

ABSTRACT

RESEARCH PAPER : Senile People's Healthcare Behavior in Community of Satun
Province

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There are 3 objectives for this research; they are 1.to study senile people's health condition in a community; 2. to study senile people's health behavior and 3. to find out problems and obstacles in promoting senile people's healthcare behavior.

The method of study is a qualitative one, mainly through the in-depth interview technique, coupled with observation and documentary reviews. 18 senile people in Satun Province were appropriately selected as key-informants for in-depth interview about the studied objectives and relevant details. Data obtained were triangularly checked for their reliability and later were analyzed contextually with the assistance of descriptive statistics.

Major findings of the study are as follows:

1.The studied senile people are found to have low formal education with warm family relation; their occupation is in agricultural field; all of them have health insurance but one-half of them live without saving money at all.

2.All of the senile people studied define the meaning of "senile people" by using physical criterion, followed by social role, age, mind and emotion respectively.

3.All of the senile people want to use kinship terms to denote their seniority.

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4. Time arrangement for daily activities among the senile people is suitable with age.

5. Healthcare behavior expressed both in normal time and during ill-health are appropriate to the aging condition and in accordance with customs, traditions or local culture.

6. Problems and obstacles in promoting senile people's healthcare behavior are originated from the senile people themselves because of their aging reducing their potentiality in self-care behavior promotion.

The researcher has recommended appropriate measures for further development of the senile people's healthcare promotion work.