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NISAKORN KRUNGKRAIPETCH : DISABILITY STATUS AMONG ELDERLY LIVING IN CENTRAL REGION OF THAILAND. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO. PROF. DR. BODI DHANAMUN, THESIS CO-ADVISOR : PROF. DR. PIROM KAMOL-RATANAKUL, 81 pp. ISBN. 974-637-677-2.

This descriptive study aimed to explore prevalence, types and factors related to disability among the elderly living in the central region of Thailand. The sample size was 723. The interview survey was conducted, using questionnaires, between August and December 1997.

The results showed that the sample had the female-male ratio of 1.3:1, and the mean age was 69.98 years old, ranging from 60 to 96. Prevalence of long-term disability was 26.4%. Diseases/handicaps associated with long-term disability were osteoarthritis, eye diseases, deaf, paralysis and diabetes mellitus. In bivariate analysis, long-term disability were found associated with age, literacy and working status. Only age and working status were retained in a multiple logistic regression model. Prevalence of basic Activity of Daily Livings (BADLs) disability was 12.9%. Some 2.8 percent were moderately severe disable or totally disable. Activities of which help was most needed included ascending/descending stairs (19.8%), getting out of bed (7.9%), going to and using toilet (4.4%) and dressing oneself (4.4%). Some 8.2 percent and 25.7 percent of the sample had fecal and urinary incontinence, respectively. In contrast, activities of which help in instrumental Activity of Daily Living (IADLs) were cooking (49%), the use of public transport (39.1%), using money (19.8%) and walking out door (10.2%).

Factors associated with unadjusted Barthel ADL score were age, sex, marital status, education level, literacy and working status. After statistical adjustment using multiple linear regressions, age, sex, literacy and working status were kept in the final model. Factors associated with unadjusted Chula ADL score were age, marital status, education level, literacy and working status. The multivariate analysis indicated the significance of only three factors age, literacy and working status.

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