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SAWITRI THAYANSIN : INFLUENCE OF THE FAMILY ON SELF-ESTEEM OF ADOLESCENTS. THESIS ADVISOR : CHAI PODHISITA, M.A., Ph.D. , PIMONPAN ISARABHAKDI, M.A., Ph.D. , KANCHANA TANGCHONLATIP, B.A., M.A. , SUPAK PIBOON, M.Ed., Ph.D. 118 p. ISBN 974-589-961-5

The main objective of this study is to identify and analyze influence of factors related to family on self-esteem of Thai adolescents aged 15-24. Data are drawn from The Family And Youth Survey (FAYS) conducted in 1994 by the Institute of Population and Social Research, Mahidol University. The present analysis includes 2,157 adolescents who were living with their parents at the time of the survey.

The majority (61.5 %) of adolescents in this study are of the medium level of self-esteem; those with high and low levels account for only about 18.8 % and 19.7 % respectively. Male and female adolescents differ only slightly in their level of self-esteem.

Results of stepwise multiple regression analysis indicate that family-related variables which show statistically significant relationships with adolescent self-esteem include relationship with parents (defined in terms of whether adolescents have problems with parents or not), closeness to parents (defined in terms of participation in various activities with parents), style of child rearing (defined in terms of level of freedom to do thing by themselves), and whether adolescents were brought up by both parents. Level of education is the only non-family variable in this study that shows statistically significant relationship with self-esteem of adolescents.

Overall results from this study suggest the importance of the family in shaping of self-esteem among adolescents. Therefore any appropriate measures that can strengthen the family capacity in this regard are highly desirable.