

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to study the effect of Beck's group cognitive therapy in decreasing depression of abused children. The study was a quasi-experimental research with pretest-posttest control group design.

The subjects were 19 abused children at the Saraburi Home Care for girls, who were between the age of 12-15 years and had normal intellect level. The subjects were divided into two groups, ten in the treatment group and nine in the control group, all participants were volunteerable and had depression. The treatment group participated in a four-week group therapy program consisted of 90-to 120-minute of twelve sessions with the researcher performed as the group leader. The control group did not participated in program. Instruments used in this study were:

1. The Beck's group cognitive therapy program, constructed by the researcher based on cognitive therapy.
2. The children's depression inventory (CDI) which was construct by Maria Kovacs that developed from Beck's depression inventory, translated into Thai version by Umaporn Trangkasombut.

The statistical Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test and Mann Whitney Test were conducted to determine significant differences in mean scores between two groups at pretest and posttest and during the four-week follow-up meeting with the treatment group. The results of this study were:

1. The analysis of the treatment group at pretest and posttest revealed statistically significant decrease in mean scores at .01 level.
2. The treatment group at posttest and four-week follow-up revealed statistically significant decrease in mean scores at .05 level.
3. The treatment group had statistically significant lower mean scores than the control group at .01 at posttest.
4. The treatment group had statistically significant lower mean scores than the control group at .01 at four-week follow-up.

In conclusion, abused children that participated in the Beck's group cognitive therapy program showed decreasing depression posttest and four-week follow-up.