

ABSTRACT

This descriptive research was designed to examine the relationship among basic conditioning factors (gender, age, duration of illness, years of education, marital status and family income), social support, self-care agency and quality of life in diabetic patients based on Orem's self care model. The purposive sampling consisted of 219 diabetic patients receiving medical therapy between March to September, 1992 at diabetes mellitus clinic, out patient department of Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital, Chiang Mai University, Thailand.

Perception of social support was measured by The Personal Resource Questionnaire : PRQ 85-Part 2, developed by Brandt and Weinert (1985) based on Weiss. Self-care Agency was measured by The Appraisal of Self-care Agency Scale : Form A., developed by Evers, et.al. (1985). Quality of life was measured by Cantril Self Anchoring Ladder Scales (Cantril, 1965).

The results of the study indicated that social support showed significantly positive correlation with self-care agency and quality of life. Age and family income showed significantly positive correlation with quality of life. When all basic conditioning factors, social support and self-care agency were entered into the stepwise multiple regression model to predict quality of life, only social support and age were significant predictors. These two variables accounted for 19.99 % of variance in quality of life which was statistically significant. By the way, social support was the best significant predictor. The findings supported Orem's conceptual framework of self-care, especially in the relationship between social support and quality of life in clinical practice. The application of the findings in practice, education and further research was recommended.