

FACTORS INFLUENCING WELL-BEING AMONG FAMILIES WITH ADOLESCENTS LIVING IN AND AROUND BANGKOK, THAILAND

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Abstract: This cross sectional research sought to determine the effects socioeconomic status, life events, marital adjustment, parent-adolescent relationship, sense of coherence and neighborhood characteristics had on well-being among families with adolescents 13 to 18 years of age in and around Bangkok, Thailand. Family Systems Theory provided the theoretical framework for the study. Multistage cluster sampling was employed to recruit 280 families with adolescents from 24 communities in and around Bangkok. Data were collected through use of 7 questionnaires: the Family Well-Being Questionnaire; Socioeconomic Status Questionnaire: a modified version of the Locke Marital Adjustment Questionnaire; the Family Sense of Coherence Scale; a modified version of the Life Events Questionnaire; the Parent-Adolescent Relationship Scale; and, a modified version of the Neighborhood Characteristics Questionnaire.

The final model fit the empirical data well and explained 79% of the total variance in family well-being. Family sense of coherence, neighborhood characteristics and marital adjustment had significant positive direct effects on family well-being. Marital adjustment and family socioeconomic status had significant positive indirect effects on family well-being through family sense of coherence. Moreover, family socioeconomic status, marital adjustment and parent-adolescent relationship had significant positive direct effects on family sense of coherence. However, family life events and parent-adolescent relationship had non-significant indirect effects on family well-being through family sense of coherence. The findings have implications for multidisciplinary health care providers, teams and policy makers seeking to strengthen well-being among families with adolescents living in and around Bangkok.

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