

ABSTRACT

Title of Reseach Paper : Social Support in Family to the Elderly in Amphur
Sungaiko-log Community, Narathiwat Province
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The study investigated the degree of social support of the families and the factors affecting the families' social support. The data were collected from 180 male and female elderly people aged 60 or beyond who lived in the communities in Sungaiko-log District, Narathiwat Province. An interview schedule was used for data collection. Percentage, mean and standard deviation were used to describe the data and the inferential statistics-t-test and One-way anova (F-test) were used to test the hypotheses.

It was found that the elderly people received an overall moderate social support from their families. When individual aspects were considered separately, social support concerning temperament was found to be at a rather high level; acceptance and seeing the value at a moderate level; things, money, labor and health service at a rather high level; and information and recommendation at a moderate level.

The factors found to affect social support of the family were personal factors, such as religion and marital status, and environmental factors such as type of family (extended family), regular religious practice, and meeting friends.

The researcher recommended that family members as well as public health officers provided elderly people with social support, relevant information and recommendations. The elderly should be given knowledge about how to look after themselves, such as taking exercise and diets. This can be publicized through the mass media, like TV and radio. The elderly should also be encouraged to form a group or a club of elderly people which can service as the center for them to receive informations and for chatting or gathering together among them.