

**4036697 RAMN / M : MAJOR : MATERNITY AND NEWBORN  
NURSING ; M.N.S.  
(MATERNITY AND NEWBORN  
NURSING)**

**KEY WORDS : POSTPARTUM MOTHERS /  
ADAPTATION / SOCIAL SUPPORT /  
PERCEPTION OF MATERNAL COMPETENCE /  
PERCEPTION OF NEWBORN BEHAVIORS.**

**SUPAKARN SIRIKARNA: RELATIONSHIPS AMONG PERSONAL  
FACTORS, SOCIAL SUPPORT, PERCEPTION OF MATERNAL  
COMPETENCE, PERCEPTION OF NEWBORN BEHAVIORS AND  
MATERNAL ROLE ADAPTATION OF POSTPARTUM MOTHERS. THESIS  
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LUECHA, Ed.D. 107 P. ISBN 974-663-833-5**

The purpose of this descriptive research was to investigate the relationships among personal factors, social support, perception of maternal competence, perception of newborn behaviors and maternal role adaptation of postpartum mothers. Roy adaptation theory was used to guide the study. The purposive sample consisted of one hundred and fifty of the first time mothers who attended the family planning clinic at Ramathibodi hospital. All data were collected using five questionnaires which addressed personal factors, maternal role adaptation, perception of newborn behaviors, perception of maternal competence, and postpartum social support for each mother. Data were analysed by using the SPSS/FW Version 7.5 program. Results revealed that the incidence of maternal role adaptation was relatively well. Age, years of education, social support, perception of maternal competence, perception of newborn behaviors were significantly correlated with maternal role adaptation of postpartum mothers. Age, social support, and perception of maternal competence explained 16.4 percent of variance of maternal role adaptation of postpartum mothers scores with statistical significance.

The results of this study, were recommended for nursing practice that nurses should encourage families to provide support and understanding to the first-time mothers throughout this difficult experience in order to adapt to maternal role easily and effectively.