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KEY WORDS : COUPLE VIOLENCE / ANXIETY/ DEPRESSION/ AGGRESSION

KAMONPORN PATCHEEP: PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS: ANXIETY, DEPRESSION AND AGGRESSION EFFECTS FROM COUPLE VIOLENCE IN MUANG DISTRICT, RATCHABURI PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISOR: SOMPORN TRIAMCHAI SRI, Ph.D. CHANINAT VAROTHAI, Dr.P.H. PHITAYA CHARUPOONPHOL, M.D. 191p. ISBN 974-663-047-4

Although rapid increase in public awareness of other forms of family violence is well noted, research about family violence studied by public health personnel is scarce, especially research on the psychological well-being of abused males.

The purpose of this survey was to compare the mean rate of psychological distress which included anxiety, depression and aggression in the non-victims and the victims of couple violence among 154 couples in Muang District, Ratchaburi Province.

Psychological and physical violence were assessed by two subscales created by the researcher. Psychological distress, anxiety and depression were assessed by anxiety and depression subscales of the SCL-90 (Symptom Distress Checklist-90). Aggression was assessed by modified aggression subscale from SCL-90.

SPSS for Windows was used for data analysis. The statistical analysis was done by using percentage, mean, T-test and F-test from ANOVA.

The result of the study showed that male and female victims of pure psychological violence and combined physical and psychological violence reported significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher rates of psychological distress than non victims. Females reported anxiety and depression of significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher scale than males in the non-victim group and higher rates of anxiety and depression scale than victims of pure psychological group. Both perpetrators and victims reported significantly ($p < 0.05$) higher rate of anxiety, depression and aggression than non-perpetrators and victims of both gender.

According to the results of this study, public health nurses should be aware of counselling and advising for prevention of couple violence and other forms of family violence, and promoting affection and warmth in the family.