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PHRAMAHA RATTANA PANYAPA : A STUDY OF THE MORAL RIGHTS OF CHILDREN WITH HIV INFECTION FROM THEIR MOTHERS IN THAILAND ACCORDING TO MEDICAL ETHICS AND BUDDHIST ETHICS. THESIS ADVISORS : GANYARAT PANTHONG M.A.(LINGUISTICS), VITHOON UANGPRAPAN Dr. med., PHRA SRIPARIYATIMOLI (SOMCHAI KUSALAJITTO) Ph.D. (PHILOSOPHY) , SIVALEE SILILAI M.A. (PHILOSOPHY). 212 p. ISBN 974-664-519-6

The main purpose of this research is the study of the moral rights of children with HIV infection from their mothers in Thailand according to medical ethics and Buddhist ethics.

The four moral issues to be studied are: the right to life of the fetus, the right to receive warmth from the family, the right to be accepted by society, and the right to treatment and welfare assistance from government medical facilities. Documentary research and interview were used as method of data collection.

The result of this research can be summarized as follows: the issues of the right to life of the fetus, medical ethics and Buddhist ethics share the same view on respect for life. In choosing between the life of the mother and the fetus, however, medical ethics give priority to the life of the mother. In Buddhist ethics, the five precepts (Punca Silas) and their factors are essential for making a decision. The issues of the right to receive warmth from the family, the right to be accepted by society and the right to treatment and welfare from government medical facilities, according to medical ethics, are treated with confidentiality of information, providing correct information to the family and society to reduce prejudice misunderstanding regarding HIV-infected children and treating them with fairness. Buddhist ethics treat these according to the four Divine Abidings (Brahmavihara) and four principles for helpful integration (Sangahavatthu).

Of note from this research are the opinions of some female AIDS patients and children attendants that deem abortion of HIV positive fetuses cannot be regarded as breaking moral principles of Buddhism.

The researcher believes that knowledge and understanding of AIDS to people should be made continuously and thoroughly. Meanwhile, acquiring knowledge of the moral teachings of Buddha, method of thinking correctly according to Buddhist principles including moral shame, moral fear and self-restraint for living should be guidelines to prevent people from acquiring AIDS infections and the associated problems in Thai society.