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MOTHERS OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT INFANTS

BANGORN TOIYTING : MARITAL RELATIONSHIP AND ADAPTATION TO ROLE
FUNCTION IN MOTHERS OF LOW BIRTH WEIGHT INFANTS. THESIS ADVISORS :
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Low birth weight infants develop several critical illnesses such as respiratory distress syndrome , infection etc. These infants often require special care from their mothers. However mothers are faced with difficulties in fulfilling this role functions due to its critical nature. Mothers of low birth weight infants must adapt to their role functions in order to give effective care. The purpose of this study is to focus on the marital relationship and adaptation to role function of mothers of low birth weight infants and whether predictors of adaptation to role function significantly affect women's role functions in caring for their infants ; age , family income per month , order of children , day stay in hospital. The samples comprised 100 mothers who brought their children to the well-baby clinic with first appointment at the out patient department of Siriraj hospital , Phramongkutklo hospital , Somdejprapinklao hospital and Phranunklao hospital. The data were collected by using two questionnaires about marital relationship and adaptation to role function. Data were analyzed by using percentage , arithmetic means , standard deviation and the stepwise multiple regression.

The result of the study revealed that most mothers of low birth weight infants demonstrated good adaptation to role function and fairly good marital relationship. The stepwise multiple regression indicated that 20.28 percent of variance of adaptation to role function (ARF) was accounted for by one significant factor ; i.e., marital relationship at ($p < .001$)

The researcher suggests that nurse should promote adaptation to role function in mothers of low birth weight infants by encouraging both partners to have good marital relationship.