

Tippakorn Rungkasiri 2009: End-of-Life Learning Model Using Multi-sensory Edutainment Approach for Children with Terminal Cancer. Doctor of Education (Educational Technology), Major Field: Educational Technology, Department of Educational Technology.  
Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Surachai Prasertsaruay, M.Ed. 344 pages.

This study is a multi-disciplinary research and development with Rapid Prototyping Instructional System Design (RPISD) project of which objectives are to study quality of life, issues, needs, and factors influencing end-of-life learning for children with terminal cancer; to explore learning models, develop prototype media, and evaluate quality/satisfaction by experts and all concerned parties. An essential goal of such learning is to enhance quality of life in holistic manners which encompass physical, mental, and spiritual needs of patients as well as emotional support for parents. The researcher collected and compiled data from qualitative research by using various techniques to seek answers as per study objectives, including documentary review, observation/participatory observation, in-depth interview, focus group interview, informal opinion survey among users/experts that participated in a working group. Sample groups comprised parents who lost their children from cancer, parents of children with terminal cancer who are still alive, pediatricians/medical professionals, and competent persons in relevant fields. Statistics used in this study are Weighted average and Interval Scaling.

In research findings, design of “end-of-life learning” for children with terminal cancer must take into account numerous influencing factors and factors that must be addressed, for instance, physical illnesses and deficiencies, drug-induced emotional flux, family conditions, beliefs and culture, and influences from outside society. This study presents an innovative instructional system model called “Sapanroong Model” and an end-of-life teaching model called “A Drop-in-the-Pond Model”. Edutainment, Multi-sensory communication and Buddhism were found to be accepted core educational treatments in children with terminal cancer and meet expectation of parents, experts, and concerned parties at “very good” level. Furthermore, experts, parents and concerned parties expressed satisfaction with all project’s media prototypes at “very good” level. They accepted that it is an innovative form of learning that needs a sustainable development and expansion plan.

Educational technology is playing new vital role that will create and provide end-of-life learning, a new context of education at a critical time of mankind, for holistic quality of life in the final days of lives in all Thai society, no matter where those dying people are so remotely.

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Thesis Advisor’s signature

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