers, who share a common area, field, or theme of expertise, involved in a collaborative research project or a set of research projects. The academic body of knowledge of research clusters should include quality-assured research publications of their staff, while each research member of the cluster should provide research-informed expert supervision to postgraduate students for their dissertations and essays.

Their main goal is to offer an academic group of researchers, postgraduate students, and postdoctoral fellows with common or related interests, aiming to increase the outputs of the research institutes. Through their presence the clusters aim sto attract possible research grants and funds, foster synergies for collaborative research as well as generated awareness on research themes and opportunities to undergraduate, postgraduates and PhD students, as well as other possible cooperations with students, staff, and professionals in other Universities, research institutes.

SafeMa Research Cluster

Besides the challenges that the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic brought to the surface and the restrictions in international and national levels, eventually the SafeMa Research was established by the end of the 2rd year of project's implementation.

The SafeMa Research cluster aimed to operate in parallel with SafeMa Hubs in Asian countries. It was founded by the University of Health Science in Cambodia along with the cooperation of all Asian and European partners in parallel with the establishment of SafeMa Hubs. The goal of the Research Cluster was to encourage the network form of organizations for collaboration and engagement, with focus on international, national, and local research. The objective of the cluster was to provide interdisciplinary research in local, national, and international level in a diverge range of areas relevant to advanced midwifery and mother- child care. According to the proposal the cluster was meant to facilitate the exchange of experience, knowledge and research ideas among early career and more experienced academics, graduate students, and experts. SafeMa Research Cluster was committed to support the development of research excellence in advance midwifery, supporting students of midwifery and professionals especially from rural areas.



Research Cluster Team

The research team of the cluster was compromised of hight esteemed academics and professionals with great experience in the health sector and with a specific interest in the midwifery field. Below are presented the lead researchers from each Asian University.

UHS Assist Prof. Tann Ngy Director of TSMC/UHS

Dr. Tann Ngy is the Director of the Technical School for Medical Care (TSMC), in Kingdom of Cambodia. He was born on 15 September 1969

in Kampong Chhnang Province, Kingdom of Cambodia. He graduated from Preach Sisowath High School in 1987 and he also had received many academic degrees and certificates from both national and international academic institutions.

In 1993, he became the Head of the Kampong Tralach District Referral Hospital, in Kompong Chhnang Province. After transferred to continue his studies and works in Phnom Penh, in 2002, he started his



teaching profession at the Technical School for Medical Care or TSMC. In 2005, he was promoted to be the Head of the Department of Radiological Technologist, where he, in cooperation with foreign donors, helped create the curriculum structures, contents, and guideline for the degree of radiological technologist. Later, he became the Deputy Director of TSMC,2011 continuing to lead the school, until 2018, when he became the Director of TSMC.

IU Prof. SATH Mutta,
Deputy Chief of Health
Care Center of Phsar
Doeum Thkov, Phnom
Penh, Cambodia

Prof. SATH Mutta had been a Deputy Chief of Health Care Center of Phsar Doeum Thkov, Phnom Penh, Cambodia responsible and in charge of: Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Planning and Control, In cooperation with commune-to-district-level authorities, promote



and implement people health care program, In cooperation with commune-to-district-level authorities, implement epidemics prevention program (include Immunization and education), Provide maternity advice and promote child vaccinations, Management of Family Planning and Birth Spacing Program, Midwife duty and Women Health Care Consulting. In addition, she has been Clinic

Manager RHAC (Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia) in Kampong Cham Province, responsible and in charge of: Manage all RHAC Kampong Cham process, Technical controlling, Communication and coordinate with partner and client, Project and Budget for Clinic, Training all staff. Specially, she has been a lecturer provide a midwife study programs on Anatomy-Physiology, Maternity & Woman Health

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at International University (IU), Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Institute of Health Sciences (RCAF) and Asia Institute of Sciences (AIS)

NDUN Mai Thi Lan Anh
VICE HEAD, FACULTY
International
Cooperation
Department
Nam Dinh University of
Nursing
Vietnam

She is at the Faculty of the Simulation Center and the vice head of the International Cooperation Department, Nam Dinh University of Nursing, with specialization in Pediatric Nursing. She graduated from Hanoi Medical University, with a bachelor's degree in general nursing in 2006. She has worked as an academic faculty at Nam Dinh University of Nursing, providing care to patients and mentoring nursing students at the ICU in Nam Dinh General Hospital and then the Nam Dinh



Children's Hospital. She continued her study and research career in Pediatric Nursing at the Faculty of Nursing, Burapha University, Thailand and graduated with a Master's and PhD in Pediatric Nursing in 2015 and 2021. She is currently pursuing family support studies for children with behavioral, psychiatric and general chronic illnesses.

