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SOMPORN SANTIPRASITKUL : ADAPTATION IN ROLE FUNCTION OF HUMAN IMMUNE DEFICIENCY VIRUS INFECTED MALE. THESIS ADVISOR : KRONGKARN SANGKARD Ph.D, SUVIMOL KIMPEE M.Ed., YOTHIN SAWANGDEE Ph.D. 134 p. ISBN 974-589-966-6

HIV is a serious infectious disease which is mostly found in fertile males who are of working age, and who are the income providers for their families. HIV infection not only has effects on health but also carries a social stigma. In Thai social perception, HIV infection is an incurable disease associated with promiscuous men. The social stigma appears to be the reason that those infected adapt both physically and mentally. The aim of this study is focused on adaptation in secondary role of role function of HIV infected males. Data was collected by indepth interview and analysed by content analysis from 30 cases.

The study reveals that HIV infected males have already adapted their roles. In their role as fathers, many have become more closely involved with caring for their children, meanwhile some distance themselves from the children for fear of infecting them. However, most worry about who will look after the children and who will care for them after their deaths. As husbands, they feel guilty about contracting AIDS and passing it to their wives and as a consequence they pay more attention to their wives. They try to divert attention from the illness by encouraging their wives to go outdoors, but some cannot do this because of health and economic problems. It is claimed that some men concentrate on building up their finances, decrease sexual desire, and some abandon sexual intercourse because of the fear of spreading the infection. As patients, some accept the news of their infection calmly. Others, in contrast, become frustrated and worried. Some have the need to share their experiences with other HIV sufferers. Many pay more attention to their own health. Some seek out a cure from herbal medicine. Condoms are used widely to prevent the transmission of infection. Finally, as working men, most sufferers continue at their jobs and positions. Some have to change because of health problems, but still have contact and pursue activities with their colleagues.

Periodic counselling for evaluation of self care, self esteem and self efficacy promotion are recommended. Further studies in adaptation of role function in those infected with HIV could be directed to the predisposing factors in the groups which react in different ways to their infection.