

Thesis Title The Relationship Between Social Support and Maternal Adaptation of HIV- infected Mothers

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Abstract

Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a crucial health problem as it is a severe situation for which there is no method of curation at present. The number of HIV- infected population has increased rapidly, especially in the group of pregnant and postpartum women. These groups of women face severe problems and loss since HIV infection can be vertically transmitted from mothers to infants. These mothers experience suffering not only physically but also psychologically. As a result, this may cause ineffective and inappropriate maternal roles after their deliveries.

Thus, the researcher was interested in studying the relationship between social support and maternal adaptation of HIV- infected mothers by using Roy's adaptation model as a theoretical framework. The sample was composed of 80 HIV- infected mothers who came for follow up at the sexually transmitted disease clinics and well baby clinics at Siriraj hospital, Rajvithi hospital, Queen Sirikij National Institute of Child Health and Vachira hospital. Three questionnaires concerning personal data, the Social Support and Maternal Adaptation were used for data collection. Data were analysed by using means, standard deviation and Pearson's Product Moment correlation coefficient.

The results revealed that there were significantly positive correlations between overall social support and maternal adaptation at .001 level ($r = .5313$). When focusing on each aspect of social support, it was found that there were significantly positive correlations

between instrumental support, emotional support, informational support and maternal adaptation at .001, .001 and .01 level ($r = .5559, .4875, \text{ and } .3474$) respectively. Moreover, family income was significantly correlated with maternal adaptation at .001 level ($r = .3886$).

As a result of this study, it is concluded that mothers with high social support would have an appropriate maternal adaptation. Therefore, it is recommended that nurses should encourage the family as well as other health care personnel to provide good support to the HIV- infected mothers in terms of emotional, informational and instrumental supports including sufficient income in order that these mothers will be able to adapt themselves to their new maternal roles more effectively.