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WANRUDEE CHINCHOYRANG : THE CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT OF
FEMALE THAI MUSLIM PATIENTS DURING HOSPITALIZATION . THESIS

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The main objective of this study is to investigate the cultural adjustment of female Thai Muslim patients during hospitalization. Cultural adjustment concerns three main hospital service activities, namely diagnosis, treatment and basic hospital daily living activities. This study is also intended to examine factors predicting aspects of cultural adjustment. The sample consisted of 240 female Thai Muslim inpatients from Pattani Provincial Hospital. Data were collected by using a structural questionnaire and an indepth interview guideline. Descriptive statistics and Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis were used for analyzing the data. The qualitative data were analyzed through content analysis.

The results of this study revealed that the female Thai Muslim patients were able to adjust moderately to the hospitalization. Findings from the Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis indicated that years in school, surgical admission, disease or symptoms associated with present illness and number of admissions in last year were significant predictors of cultural adjustment. These four factors accounted for 37.33% of the variance associated with cultural adjustment. In addition, data from the indepth interviews showed that the unique sub-culture of this southern community was equivalent in importance to the religious culture. Consequently, it is recommended that there is a greater understanding of both sub-culture and Muslim culture in order to improve hospital services for this group of patients.