

KEY WORD : ELDERLY / HOME FOR THE AGED

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The purpose of this research is to study the conditions of the elderly in home for the aged by studying the factors which influence the degree to which the aged are involved in community activities. The study also seeks to assess the characteristics of their needs, their adaptation, their perspective, their other problems and their relationships with these home for the aged. This population sample of the aged in Barn Chantaburi home for the aged of 71 persons uses anthropological field research, questionnaire and participant observation.

The hypothesis of this research concerned with the conditions of the elderly in home for the aged-

1. The younger members will be involved in more activities.
2. The elderly who are low income earners will be involved in more activities.
3. The elderly with a lower education will be involved in more activities.
4. The elderly suffering with less disease will be involved in more activities.
5. The elderly with a small amount of children will be involved in more activities.

The findings of this research have demonstrated that each item is in accord with the hypothesis except for number five. Apart from this, the research has demonstrated that the aged in Barn Chantaburi home for the aged have a variety of problems. The problems of importance relate to economic matters, health and their adaptation when they come to stay in home for the aged. The needs of most elderly people are similar to the basic needs of other aged groups. The majority of the elderly think along similar lines to the elderly in the past with emphasis on pay back personal favours and making merit for their next life.