

THESIS TITLE: CARE-RECEIVING AND CAREGIVING OF THE ELDERLY
IN PHANA DISTRICT, AMNAT CHAROEN PROVINCE

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Abstract

The purposes of this research was to study about care-receiving, opinions on being care-receivers, caregiving, and opinions on being caregivers of the elderly. Also the study was to investigate care-receiving, opinions on being care-receivers, caregiving and opinions on being caregivers of the elderly, who were classified with socioeconomic, i.e. age, family structure and income, and types of caregiver. The sample were 140 subjects of 60 years old up, selected by using cluster random sampling method, from four villages in Phana District, Amnat Charoen Province. Both quantitative and qualitative data were collected by structure and semi-structure interviews. The content in the interviews consisted of general data, care-receiving, opinions on being care-receivers, caregiving, and opinions on being caregivers of the elderly. The content validity was examined by six experts. The reliability coefficients were calculated by using Cronbach's alpha that gave the result as 0.65-0.84. The data were collected from July to August, 1998. and analyzed for frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test, analysis of variance and content analysis.

The findings were:

1. Care-receiving of the elderly: Most of them received care from their children living in the same houses or by their spouses. Those who lived alone were given care by their relatives and neighbors in terms of everyday life, illness, psychosocial and economy.

2. The elderly's opinions on being care-receivers: They agreed that the elderly should be given care. They said that the elderly were still given care because their children and grandchildren still respected them, care for them and wanted to requite an obligation. This made them feel warm and worth, and not think that they were the load of them. However, some elderly disagreed with this because they were hardly respected and taken care by their children.

3. The elderly's caregiving: Most of the elderly took care of their children, grandchildren and relatives living in the same houses, especially their grandchildren. They gave care in four aspects, i.e. everyday life, illness, psychosocial and economy.

4. The elderly's opinions on being caregivers: Most of the elderly agreed that the elderly give care to their families. It was the duty of parents to take care of their children. This helped keep good relationships in the family and was the worth use of the leisure time without thinking that their grandchildren were their load. However, some elderly disagreed with this point, They said that parents had already taken care of their children for a long time, when they became old, their children should repay them with gratitude.

5. The differences of the mean of care-receiving, the opinions on being care-receiving, care-giving, and the opinion on being caregiving in terms of the socio-economical characteristics were itemized as follows.

5.1 The elderly, who had differences in family structure and income, and types of caregivers, were taken care differently at the significance level at 0.05. In the aspect of daily life, the elderly in extended families were more taken care than those in nuclear families. For other aspects, there was no difference. The elderly in high income families were more taken care than those in low-income families. The elderly in fair-income families were more taken care than the ones in high-income families. In the aspect of daily life and psychosocial, the elderly, who taken care of their sons and daughters were more taken care than those their neighbors and relatives. For others aspects, there was no difference. The elderly of different ages were taken care indifferently.

5.2 The elderly, who had different income, had different opinions on being care-receivers at the significance level 0.05. The elderly in high-income families gave higher average point in being respected as seniors and being repaid with gratitude than those in low-income families. For other aspects, there was no difference. The elderly, who had different ages, family structure and types of caregivers, gave indifferent opinions on being care-receivers.

5.3 The elderly, who had different ages, family structure and income, and care receivers, provided significantly different caregiving at 0.05. The young elderly gave more care than the older ones. The elderly in extended families gave more care than those in nuclear families. The elderly in high-income families provided more care than the ones in low-income families. The elderly, who took care of their sons and daughters, gave more care than those who took care of their neighbors and relatives.

5.4 The elderly, who had different ages, family structure and income, and types of caregivers, gave indifferent opinions on being caregivers.

From the findings, the researcher suggests promoting family's roles in taking care of the elderly, training family members in taking care of the elderly, and reinforcing the family's attitudes on the value and importance of the elderly. Moreover, there should be some activities held to reinforce family relationships and to encourage the elderly's ability.