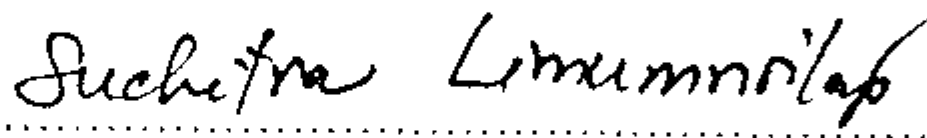
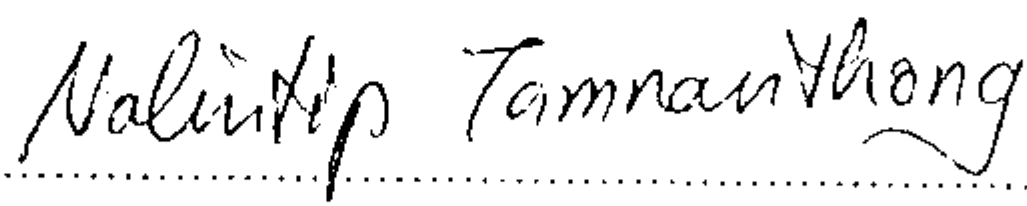


THESIS TITLE: EFFECTS OF A STRUCTURED EMPOWERMENT - STRENGTHENING
PROGRAM UPON SENSE OF POWERLESSNESS IN PARAPLEGIC
PATIENTS

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ABSTRACT

This quasi-experimental research aimed at determining the effects of a Structured Empowerment-Strengthening Program (SESP) upon powerlessness in paraplegic patients. The conceptual framework was based on the Roy's adaptive model and the Fleury's empowerment concept.

Subjects used in this study were twenty paraplegic patients in early rehabilitation period who were admitted to Srinagarind Hospital during February 1997-January 1998. They were randomly selected and equally assigned into control and experimental groups. The experimental group patients had undergone the Structured Empowerment-Strengthening Program(SESP) whereas the control group patients had undergone routine nursing procedures.

The SESP was specially developed based on Fleury's empowerment concept. The process of empowerment strengthening was divided into three stages: appraisal readiness; changing; and integrating change. Intervention strategies employed for the study were information exchange and patient situation analysis by the patients whilst the nurse acted as stimulator, facilitator and counselor as well as information provider. The duration of SESP were 8 sessions expanding throughout 4 weeks and each session lasted 45-60 minutes. Media used were self-learning packages by means of flip charts

and audio-cassette. At the end of each session there were opportunities for subjects to express themselves, analysis and search for the best possible solution for their situation.

Tools used in this study consisted of General Data Collection Form (GDCF), Powerlessness Checklist for Paraplegic Patients (PCPP) adapted from the original one developed by Chutima Musikhasung (B.E. 2535). The PCPP was tested for its content validity and reliability ($r = 0.94$). Statistical procedures used were frequency, means, standard deviations, standard error of means and t-test.

Result showed that patients who had undergone the SESP had significantly lower level of powerlessness, i.e, feeling more empowered themselves more than the patients who had not undergone the SESP (\bar{X} control = 151.60, \bar{X} experimental = 119.40, $P < 0.05$). This results had proved the positive effects of the Program upon the level of personal empowerment of paraplegic patients.