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SIRINAT SRIUMPORN: THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SELF-ESTEEM, SOCIAL SUPPORT, SELECTED FACTORS AND SELF-CARE BEHAVIOR IN PREGNANT ADOLESCENTS. THESIS ADVISORS: MALEE LERDMALEEWONG, B.Sc., M.N., PORNTHIP WONGVISETSIRIKUL, B.Sc., D.N.S., 100 P. ISBN 974-665-006-8.

Self-care behavior during pregnancy in pregnant adolescents is sometimes inadequate. The purpose of this descriptive research was to determine the relationship between self-esteem, social support, selected factors and self-care behavior in pregnant adolescents and to determine whether self-care behavior of pregnant adolescent can be predicted by those variables. Orem theoretical framework was adopted to guide this study. Purposive sampling was used to select 120 pregnant women aged not more than 19 years old who received antenatal care at Rajavithi Hospital during June to August, 1999. Inclusion criteria of the sample were: gestational age ranging from 28 weeks to delivery, no past history of any chronic illness before pregnancy, derived health education from nurse at least once, able to read and write Thai, and consent to participate in this study. The instruments used for data collection were: Rosenberg's self-esteem measurement, support behavior Inventory of House's conceptualization of social support, and self-care behavior during pregnancy questionnaire of Ruedee Pungbangkadee. The data was analyzed with the SPSS/FW Version 7.5 program.

The findings showed that there were statistically positive correlations between self-esteem, social support, level of education and intention for having a baby with self-care behavior in pregnant adolescents. Social support, self-esteem and intention for having a baby was able to explain 26.1 percent of variance of self-care behavior of pregnant adolescents with statistical significance. This meant that a pregnant adolescent who had high self-esteem, good social support, high education and intention for having a baby had good health-care behavior. Therefore, nurses or midwives should assess the level of self-care behavior of pregnant adolescents, and note the factors that might effect such behavior, before advising them of other inadequate aspects of self-care.