

THESIS TITLE : CARE-RECEIVING AND LIFE SATISFACTION OF THE ELDERLY
IN KIENSA DISTRICT, SURAT THANI PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

This descriptive research was conducted to investigate care-receiving and the relationships between care-receiving and life satisfaction of the elderly in Khiensa District, Surat Thani Province. Systematic sampling method was used for selecting 158 elderly of 60 years old up as the subjects. The instrument used on this study was the interview with information about care-receiving and life satisfaction. The content validity of the instrument was examined by experts in the elderly field. It was tested the reliability coefficients with Cronbach's Alpha that showed the results between 0.83 and 0.93. The obtained data were analyzed to find frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation; the relationships between care-receiving and life satisfaction of the elderly was analyzed by using Pearson's product moment correlation coefficients.

The research findings were:

1. The care-receiving of the elderly was considered in terms of physical, psychosocial, and economic. 36.8% of the elderly received care in the middle level. They were taken care by their offspring who gave them physical, psychosocial, and economic cares as follows:

Physical care: 38.6% of the elderly received much care. They obtained food, clothes and costumes, shelter and good care when getting illness. About food, they were offered the ones they liked. But the food did not contain sufficient nutrients and was not appropriate for elderly people. Clothes and costumes were given by their offspring, also washed and kept tidily by them. Their beds were washed or exposed to the sun. Their rooms were cleaned. However, house decorations in terms of elderly safety were little. When getting illness, the elderly would be taken for treatment in the service places they wanted. Their offspring would give them prescribed medicine and prepare them appropriate food. When admitted to stay in hospital, the elderly would get care from their offspring and not be left in isolation.

Psychological care: 41.7% of the elderly received care in the middle level. They were paid respect by the members in their families. Those people talked with them politely and friendly. They followed the elderly instructions and asked for suggestions. The elderly were encouraged to meet other relatives and neighbors, to participate in social and religious activities, and to spend their leisure time for taking rest.

Economic care: 34.2% of the elderly received little care. They received some money from their offspring. They spent it as necessary. They would get some more money if they did not have enough income.

2. Care-receiving of the elderly was significantly positive correlated with life satisfaction, that was at the middle level ($r = 0.469$). It was found that care-receiving coefficients in terms of physical, psychosocial and economic were 0.370, 0.533, and 0.266 respectively.

The researcher suggests that public health personnel train caregivers for giving right and appropriate care to the elderly. They should encourage family members to give the elderly an importance, to respect them and to have them participate in both family and community activities. Also they should activate the community to hold activities which reinforce the relationships of the elderly and people in the community so that they can live with others happily and become satisfied with their lives.