

ABSTRACT

RESEARCH PAPER : **HIV Positive Persons' Way of Life and
Self-Concept a Study in Pattani Province**

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There are 3 objectives for this research; they are 1. to study HIV infected persons' way of life, 2. to study the HIV infected persons' self-concept and 3. to find out problems and obstacles in living of the HIV infected. The study was done qualitatively by collecting life histories of 12 HIV infected people in Pattani Province. In addition, home visits and observation techniques are also used for data collecting. The collected data are contextually analyzed with descriptive statistics.

Results of the study reveal that the HIV infected's ways of life are different according to the levels of seriousness of the disease and relate to forms of their adjustment and their self-concept. Though in general the HIV infected have negative self-concept and adjust themselves poorly, they can manage to live socially well for they self-values. Furthermore, the acceptance of family members, period of having HIV and economic status cause differences in the HIV infected's way of life.

Problems in living of the HIV infected are those concerning the spread of the disease; this is because they dare not reveal the fact of their contacting HIV, coupled with insufficient knowledge of the disease from their family members and the government's help is always too little and too late.

The HIV infected suggest that, in orders to living happily with high quality, they should encourage themselves with hope and, at the same time, take good care of their health. Those related to them should also help them both physically and psychologically.

In the end, the researcher recommends some action to boost the HIV infected's quality of life.