

3836628 PHPH/M : MAJOR : FAMILY HEALTH ; M.Sc. (PUBLIC HEALTH)

KEY WORD : ELDERLY / QUALITY OF LIFE / ELDERLY LIFE - ACTIVITY /
HEALTH CARE SERVICE ACCESSIBILITY / SOCIAL SUPPORT

WANTANEE KHUMPHENG : FACTORS RELATED TO THE QUALITY OF LIFE
OF RURAL ELDERLY AT NAKORN RATCHASIMA PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISOR:
SUWAT SRISORRACHAT, B.ED., M.A., ORANUT PACHEUN, B.Sc., M.S., Dr.P.H.,
LUKANA TERMSIRIKULCHAI, B.Sc., M.A. 173 p. ISBN 974-589-109-6

The objective of this cross-sectional study was to assess the quality of life, and factors related to the quality of life of the rural elderly population. The samples unit consisted of 262 elderly people, aged sixty and over, who lived in a rural part of Nakornratchasima province. The subjects were selected by multistage sampling. For collecting the data a questionnaire was designed and administered between 17 February and 31 March, 1997. The data analysis included calculation of Pearson's product moment correlation coefficient and a stepwise multiple regression analysis.

The results showed that 69.1% of the subjects had a quality of life at a medium level. Quality of life in the high and low level were found in 16.8% and 14.1% of the subjects, respectively. The factors that were considered to be significantly associated with the quality of life were age, marital status, occupation, income, elderly life-activity, health care service accessibility and social support from neighbors. Through the application of the stepwise multiple regression, it was found that the quality of life of the rural elderly could be predicted by the level of elderly life-activity, health care service accessibility and income by approximately 29.84%.

From the result of this study it is suggested that the elderly be encouraged to participate in community development and provision be made for special facilities or programs for the elderly in health care center and home health care service. In addition, appropriate jobs for the elderly should be provided and close family relationship should be encouraged for inclusion of the elderly member.