

**Thesis Title** Relationship Between Maternal Dependent-care Deficit of Pre-school Thalassemic Children and Family Well-Being

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**Abstract**

The purposes of this study were to investigate the relationship between maternal dependent-care deficit of thalassemic pre-school children and family well being ; the relationship between maternal dependent-care deficit and selected factors, including number of years in school, duration of the child's illness, number of children in the family and family income. The population was composed of 40 mothers of pre-school thalassemic children who were followed up at the pediatric hematologic clinic at the outpatient department at Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai hospital. The research instrument consisted of a demographic data form, the dependent-care deficit scale and the family

well being assessment scale developed by Caldwell (1988). Data was obtained by interview and analyzed by SPSS program for frequency, percentage, arithmetic mean, standard deviation and Pearson's product moment co-efficient.

The results of the study revealed that:

1. The maternal dependent-care deficit of pre-school thalassemic children was low ( $\mu = 51.60$ ,  $SD = 8.77$ ).

2. The family well-being of pre-school thalassemic children was high ( $\mu = 169.13$ ,  $SD = 20.30$ ).

3. There was a negative relationship between maternal dependent-care deficit of pre-school thalassemic children and family well-being with statistical significance at the level of .01 ( $r = -.3289$ ).

4. There was a negative relationship between number of years in school, family income and maternal dependent-care deficit of pre-school thalasssemic children with statistical significance at the level of .05 ( $r = -.0784$  and  $r = -.0792$  respectively).

5. There was no relationship between duration of the child's illness, the number of children in the family and maternal dependent-care deficit of pre-school thalassemic children.

The study revealed that the mothers had dependent-care agency. The children were well taken care of and the family well-being was good. It suggests that nurses caring for such children and families should use educational and supportive nursing system in increasing maternal dependent care agency which will enhance the well being of families with thalassemic pre-school children.