

THESIS TITLE: THE STUDY OF SOURCES AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
SOCIAL SUPPORT AND ADAPTATION TO MOTHERHOOD BEFORE
DISCHARGE FROM THE HOSPITAL OF SICK NEWBORNS' MOTHERS.

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ABSTRACT

The purposes of this descriptive research were to study the sources and amount of social support of sick newborns' mothers, and to investigate the relationship between the social support and their adaptation to motherhood before discharge from the hospital.

The study samples were the 119 postpartum mothers whose newborns have complication. They were admitted at the Mother and Child Hospital, Health Promotion Center Region 6 Khon Kaen during January to March 1993.

The instrument used in the study was the interviews of social support and adaptation to motherhood that were developed by the researcher. The social support interview was developed from House's concept(1981) and the adaptation to motherhood interview was developed from Steele's concept(1987) and Bobak, Jensen, and Zalar's concept(1989). The obtained data were analyzed statistically by using frequency distribution, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient.

The results of the study indicated that:

The sick newborns' mothers received social support while being admitted in the hospital from: their husbands, their mothers, their relatives, their friends, other postpartum mothers, and the health care team. The social supports were received from sources listed from highest to lowest degree as follows: (1) their husbands, (2) the health care team, (3) their mothers, (4) their relatives, (5) other postpartum mothers, and (6) their friends (means = 64.55, 56.56, 50.50, 46.74, 43.84, and 35.14 respectively).

The relationship between social support and adaptation to motherhood was tested by using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient. It was found that there was statistical significant for positive correlation between social support from these sources and the adaptation to motherhood before discharge from the hospital of the sick newborns' mothers ($r = .3088, .2992, .2827$ at $p < .01$ for husbands, health care team, their relatives respectively, and $r = .2364, .2250, .2245$ at $p < .05$ for their mothers, their freinds, other postpartum mothers respectively).