TNU Dr. Hoang Thi Ngoc
Tram, Lecturer at Thai
Nguyen University of
Medicine and Pharmacy
Department of Obstetrics
and Gynecology

Doctor/ Leturer at Thai Nguyen University of Medicine and Pharmacy Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She is a Doctor and holds a Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Obstetrics and Gynecology, from ThaiNguyen University of Medicine and Pharmacy



Lê Ngọc Anh

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Head of Information and
Communication
Technology Department
of Hanoi Medical
University, Coordinator in
the Center of Excellence
in E-learning

Graduated with a PhD in Information Systems from the Post and Telecommunications Institute of Technology. Areas of interest to pursue are Information Technology in Training, E-learning platforms and training support technologies. She has participated in a series of international projects as well as consulting for E Learning programs in the health sector in Vietnam.







Research Activities

While the implementation of the project faced several challenges since its very beginning, the research cluster aimed to successfully promote innovate and evidence-based research in the field of midwifery through the submission of research papers for publication and the creation of research posters from SafeMa students. More specifically, under the guidance and the lead of SafeMa Research Cluster four research papers have been published, with titles Existing gaps inf midwifery education in Vietnam, Research on lectures' opinion on the benefits of the SafeMa project at Nam Dinh University of Nursing, Evaluation of maternal care after vaginal delivery in the obstetrics and gynaecology department - Bach Mai Hospital, and Survey on Knowledge and Attitudes of Fathers to Breastfeeding at the Department of Obstetrics in Thai Nguyen National Hospital. Furthermore, three students from University of Health Science prepared their research posters with the forthcoming themes: "Prevalence of Women of Childbearing age who have abortions and factors that motivate women to have abortions at the National Maternal and Child Health Centre", "The Women Knowledge about Benefit of Breastfeeding and Factors that Motivate Women to Give Up Breastfeeding in Maternity Service at Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital, Cambodia", "Influencing Local Authority Leaders to Support EmONC Improvement", and presented them during the International Conference in Cambodia.

Publications

Title of the article: Existing gaps in midwifery education in Vietnam

Journal: Journal of Nursing Science

Name of authors: Tran Thi Viet Ha, Bui Thi Khanh Thuan, Mai Thi Thanh Thu, Nguyen Thi Hue, Le Thi Ngoc Anh, Nguyen Thanh Huong, Luu Tuyet Minh, Hoang Thi Ngoc Tram, Nguyen Thi Phuong Lan, Karl Puchner,

Antonia Manousaki

Date of submission: Febuary 2020 Date of Publication: March 2020

ISSN: 2615-9589

https://www.jns.vn/index.php/journal/article/view/221







Title of the Journal Research: Lectures' opinion on the benefits of the SafeMa project at Nam Dinh University of Nursing

Name of the Author: Tuong Thi Hue

Participants: Mai Thi Thanh Thu, Mai Thi Lan Anh, Pham Thi Phuong Thao, Pham Thi Thuy Chinh.

The research was assessed and accepted by the Council: Good







Title of the Article: Evaluation of maternal care after vaginal delivery in the obstetrics and gynecology department - Bach Mai Hospital.

Status: Completed

Evaluation Council: Pass (There has been a decision to recognize the results of performing scientific tasks)
Publish: Evaluation of maternal care after vaginal delivery in the obstetrics and gynecology department - Bach

Mai Hospital.

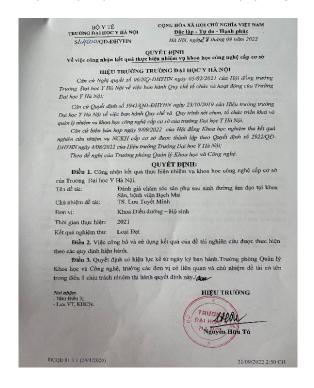
Journal: Vietnam Medical Journal

Name of authors: Luu Tuyet Minh, Hoang Phuong Anh, Ha Thi Bich

Date of submission:13/3/2022 Date of Publication:13/5/2022

ISSN:1859-1868

https://tapchiyhocvietnam.vn/index.php/vmj/article/view/2640









Research Title: KHẢO SÁT KIẾN THỰC THÁI ĐỘ CỦA NGƯỜI BỐ VỀ NUÔI CON BẰNG SỮA MỆ TẠI KHOA SẢN BỆNH VIỆN TRUNG ƯƠNG THÁI NGUYÊN – Survey on Knowledge and Attitudes of Fathers to Breastfeeding at the Department of Obstetrics in Thai Nguyen National Hospital.

