

Thesis Title	Risk, Protective Factors, and Alcohol Use among Out of School Adolescents in the Community of Phichit Province
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Abstract

Alcohol use, which can be explained by risk and protective factors, is one of the behavioral and health problems of adolescents, especially those out of school adolescents. However, the study aimed at examining the effects of these factors is limited.

Using the Resilience Model base on Fraser et al. (2004) and Kumpfer (1999) as a conceptual framework, the purpose of this research was to examine the effects of personal characteristics (sex, economic status, level of education), risk factors (personal, family, peers, and the community), and protective factors (personal, family, peers, and the community) in explaining alcohol use among out of school adolescents in the Thapkhlo District of Phichit Province. A stratified sample, consisting of 160 out of school adolescents, aged 13 – 19 years, both males and females, living in the Thapkhlo District of Phichit Province participated in this study. Data were collected from April to June, 2009 by using instruments consisting of written questionnaires regarding risk factors, protective factors, and alcohol use. The principal data analysis employed hierarchical multiple regression.

The results of the study indicated that approximately 80 percent of the sample had used alcohol. The minimum age of the participants' first use of alcohol was ten years of old. The hierarchical multiple regression analysis revealed that the risk factors (personal, family, peers, and the community), protective factors (personal, family, peers, and the community) and personal characteristics (sex, economic status, level of

education) all together accounted for 31 and 22 percent of the variance in explaining adolescent alcohol use in the Thapkhlo District of Phichit Province at one month and three months prior to data collection, respectively ($p < .001$). Of these, only peer risk factors and personal risk factors were significant variables in predicting adolescent alcohol use ($p < .001$). These results partially support the Resilience Model.

Based on these findings peer and personal risk factors should be taken into consideration for screening adolescent alcohol use and in deciding a program for preventing or decreasing this problem.