

Thesis Title : The Relationship between Sex-role Attitude, Marital Satisfaction and Parental Adaptation in Couples Having the First Child.

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ABSTRACT

Parental adaptation during 6 to 8 weeks after childbirth, is one of the crucial events and viewed as a crisis in parent's life. Both parents are confronted with many new responsibilities and tasks. They need to reorganize their marital and personal lives. Many parents need assistance from others in order to perform their new role effectively. It appears that the changing of the society from traditional to industrial society makes the parents lack of supporting from their own family. Fathers and mothers need to help each other by sharing responsibilities and roles in the family. Equalitarion sex role attitude and marital satisfaction are considered to be important factors for parental adaptation. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between sex role attitude, marital satisfaction and the parental adaptation. The sample was composed of 100 first-time fathers and mothers whose mothers had normal pregnancy, normal delivery and healthy infants at Maharaj Nakorn Chiangmai Hospital and Health Promotion Center, Division 5. The tools for

collecting data included demographic data form, Sex-Role Attitude questionnaire. Marital satisfaction Scale and Parental Adaptation Self-evaluation questionnaire. Data were analysed by using means, standard deviation. Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, and Stepwise multiple regression analyses.

The results of the study were as follows:

1. There was a significantly positive relationships between sex-role attitude and parental adaptation at the .05 level in fathers' group, however, it was not significant among mothers' group.

2. There were significantly positive relationships between marital satisfaction and parental adaptation in both fathers and mothers at the .05 and .01 level respectively.

3. The results of the stepwise multiple regression analysis demonstrated that 9.53 percent of the variance of paternal adaptation was accounted for by sex-role attitude and marital satisfaction. For maternal adaptation, 15.22 percent of the variance was accounted for by marital satisfaction and economic status.

The results of this study could be used as guidelines for planning, analysis, and evaluation of parents' adaptation and related factors in means of providing parental educational programmes in order to promote further parental adaptation.