

3736840 NSNS/D : MAJOR : NURSING;/D.N.S.(NURSING SCIENCE)
KEY WORDS : THAI AMPUTEES/HOLISTIC HEALTH/TRANSITION
PROCESS

SUPORN DANAI DUTSADEEKUL : TRANSITION PROCESS TO HOLISTIC HEALTH OF THE THAI AMPUTEES. THESIS ADVISORS : SIRIORN SINDHU, D.N.S. TASSANA BOONTONG, Ph.D. JARIYAWAT KOMPAYAK, D.P.H. 175 p . ISBN 974-661-912-8

There is limited data concerning the effects of amputation on holistic health of Thai amputees even though the number of amputees has been increasing. The purpose of this study was to investigate : 1) the understanding of role performance as perceived by Thai amputees, 2) the degree of role clarity of Thai amputees, 3) the correlation between role clarity, social support, socio-economic status, severity of disability and holistic health of Thai amputees, and 4) the predictive correlation between role clarity, social support, socio-economic status, severity of disability and holistic health of Thai amputees. Eighty-five amputees who requested artificial limbs were recruited from Siriraj, Lerdsin and King Mongkut hospitals and Sirindhorn National Medical Rehabilitation and Industrial Rehabilitation Centre. All amputees participated in both qualitative and quantitative study. Qualitative data was obtained by in-depth interviews. Quantitative measures included a demographic questionnaire, a severity of disability scale, a social support questionnaire and a perception of health questionnaire.

Pearson's Product Moment Correlation and Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis were used to analyze the quantitative data. The results indicate that only one factor, socio-economic status, has a positive relationship to the holistic health of the Thai amputees in this study ($P < .05$). Only one factor, socio-economic status, is able to predict 5.2 % of the variances of the holistic health ($p < .05$).

Grounded theory method was used to analyze the qualitative data. The findings demonstrate that the amputees perceived themselves as being strange, pathetic, dependent, different, shameful, discriminated against, less worthy, and less able than normal persons. The impacts of amputation on amputees' lives are life limitations and loss of social roles. The data demonstrated that the amputees recovered their life force by self-encouragement and receiving encouragement from social support systems.

Results of the study suggest that nurses and other health care professionals need to be more attentive to how amputees perceive their limb loss. In order to develop amputees' holistic health, nursing services should be developed to address three groups: amputees, their families, and society.