

Thesis Title Knowledge and Activities of Buddhist Monks
 Regarding Community Mental Health

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M.N.S. Mental Health and Psychiatric Nursing

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine levels of knowledge and activities of Buddhist Monks regarding community mental health. The population studied were 194 Buddhist Monks (Mahanikaya Order) including abbots, associate abbots and assistant abbots, living in Mueng district of Chiang Mai province. The research instrument was a questionnaire consisted of three parts: 1) Personal Data 2) Mental Health Knowledge and 3) Community Mental Health Activities. The instrument was tested for its content validity by experts, and Kuder-Richardson-20 was used to investigate the reliability of the Mental Health Knowledge and Community Mental Health Activities parts from which the reliability coefficients obtained were .73 and .76, respectively. The questionnaires were mailed to the respondent which response rate

was 80.17 %. Data were analyzed in term of frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation.

The result of study revealed that :-

1. The mental health knowledge of Buddhist Monks was at high level with a mean score of 23.79 (SD=2.57). The highest score was found in mental health meaning parts, followed by characteristics of good mental health, mental health promotion, mental health prevention, and mental health problems or psychiatric disorders parts.

The mental health knowledge of either trained or untrained monk was at high level with a mean score of 23.90 (SD=2.42) and 23.69 (SD=2.61), respectively.

2. The community mental health activities of Buddhist Monks was at high level with a mean score of 21.76 (SD=0.26). The most prevalent activity was the propagation of Buddha's teachings, followed by helping people with mental health problem as well as their families, counseling, and community development.