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NILRAT VATCHARAPICHAT : WOMAN'S ROLE AS THE CAREGIVER
OF CHRONIC ILLNESS PATIENT IN THE FAMILY. THESIS ADVISORS :RUENGDET
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The objective of this qualitative research is to study the women's role as the caregiver of chronically ill patients in the family. Data were gathered by observing and interviewing women in 6 different cases.

This research study shows that women's selfless devotion and sense of responsibility to their role as a caregiver is of great importance to their family and community. The social expectation that women will be selfless caregivers effects their ability to care for themselves. Their lack of information and experience on patient caregiving makes it more difficult to perform the socially expected roles and adds to women's frustration.

The main problem is the women's conflict between their role and their personal well - being in the light of no participation from other family members and neighbors. In addition, women lack both knowledge and bargaining skills that would help them meet personal needs because they themselves cannot manage the conflicting demands of their social role and personal well - being.

The conclusion of this study points to the predicament of being a woman within the content of Thai culture. The cultural framework pushes women to attempt to achieve their ideal roles in their real life. This type of over expectation from women cause conflicts between their role and personal well - being.