

PAGDIKITA (THE DICTATION): The Use of Herbal Medicines in Fever Management Practices of Mothers in Laguna, Philippines

Michael C. Leocadio, Alrajii C. Jabail, Jenylyn A. Rull, Louise Anne D. Sanchez, Rica Gertrude T. Sauler, Apple Mae A. Tan & Jopheth N. Tapispisan*

Manila Doctors College, President Diosdado Macapagal Blvd, Pasay City, Philippines

**For reprint and all correspondence: Michael C. Leocadio RN RM MAN, Manila Doctors College, President Diosdado Macapagal Blvd, Pasay City, Philippines*

ABSTRACT

Introduction	Having a sick child is an anxious time for mothers who are frequently very concerned about their child and have difficulty assessing the severity of the illness. One of the main indicators of an illness is fever. Many mothers consider fever to be harmful and a disease in itself. Mothers often feel disempowered when their child is ill and that they are not caring appropriately for their child if they do not treat the fever. The researchers decided to explore the fever management practices of mothers in a selected barangay in Laguna, Philippines with the primary purpose of determining their fever management with the use of different herbal plants.
Methods	A qualitative-phenomenological study was utilized to explore the meanings in their experiences specifically focused in their management of fever to their children. With specific inclusion criteria, mothers were being chosen as subjects of the study. Using interview, observation, field notes and memos, the data was being analyzed using the Colaizzi method.
Results	The said study presented the researchers with the following significant findings. First, a mother is a naturally caring and loving person who always renders care to their children especially when they are having a fever. They are the ones who find way to treat the child's fever. Additionally, you have to learn to deal with different culture of the person you are rendering your care because care needs to become meaningful, explicit, and beneficial to the one you are rendering care for. Lastly, although the co-researchers came from different provinces in the Philippines, they still bring their practices learned from their ancestors where they are currently living. The experiences and practices of the co-researchers in managing their family members' fever especially the children compel them in becoming more sensitive to the culture of the people they are caring for. These mean effective and quality delivery of nursing care.
Conclusions	Pagdikta [Fil. pag-pitas, dik-dik, tapal, Eng. Dictation] is the concept being created to present the process of socialization and cultural selection, adaptation and transfer of fever management practices of mothers in a selected barangay in Laguna. Pagpitas can be seen with the following subconcepts: Pagpitas (picking) is the process of choosing culturally accepted fever management practices. Dikdik (pounding) is the process of cultural adaptation and imbuelement of fever management practices/culture by mothers. Tapal (application) is the application and the process of transfer of fever management practices based on the perceived and observed efficacy of practices directed to fever management.