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RENU POOKBOONMEE: PERCEPTIONS OF ADULT SOCIAL ROLE
DEVELOPMENT AMONG ADOLESCENTS WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS.
THESIS ADVISOR: SIRIORN SINDHU, D.N.S. PRAKIN SUCHAXAYA, Ph.D.
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There is limited data concerning the effects of chronic illness on adolescents' adult social role development even though the number of adolescents with chronic illness has been increasing. The purpose of this study was to investigate: 1) adolescents' perceptions of adult social role development, 2) the relationships between family environment, peer relationships, severity of illness, perceived health status and the perceptions of adult social role development, and 3) predictive power of family environment, peer relationships, severity of illness, and perceived health status concerning the perceptions of adult social role development. One hundred and twenty adolescents diagnosed with chronic illness were recruited from Ramathibodi, Siriraj, and Chulalongkorn hospitals. Quantitative measures included family environment scale, peer relationships scale, severity of illness staging criteria, perceived health status scale, and open-ended interviews on perceptions of adult social role development. Twenty-three participants with high and low scores on the quantitative measures were chosen to participate in the qualitative study. Qualitative data was obtained by in-depth interviews.

Pearson's Product Moment Correlation and Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis were used to analyze the quantitative data. The results indicate that family environment, peer relationships and perceived health status have a positive relationship with the perceptions of adult social role development, whereas the severity of illness has a negative relationship with the perceptions of adult social role development ($p < .001$). Family environment, peer relationships and severity of illness are able to predict 59% of the variances of the perceptions of adult social role development ($p < .001$). Grounded theory method was used to analyze the qualitative data. The findings demonstrate that chronic illness is symbolically described as a part of life, an unwanted visitor, as a prison, a life interference, being close to death and a positive input for life. The impact of chronic illness on adolescents' daily lives is found to center on emergent themes: being different, stigma labeling, difficulty being independent, life is not a human life, anticipated future life struggles, and being a burden. The data of the impact of chronic illness on adolescents' adult social role development shows three categories of adolescents' perceptions of their adult social role development as follow: 1) perceived as being unable to develop their adult social roles, 2) perceived as having a struggling life leading to the development of an adult social role, and 3) perceived dependence on others to develop an adult social role.

Results of the study suggest that health care professionals need to be more attentive to how adolescents interpret their illness experiences. Empowerment programs should be developed in adolescents' nursing services. Appropriate school, peer and family environments must be provided for these adolescents to allow them to develop their adult social roles.