

Abstract

CHILD REARING PRACTICES OF THAI FAMILIES: A QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE STUDY

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This study aimed to explore child rearing practices and their determinants of studied families in the Holistic Development of Thai Children study. The quantitative data were collected from 9,488 families with children aged 1-18 years old enrolled by a three stage stratified random sampling during September to December 2001. The qualitative data were collected by in-depth interview of 209 mothers/caretakers sampled from subjects enrolled in the quantitative study.

Results: From the in-depth interview, expectation of mothers/caretakers of children of all age group was similar across regions i.e. expecting children to be good, smart and have good career. To achieve this goal, most of them worked hard to save money for education of their children. They mostly used verbal approach to guide their children to learn rather than being a role model in reading or learning by themselves. In regard to gender role, most caretakers still held on to the tradition way of teaching boys to be strong and girls to be obedient and keen on household chores.

From the multivariate analysis, the most important determinant of child rearing of all age group was maternal educational level. Mothers with high education were likely to nurture their children's development far better than mothers with only compulsory education or lower.