

SUKJAI CHAROENSUK : RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN PERSONAL BACKGROUND, COPING BEHAVIOR, SOCIAL SUPPORT AND ROLE STRESS AS PERCIEVED BY NURSING EDUCATORS IN NURSING COLLEGES, THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO. PROF. JINTANA YUNIBHAND, Ph.D.  
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This research was designed to study the role stress of nursing educators in nursing colleges, the Ministry of Public Health, and find the relationships between personal background, coping behavior, social support and role stress of nursing educators and to search for the variables that would be able to predict the role stress of nursing educators. The subjects consisted of 254 nursing educators who have one year experience selected by multi-stage random sampling. Research instruments developed by the researcher were questionnaires which were tested for their validity and reliability.

Major finding were as follows :

1. Mean scores of role stress as percieved by nursing educators in total and in the aspects of role conflict, role overload, role ambiguity, role incongruity and role incompetence were in the middle level.
2. There were negatively significant relationships at the .05 level between income, experience, age, marital status, level of education, position and role stress as percieved by nursing educators ( $r = -.30, -.28, -.27, -.23, -.18$  and  $-.14$  respectively)
3. Coping behavior was significantly and positively related to role stress at the .05 level, while social support from peers and supervisors were significantly and negatively related to role stress, at the .05 level. ( $r = -.23$  and  $-.23$  respectively)
4. Factors significantly predicted role stress as percieved by nursing educators in nursing colleges were coping behavior, income, emotional support and instrumental support from peers and education level at the .05 level. These predictors accounted for 29.77 ( $R^2 = .2977$ ) of the variance. The function derived from the analysis were as follows :  
$$Y = 1.871 + 0.808 \text{ COPE} - 0.204 \text{ INCOME} - 0.379 \text{ SSF}_3 + 0.214 \text{ SSF}_1 - 0.151 \text{ EDU (Row Scores)}$$
$$Z = 0.350 \text{ COPE} - 0.278 \text{ INCOME} - 0.395 \text{ SSF}_3 + 0.212 \text{ SSF}_1 - 0.120 \text{ EDU (Standardized Scores)}$$