

Using Health Demonstration Videos with Sign Language to improve Health Literacy of students with hearing disability: Evidence from a try – out work.

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People with hearing impairment are among those at high risk of limited health literacy. The inability to hear and read Thai is a barrier to accessing health information and services. This becomes worse when health information is in written or audio forms. As people with hearing impairment rely mainly on a visual language, making health information in pictograms and health demonstration videos with sign language may be more appropriate. To make sure that health materials are effective, a try-out work is conducted. This try – out work is run to see how effective health information posters and health demonstration videos are to improve health knowledge and health literacy and which one would be more appropriate for students with hearing impairment.

Methods: a pre-test post-test design with a control group was employed. Health knowledge scores were obtained using a developed health knowledge questionnaire. Health literacy was measured using a sign language version health literacy questionnaire of which the items were selected from the Information and Support for Health Action Questionnaire (ISHAQ) based on the content of 9 health messages from Thai Health Literacy 66. Mean differences between groups were explored with unpaired t-test.

Results: After viewing the health materials, the poster group scored 1.20 points higher than the pre-test score (30 percent increase). The video group scored 0.6 points higher than the pre –test score (11.5 percent increase). The mean post-test score of the video group was higher than that of the poster group, but they were not statistically significantly different.

After viewing the health materials, the poster group increased 0.16 points (2.5 percent) of health literacy scores while the video group increased 0.45 points (6.6 percent). However, the post-test scores of both groups were not statistically significantly different. The health demonstration video received higher suitability scores in seven out of nine aspects. Three aspects out of nine were rated statistically significantly different. Those include content topics, captions, and motivation

Conclusion: This try – out work found that both the health information posters and health demonstration videos with sign language could similarly improve health knowledge and health literacy. The videos with sign language seemed more suitable for students with hearing impairment.