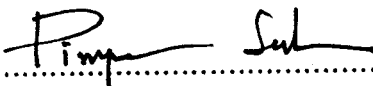


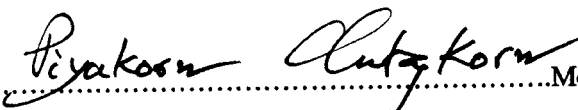
THESIS TITLE : STRESS AND COPING STRATEGY OF YOUNGER SIBLINGS
OF CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS.

AUTHOR : MISS PATCHARAPAN TIPAVONGSA

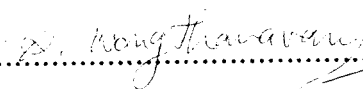
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ABSTRACT

This descriptive research was conducted to study stress and coping strategies among younger siblings of children with chronic illness by employing the concept of Lazarus and Folkman(1984). The subjects were 44 children aged of 8 - 12 year old who have older siblings with chronic illness treated at Pediatric Clinic, Out - patient department, Maharaja Hospital, Nakhonratchasima, during February - April 1999. The instruments used for data collection were interview forms consisting of three parts. The first part was for obtaining general information of the family. The second part was the assessment of stress constructed by consulting a pilot study, and relevant literature and research. The third part was the assessment of the coping strategy modified from the instruments of coping strategies of Ryan - wenger (1990) based on the concept of Lazarus and Folkman (1984). The content validity was consulted with relevant literature and research and examined by the panel of experts in this area. The internal consistency, analyzed by using the alpha coefficient of Cronbach, was 0.81 for assessment of source of stress, and 0.75 for assessment of coping strategies. All pivotal measures were presented by percentage. The major findings are as follows :

1. The consequences following chronic illness of their sibling considered as stress by well children included perception of their ill siblings hospitalization and appointments, perception of treatment especially intravenous injection and blood drawing, and grief for the siblings' illness (90.7%, 87.2%, and 86.4% respectively).

2. The consequences thought as stress by these well children were considered in various aspects. In context of the perception of illness and its consequences, majority of these children (90.7%) considered the perception of their siblings' hospitalization or appointments as stress. Relating to familial relationship, 78.0% of these children thought of separation from their ill siblings due to exacerbation or hospitalization as stress. In terms of parents behavior and mental and emotional response, many children (60.0%) thought that parents always love and were biased toward ill siblings. In relation to life style and role and responsibility, majority of these children (48.5%) thought that chores and household responsibilities were stress.

3. To cope with the stress, selected emotion - focused coping strategies among these children included the effort to subside the worries, the belief that their ill siblings will recover, playing with friends, crying, and isolating (84.1%, 84.1%, 79.5%, 70.5% and 65.9% respectively). In terms of problem - focused coping, these included paying more attention on study, being more obedient to parents, asking help from parents to solve the problem, being more involved in taking care of ill siblings, and positively thinking about ill siblings (86.4%, 79.4%, 77.3% and 77.3% respectively).