Status: Completed

Evaluation Council: reviewed by the Journal and a scientific committee of Thai Nguyen University of Medicine

and Pharmacy
Publish: Published

Journal: Vietnam Medical Journal

Name of authors: Nguyen Thi Hong, Nguyen Phuong Sinh, Ngo Thi Van Huyen, Be Thi Hoa, Hoang Thi Thu,

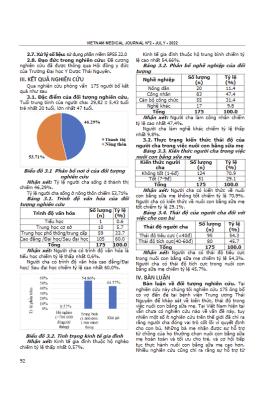
Nguyen Thi Duyen

Date of submission: 18 May 2022 Date of Publication: 11 July 2022

ISSN: 1859-1868

https://tapchiyhocvietnam.vn/index.php/vmj/article/view/3048/2820

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Presentation of students Poster at International Conference

Below is provided a short description of the research posters prepared by SafeMa students and presented at the International Conference in Cambodia. For the description of the posters have been used the words of the students themselves.

"My name is RAI MARINA, I am a former midwifery student at University of Health Sciences (Bachelor Degree

of Midwifery). Currently, I am working as an MCH staff at Preath Neth Preath Operational District. The topic of my poster that have been presented on International Conference Day was "Prevalence of Women of Childbearing age who have abortions and factors that motivate women to have abortions at the National Maternal and Child Health Centre". The reason why I chose this topic because it is related to midwifery skills and connected to SafeMa project which we want to seek for improvement and better clinical skill in midwives. More important



than that, once we have skilled midwives, lives of newborns will be saved as well as the safe abortion for women who need those services."



Prevalence of women of childbearing age who have abortions and factors that motivate women to have abortions at the National Maternal and Child Health Center in 2017

Co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union



Ms. Eng Khemry, Ms. Chheng Reaksa, Ms. Seng Channy, Ms. Ol Kimleng, Ms. Osman Sabrey, Ms. Rai Marina, Uinversity of Health Sciences (UHS), Phnom Penh, Cambodia

BACKGROUND

Among 17572 women age 15-49 in Cambodia, 87.7% has never done abortion and 12.3% has done it (CDHS,2014). However, the data of CDHS 2010 has shown that among 1000 women 54 have done abortion and in 2014 there were 123 women who have done abortion. This data has shown us that, number of women did abortion is increasing. That is the reason why we would like to know more detail of what are the causes of this raising number of abortion from year to year

METHODS

In order to get the data for analyzing this research, my team has use cross sectional research methodology. We prepared questionnaire and collect data from patient history form of National Maternal and Child Health Centre. We studied on 205 patient forms.

abortion, it shown that the reason of abortion were IVG, left over child in uterus, dead child in uterus and hemorrhage.

According to a survey of 205 women who had

RESULTS

IVG=59%, left over child in uterus=12.20%.

Dead child in uterus =26.35%, hemorrhage=2,45%

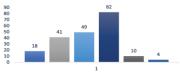
CONCLUSIONS

Based on the result of the study, the prevalence of abortion was 1.69% which is remarkably positive, while 61% of women who had an abortion were less than 9 weeks pregnant.

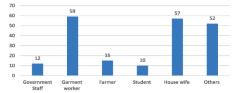
ADDITIONAL KEY INFORMATION

Because the number of women who had done abortion due to their request, this shows that their knowledge is still limited regarding to family planning, birth spacing and abortion knowledge. So it is crucial for all relevant stakeholders to continue sharing knowledge, educate the groups as well advertise on social media or create posters related to abortion knowledge, that will also useful for women and girl.





54 25 121



Job of women who had done abortion at NMCHC in 2017





















"My name is Vuthy Sreylin. I was a bachelor's degree of Midwifery student at University of Health Science. Now a day, I'm a midwife who working at Calmette Hospital. The topic of my poster is "The Women Knowledge about Benefit of Breastfeeding and Factors that Motivate Women to Give Up Breastfeeding in Maternity Service at Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital, Cambodia". I chose this topic because breastfeeding is the best choice for both mother and babies to have a good health. It is essential that mother should know clearly about that benefit in order to increase the prevalence of breastfeeding. In addition, knowing and reducing the factors that motivate mothers to give up



breastfeeding are also contributed with that. It is all related with midwifery skilled especially SafeMa project that always aim to develop stronger capacity in midwife clinical skilled and research."





"My name is MOL SOPHEAKVATTEY, I am a former midwifery student at University of Health Sciences

(bachelor's degree of Midwifery). Currently, I am working as a mother and Child Health staff at SIEM REAP Health Department. The topic of my poster that has been presented on International Conference Day was "Influencing Local Authority Leaders to Support EmONC Improvement ". It is not research but it is a project that i think that relate to the SafeMa because it is to connect to the local authority leaders to be accountable in the implementation of relevant activities key community midwifery. Raise the awareness



target group about the need to improve EmONC and strengthen the capacity and willingness of commune councilors and other local administration officials to discuss, plan and monitor access to EmONC service which priority activities of EmONC improvement to support the midwifery to implementation as their role. EmONC trained midwives; they are all highly skilled, full of ability to provide services. Such as safe deliveries with Oxytocin, Assisted vaginal delivery as need. Basic neonatal resuscitation, Removal of retained products, Manual removal of placenta, Anticonvulsants.

