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SIRILAK MUNGTHANYA : MEANING OF LOVE : A STUDY OF DRUG
USERS. THESIS ADVISORS: VEENA SIRISOOK, Dr.P.H., LUECHAI
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The objectives of this research were to study the meanings of love among non-HIV and HIV-infected drug users, to define the meanings of love of drug addicts toward themselves and those important to them, in comparison with the definitions of love given by those important to them according to the perspectives of the addicts. Interviews were conducted with a sample group amounting to 108 cases who were undergoing rehabilitation programs in a drug clinic of a public health center in Bangkok. The data were analyzed to obtain percentage, arithmetic mean and standard deviation. Independent and Paired t-tests were employed for comparison.

The research findings revealed that the addicts defined of love in a positive manner. Love according to them was defined as purity, care, attention, mutual assistance and attachment. Love among family members was considered the most important type. Love given to and received from parents symbolized purity. Love given to their friends symbolized sincerity and that given to the addicts by their friends meant assistance. As for love given to their spouses/lovers, it referred to sincerity and purity while love between them and their siblings meant purity and loving-kindness. Regarding their love toward the society, it meant sincerity and loving-kindness. However, love given to them by the society was in the form of patience. When the meanings of love between the addicts and those important to them, e.g., parents, siblings, spouses/lovers, friends and society were compared with those given to them by these people according to their perspectives, it was found to be statistically significant at a 0.05 level. When comparison was made on the general meanings of love between HIV and Non-HIV drug addicts, it was found to be not significant. The research recommends that love among families is the most important factor in curing people who use drugs and people with HIV.