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DANG LE DUNG HANH: FACTORS ASSOCIATING WITH KNOWLEDGE ON MENOPAUSE AND EXTENT OF MENOPAUSAL SYMPTOMS AMONG VIETNAMESE WOMEN IN HO CHI MINH CITY. THESIS ADVISORS: BUPPHA SIRIRASSAMEE Ph.D., URAIWAN KANUNGSUKKASEM Ph.D. 84 p. ISBN-974-661-490-8

This study aimed to examine the determinants of knowledge about menopause and the extent of menopausal symptoms among Vietnamese women in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC). Data for this research was drawn from the survey "Complaints of the Perimenopause" which was a cross-sectional survey conducted in 1997 for the purpose of exploring the situation of menopausal women in HCMC, Vietnam. Data from 477 female respondents, aged between 40-54 years old, was selected for the present study. Bivariate analysis (Chi-square test with Chi-square value and Cramer's value, one-way ANOVA and t-test) was used for finding the linkages between the variables.

The findings suggest that there is an association between knowledge about menopause and the extent of menopausal symptoms; the more the women know about menopause, the greater the menopausal symptoms they experience (menopausal symptoms as measured by presence and severity). Menopausal experience is also influenced by current age, parity, income per capita and the presence of mother (or mother-in-law) in the household. Social characteristics (including educational level, occupation and income per capita) and current age, clearly have an impact to knowledge about menopause. Overall, educational level and income per capita are found to be strongly associated with knowledge.

In spite of the limitations of this study, it can give a partial picture of menopausal Vietnamese women. The health problems experienced by Vietnamese women in HCMC during menopause are real. More attention should be given to the study of older women's health in Vietnam. This research could be the basis for further studies on the subject.