

4037097 NSPS/M : MAJOR: MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHIATRIC NURSING  
M.N.S. (MENTAL HEALTH AND PSYCHIATRIC NURSING)

KEY WORD : KNOWLEDGE /ATTITUDE/RELATIONSHIP /CAREGIVERS/  
PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS

WILAIWAN BUNRUANG : KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDES TOWARD  
MENTAL ILLNESS AND CAREGIVER- PATIENT RELATIONSHIPS: A STUDY  
OF CAREGIVERS OF PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS IN NORTHERN  
PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL.

THESIS ADVISORS : ATIRAT WATTANAPAILIN Ed.D., TASSANA BOONTONG  
Ed.D., WASSANA CHALAMKET M.Ed.. 100 P. ISBN 974-663-504-2

Psychiatric patients can not be responsible for themselves due to incorrect or inappropriate perceptions decisions and behaviors. Caregivers are necessary to provide continuous biological, psychological and social care for these patients. This research was a survey on knowledge and attitudes of caregivers toward mental illness and the caregiver-patient relationship. The patients were diagnosed with schizophrenia, mood (affective) disorder, mental and behavioral disorders due to psychiatric substance use, and psychosis. The sample was 380 caregivers, who took psychiatric patients to receive treatments in Suanprung psychiatric hospitals in the northern part of Thailand.

The questionnaires used in this study, included questions about demographic data about caregivers and demographic data about the psychiatric patients. Question concerning the caregiver's knowledge of mental illness, attitudes toward this illness and caregiver-psychiatric patient relationships were checked for validity reliability was found to be 0.70, 0.73 and 0.72 respectively. The data were analyzed by frequency distribution, percentage, mean and standard deviation.

The results of this study showed that most caregivers (77.4 percent) had good knowledge toward mental illness. The caregivers had moderate attitudes toward mental illness ( $\bar{X}=2.86, SD=0.33$ ), and caregiver-patient relationships were good ( $\bar{X}=3.32, SD=0.27$ ). Psychiatric nurses should provide strategies to create positive attitudes of caregivers toward mental illness. If the caregivers possess a positive attitude, they will be able to adequately care for the patient.