

KANYA THANYAMANTA : THE EFFECT OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN ON THE PARENTS.
THESIS ADVISOR : NIPATT KARNJANATHANALERS, M.D., 85 pp. ISBN 974-579-292-6.

The purpose of the research was to study the effects of autistic children on health, mental health and social functioning of the parents. The population for this research included 29 fathers and 41 mothers who attended at Child Guidance Center, Department of Child Psychiatry, Chulalongkorn Hospital and Department of Oral Training, Ramathibodi Hospital.

The research was carried out through two set of questions: multiple choice questions and questions to be answered on a rating scale. The evaluation was based on the parents own perception. Data were analyzed through means, Standard deviations and percentages.

The results were ;

1. 7.14% of the parents had somatic symptoms.
2. The psychological effects were as follow :
 - 2.1 The level of general anxiety was all normal.
 - 2.2 Most of the parents had specific anxiety over the children's symptoms and the inadequate service facilities such as oral practitioners, schools for the children in the future, dental clinics and etc.
 - 2.3 10% of the parents had depression.
3. The average score were low in all social functioning aspects.