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KEY WORD : INFANT CARE / MOTHER / SIBLING

PENSRI RUKWONG: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MATERNAL CARE DEFICIT FOR HEALTHY INFANTS BETWEEN FAMILIES WITH AND WITHOUT CHRONICALLY ILL CHILDREN. THESIS ADVISOR: RUTJA PHUPHAIBUL. B.Sc. (NURSING AND MIDWIFERY), M.S., D.N.S., JARIYA WITTAYA-SOOPORN. B.Sc. (NURSING AND MIDWIFERY), M.S., D.N.S. 92 P. ISBN 974-588-901-6

The purposes of this research were twofold. Firstly, to compare maternal care deficit for healthy infants between families with and without chronically ill children. Secondly, to investigate the maternal care deficit for healthy infants in each item and in total. The theoretical framework was derived from Orem's self-care deficit theory. The sample consisted of the mothers of healthy infants in families with chronically ill children and the mothers of healthy infants in families without chronically ill children, who came to Well baby clinic, Pediatric chronic illness clinics and Pediatric inpatient department in Maharach Nakhonrachasima Hospital during February till March 1997. The purposive sample consisted 40 mothers of infants in each group. The instruments used for data collection were information on demographic data and the maternal care deficit for healthy infants questionnaire.

The results were as follow: The maternal care deficit for healthy infants level was at a fairly low level. The maternal care deficit for healthy infants in families with chronically ill children were statistically higher than those in families without chronically ill children ($F_{(1,76)}=41.89, p<.05$), while the occupation of mother was the only significant covariate variable. The results of this study indicated that mothers in families with chronically ill children tend to have maternal care deficit for healthy infants, especially mothers who were working women. As a result of this study the researcher recommended that nurses should bring maternal care evaluation for guidance in order to promote mothers to have effective agency in caring for healthy infants, especially mothers who were working women in families with chronically ill children.