

## WU Social Engagement Projects

### Anemia Screening in the Patong Municipality area, Kathu District, Phuket Province

The Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology (International Program), School of Allied Health Sciences, Walailak University, led by Asst. Prof. Dr. Suriyan Sukati, an expert in hematology, along with faculty members and students, has launched a project to screen for anemia in the Patong Municipality, Kathu District. The project focuses on anemia screening among local community members, migrant workers, and underprivileged individuals, aiming to identify the incidence of anemia, provide nutritional education, and improve and promote the control and prevention of anemia. Collaboration and information have been shared with Patong Municipality's Division of Public Health and Environment, the Primary Health Care Unit, which is led by Patong Hospital, and other relevant agencies. This partnership aims to develop disease control policies in the area to reduce and prevent anemia-related illnesses, thereby promoting sustainable well-being for the population.

The project leader, in collaboration with Patong Municipality's Division of Public Health and Environment, planned the academic service initiative for community support by assessing health issues and identifying the community's health risks. It was found that anemia might be a prevalent health issue in the community, as regular screening among the general population had not been conducted. The target groups for risk data collection and anemia screening were identified as local residents, migrant workers, and the underprivileged, with the service area designated as Patong Beach and the surrounding communities.

Dr. Sukati, together with faculty members and students, planned a project and program to assess the risk of anemia, provide nutritional information, and conduct anemia screenings. In a community survey of 100 individuals, 88 respondents participated, with 51.7% female and 48.3% male. Preliminary data collected through questionnaires revealed that 30.7% of participants were at risk of anemia.

Anemia screening and nutritional education to prevent anemia were conducted by students and faculty in collaboration with the Patong Municipality's Public Health Division and local health networks. The project involved assessing health conditions and performing anemia screenings by drawing blood from the veins of local residents, migrant workers, and underprivileged individuals who lack access to basic services. The screenings were publicized by Patong Municipality's Division of Public Health and Environment and the network, and included comprehensive complete blood count analysis and anemia assessment at no cost to the participants. Participants received information about risk factors and nutritional knowledge for anemia prevention. A total of 95 individuals received services, consisting of 69.47% females and 30.53% males. The age

distribution was as follows: 2.1% were under 15 years old (childhood), 75.79% were between 15 and 59 years old (working age), and 22.10% were 60 years or older (elderly). Laboratory results indicated that 17.89% of the individuals had anemia, with a higher prevalence in females than in males, comprising 82.35% females and 17.65% males.

The results of the field survey and health screenings were used to design a knowledge dissemination plan in collaboration with Patong Municipality's Division of Public Health and Environment and local health networks. This plan aims to increase public awareness in the community and promote understanding of disease prevention at the family level, including among migrant workers and underprivileged individuals living and working in the area. Data on the incidence of anemia will be collected continuously for at least four years. The health education and community well-being plans will be reviewed annually, using incidence data as a key tool for planning and implementation