

Thesis Title            Social Support, Health Locus of Control  
                                 and Self-Care Agency in Elderly Persons  
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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study were twofold. First, to examine, within a theoretical framework derived from Orem's conceptual model of nursing, the relationships among basic conditioning factors of marital status; duration of education and income, social support, health locus of control and self-care agency in elderly persons. Second, to identify predictive factors of self-care agency. The purposive sample consisted of 149 elderly persons from Dindaeng Elderly Service Center. The Personal Resource Questionnaire Part II developed by Brandt and Weinert (1985), The Multidimensional Health Locus of Control developed by Wallston, et al. (1978) and The Appraisal of Self-Care Agency Scale developed by Evers, et al. (1986) were administered to the sample.

Results of the study indicated that duration of education, social support, internal and powerful others

health locus of control were positively correlated with self-care agency. To further explore the predictive effects of basic conditioning factors, social support and health locus of control on self-care agency, a model of multiple regression was tested. Social support, internal health locus of control, powerful health locus of control and duration of education were significant predictors of self-care agency, whereas social support was the best predictor. Overall, the model accounted for 57.05 % of the variance in self-care agency which was statistically significant ( $p < .001$ ).

These findings seem to support the validity of Orem's conceptualization of factors related to self care agency. The limitations of this study, implications for practice and suggestions for further study were recommended.