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IMPROVING PROPER HANDWASHING PRACTICES OF CHILDCARE PROVIDERS IN BARANGAY TOONG, TUY, BATANGAS, THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED TRAINING

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to determine the perceptions of the respondents on improving proper handwashing practices of childcare providers in Toong Elementary School through localized training, particularly in terms of hygiene behavior, attitudes, and social expectations. The respondents of the study were composed of 30 teaching personnel, non-teaching personnel, and PTA officers of Toong Elementary School.

The researcher used a descriptive quantitative research design and purposive sampling technique. A researcher-made questionnaire based on related literature and the Statement of the Problem was utilized in the study and was validated by selected professionals.

The following were the findings of the study. Most of the respondents were 30–39 years old, female, college graduates, and PTA officers. The respondents generally had favorable perceptions regarding proper handwashing practices in terms of hygiene behavior, attitudes, and social expectations. Significant differences were found in the respondents' perceptions of hygiene behavior when position and highest educational attainment were considered. Significant differences were also found in attitudes when age and position were

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considered. However, there were no significant differences in social expectations when the respondents were grouped according to their profile. Based on the findings of the study, a localized handwashing educational material entitled "Clean Hands, Healthy Kids!" was developed to provide childcare providers with simple and practical information on proper handwashing steps, important handwashing moments, and the importance of maintaining clean hands. The localized material may serve as a supplementary educational tool to reinforce proper handwashing practices and promote a safer and healthier environment in Toong Elementary School.

Keywords: *proper handwashing practices, childcare providers, community-based training, localized training, hygiene behavior, attitudes, social expectations, handwashing*

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