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CAPABILITY IN CARING FOR ASTHMATIC CHILDREN

SIRIKANJANA AKSIRITRIRAT : THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MOTHER'S PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS, KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ASTHMA, SELF-EFFICACY, SOCIAL SUPPORT AND DEPENDENT-CARE CAPABILITY IN CARING FOR ASTHMATIC CHILDREN. THESIS ADVISORS : SUNE LAGAMPAN, Ed. D, CHANYA SIENGSAANOR, M.P.H., CHANINAT VAROTHAI, Dr. P. H. 111p. ISBN 974 - 664-725-3

The objective of this research was to study the relationship between mother's personal characteristics, knowledge about asthma, self-efficacy, social support and dependent-care capability in caring for asthmatic children. The sample consisted of 101 mothers of asthmatic children who attended children clinics at Mettaphracharak (Vatraiking) hospital. Data were collected by individual structured interviews using Orem's self-care theory as a theoretical framework. Data were analyzed using percentage, mean, standard deviation, Chi-Square test, Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient and stepwise multiple regression.

The results of this study revealed that mothers of asthmatic children had a high degree (64.4%) of dependent-care capability. The factors significantly correlated with mother's dependent care capability were income, knowledge about asthma, self-efficacy, and social support. 32.0 percent of variance of dependent-care capability accounted for two significant predictors, i.e. knowledge and social support ($P < 0.05$).

The study suggests that nurses should provide mothers with knowledge and self-care at home. Mothers' self-efficacy should be enhanced and maintained at a high level in order to gain family support for mothers to better develop themselves for effective dependent-care capability towards asthmatic children.