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SAWAPAT MARCHU : A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF THE CAREGIVERS'
RELIGIOUS BELIEFS TO TERMINAL AIDS PATIENT IN BUUDHIST AND CHRISTIAN
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The purpose of this thesis was to compare caregivers' religious beliefs with those of terminal AIDS patient. Two methods were used in the study : 1) documentary research, which comprises an analysis of religious scriptures, and other relative documents; and 2) field research, which comprises an examination of the roles of 6 AIDS patient caregiver NGOs, 3 Buddhist and 3 Christians in the organization's staff of 40 Buddhists and 12 Christians. The field data was analyzed by a statistical method of percentages.

According to the documentary research Buddhism and Christianity view life, suffering and death in relation to their ultimate concerns. Although suffering and happiness as a reality of life can exist in the present and the future world, suffering is emphatically caused and eradicated by man's faith, insight in the reality of life and moral action. Though the religious teachings do not directly indicate AIDS and its cure, their teachings can be employed to help the AIDS patient from suffering, both by caregivers and the AIDS patient themselves.

It was found from the field research that, in spite of differences, the NGO's of both religious traditions conveyed religious conviction in their role. Religious tenets have been applied to both staff and the AIDS patient for the curing in light of each unique tradition of beliefs and practices.