Thesis Title   Maternal-Infant Bonding and Self-Care Agency Operation in Primiparous Normal Labour

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Date of Graduation   22 May B.E. 2533 (1990)

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The purpose of this research was to examine the relationship between maternal-infant bonding and self-care agency operation. The purposive sample consisted of 100 primiparous normal labour in postpartum ward, Ramathibodi Hospital. Self-Care Agency Operation was measured by the Appraisal of Self-Care Agency Scale developed by Evers, et al. (1985). Maternal-Infant Bonding was measured by the feeling and the behaviors of maternal-infant bonding developed by Punpilai Laohapensang (2526).

Results of the study indicated that maternal-infant bonding was positively correlated with self-care agency operation ($r = .606$, $p < .001$) and perceived support from husband and family ($r = .373$, $p < .001$). Perceived support from husband and family was positively correlated with self-care agency operation ($r = .231$, $p < .05$). Length of formal education and family income was positively correlated with perceived support from husband and family ($r = .321$, $p < .001$; $r = .217$,

p < .05), respectively. When age, length of formal education, family income, perceived support from husband and family and maternal-infant bonding were entered into the regression model to predict self-care agency operation, all variables accounted for 37.9% of variance in self-care agency operation which was statistical significance. However, only two variables ; perceived support from husband and family and maternal-infant bonding were significant predictors. When age, length of formal education, family income, pregnancy planning and perceived support from husband and family were entered into the regression model to predict maternal-infant bonding, only perceived support from husband and family was significant predictors. All variables accounted for 15.7% of variance in maternal-infant bonding which was statistical significance.

The finding seem to support Orem's conceptualization of self-care as deliberate action and goal oriented. Goal oriented is a motivating factor which activated self-care agency operation. The limitation of this study, implication for practice and suggestions for further study were recommended.