

THESIS TITLE : SOCIAL SUPPORT OF THE CHRONICALLY ILL PATIENTS
IN MEDICAL DEPARTMENT, SRINAGARIND HOSPITAL
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ABSTRACT

This descriptive research was aimed at identifying the amount, source and types of social support for chronically ill patients in the Medical Department, Srinagarind Hospital from 15th February to 15th March 1994.

The subjects were 184 chronically ill patients, 14 years old or above, fully conscious and having no speech or hearing abnormality.

The research tool used in the study was the questionnaire on social support developed by the researcher based on the House's concept composed of 4 types of social support: emotional, appraisal,

informational and instrumental support. The tool was validated by eight experts, and its reliability was tested by using Cronbach's alpha coefficient giving a value of 0.91. Data was collected by the interviewer and was analysed by the average amount of support and percent of sources of support. Results of this study showed that:

1. The average score of social support for chronically ill patients was 165.42 (total scores = 220), the highest type of support perceived by chronically ill patients was emotional support (\bar{X} = 47.54, total scores = 60) followed by informational (\bar{X} = 40.90, total scores = 55) instrumental (\bar{X} = 40.25, total scores = 55) and the lowest type was appraisal support (\bar{X} = 36.33, total scores = 50)

2. Sources of support perceived by chronically ill patients were doctors, spouse, children, family members, friends, nurses relatives, and others (such as: directors or supervisors, kamnan, monks / temple, hospital workers, quack doctors, physiotherapists, television or radio, books and house maid.)

3. The first three sources of social support were doctors, spouse and children, sources of emotional support were spouse, children and relatives, appraisal support sources were doctors, spouse and children, informational support sources were doctors, nurses and children, instrumental support sources were spouse, children and nurses respectively.