

Thesis Title The Study of Mother's Attitude and
Mother's Relationship in The Mentally
Retarded Child
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Abstract

At the present there are a large number of mentally retarded child in Thailand. The number has increased annually. The government can provide a limit number of services for them. The child should have proper care from their family as the other normal child. If mother has positive attitude and relationship with the mentally retarded child, the child will receive affection, warmness, security, and appropriate care. And he will be able to develop his potential, self reliability, and has good quality of life.

The purposes of this study were to investigate the relationship between mother's attitude; mother's factors (age, education level, occupation); father's factors (age, education level, occupation); family factors (family income, number of children); the mentally retarded child (birth order, age, sex), and mother's relationship with her mentally retarded child.

The sample composed of 200 mothers who took their children to attend and follow up at the outpatient department of Rachanugune Mentally Retarded Child Hospital. The instruments used in the study

included the demographic data form, mother's relationship with her child questionnaire, and mother's attitude to her child questionnaire.

Data were analysed by using Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, multiple correlation coefficient, and the stepwise multiple regression analysis. The results were as followed.

1. There was significantly positive relationship between mother's relationship with the child at the level of .001 ($r = 0.4532$)

2. There was significantly positive relationship between some factors and mother's relationship with her child as mother's education level at the level of .001 ($r = 0.4438$), father's education level at the level of .001 (4347), and family income at the level of .001 ($r = 0.3918$).

There was significantly negative relationship between the mentally retarded child's only one factor as age and mother's relationship with the child at the level of .001 ($r = -0.3612$)

And there was no significant relationship between the other factors of mother, father, the mentally retarded child, and mother's relationship with the child at the level of .01

3. The result of stepwise multiple regression analyse showed that 33.87 percent of the variance of mother's mother's relationship with the mentally retarded child (Y) was counted for four significant factors as : mother's attitude (X_1), father's education level (X_2), age of the mentally retarded child (X_3), and family income (X_4). The regression equation was as followed :

$$Y = 53.6126 + 0.5544 x_1 + 0.7616 x_2 + (-0.6931) x_3 + 1.5073 x_4$$

The recommendation of this study was indicated that the nurse should promote the positive attitude and relationship of mother to the mentally retarded child. The methods should provide counselling and giving information to the child's family. Giving care should consider the education level of the parents, the age of the child, and the financial support of the family.

For the future studies, the farther's and sibling's attitude and relationship toward the mentally retarded child should be considered.