(Injectable) and Antibiotics (Injectable). So, midwifery skills in BemONC are on the way forward to the SafeMa project which we want to seek for improvement and better clinic skill of midwifery. SafeMa such as a project to empower the midwife to build their capacity with quality of clinical skill and knowledge. More than this SafeMa also encourages the midwife to research new thing in midwifery and sharing to other midwives."







Awareness Raising Activities

Throughout its operation the SafeMa research cluster had also encouraged part of the dissemination activities designed and implemented by Asian partners. More specifically, the cluster has supported the implementation of the National Conferences (one in Vietnam and on for Cambodia) by designing their agenda and supporting their dissemination and exploitation. Furthermore, the cluster took the liberty to organise two events to promote the activities of SafeMa under the framework of the Erasmus Days as well as lead the design of the International Conference that implemented in Cambodia. Additionally the SafeMa research cluster supported and raised awareness about all the Covid response activities (ie webinars) implemented during the lifecycle of the project.

Public events

National Conference HMU - 1/11/2021





National Conference IU - 01/10/2022



















International Conference UHS - 27/10/2022









Media coverage

Below are some links from the local media coverage of the SafeMa research cluster activities included digital media and TV coverages (indicative):

https://m.freshnewsasia.com/index.php/en/localnews/263462-2022-10-27-08-37-15.html?fbclid=IwAR3A9h4SARNVzKRb5P3KX7uYceJjGdclklN2UCBGpE14jaSAZGhTnt0J2RE

SEATV https://fb.watch/jPQU6i5o9z/

Raksmey Hang Meas TV https://fb.watch/jPQXIcFaU8/





Erasmus Plus Days

"Midwifery as a game changer of maternal births" - 17/10/2020

2020 was the International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife. According to WHO, midwives are uniquely able to provide essential services to women and new-borns in even the most difficult humanitarian, fragile and conflict-affected settings. Educating midwives to international standards is therefore a cost-effective investment, to save lives and improve community health and resilience. Having as main goal to enhance women's access to midwifery services SafeMa Research Cluster organized a webinar under #ErasmusDays. This webinar discussed the trends and the challenges in advancing the role of midwifery workforce, the importance of education, the need for new policies that will support midwifery, emphasizing also on the new settings created by Covid19.



"Covid-19 and Midwifery" - 14/10/2022

Under the framework of SafeMa Research Cluster, Readlab organized the webinar "Covid-19 and Midwifery" aiming to brought together high esteemed academics and professionals with a great experience, presenting the European reality in midwifery field during Covid-19 and exchange knowledge with the Asian academics and professionals in midwifery. During this workshop the participants had the chance to discuss the forthcoming issues: midwifery during Covid-19_Giving birth at home, how Covid-19 has enhanced breastfeeding, digital primary midwifery services during Covid-19, mother-care, and Covid-19: Mental Health issues.





Data Protection of Medical Data in Vietnam and Cambodia (new course)

This course has been designed by ReadLab to provide basic information related to the management of personal information in the medical context. Specifically, this course describes the basic requirements of current related legislation in Vietnam and Cambodia, describes how this could be translated within the activities undertaken by midwives, elaborates on some of the basic principles and proposes a set of practices to increase the data protection hygiene of the people involved. This course was available to SafeMa VLE platform.







Sustainability

After the end of the International Conference, the SafeMa Research Cluster had the opportunity to discuss with His Excellency Professor Mam Bunheng, Minister of Health and Chairman of the Board of the University of Health Sciences (UHS), Ms. Flora Bertizzolo, in charge of Education and Skills of the European Union in Kingdom of Cambodia and the representative of UNFPA Mr. Ngoun Pros, opportunities and possible synergies to sustain the educational material of the project – after its completion- in order to encourage the transformation of midwifery education in Cambodia.



At the same time, before the official closure of the project, the consortium received invitations to present its work and sustain its outcomes. More specifically, the project had received an invitation from the European Commission to present its outcomes during the event "Celebrating EU-ASEAN People to People Cooperation on Higher Education". This event aims to review the last 7 years of work and demonstrate the role of higher education and research as a channel for cooperation on a wider scale. It aims examine the impact on the higher education sector itself – improved frameworks and systems; better policies; and developments in teaching and learning. It will also consider the impact of higher education and research work on wider strategic priorities of ASEAN countries – employability; green transition; digital connectivity and other Global Gateway themes.

