

Abstract

The study of lifestyle and adaptation process of oldage nannies, grandmothers who become "mother" of their own grandchildren, done at Ban Pulek, Pulek sub-district, Banphai district, KhonKaen province aims at analyzing a process whereby the grandmothers adapt to their new mothering role. The author wanted to examine the impact of enactment of mothering role upon their daily life and their adaptation process. The study particularly focused on their feeling about their mothering role, their grandchildren, and themselves, using symbolic interactionist perspective, and consequently, a processal model as analytical framework. This study employed qualitative research method, and in-depth interview and observation techniques were used as means of data collection. Nineteen grandmothers who provided care for their grandchildren age between 0-6 years old were studied. There were two types of grandmothers : the working grandmothers , and the retired grandmothers.

The study identified three stages of adaptation : In the beginning stage, three common conditions bringing them into the mothering role were found : (1) the need to support their children working out of the village ; (2) the desire to resume their mothering role they longing for ; and (3) their felt bloodties to their grandchildren. In the transitional stage, adaptation process basically involved three spheres of life ; (1) daily working style ; (2) childrearing task ; and (3) financial management. Psychological bond between the grandmothers and their grandchildren were found during this stage. In the final stage, the commitment stage, whereby the grandmothers felt toward their grandchildren as if they were their "real" mother. In this stage of adaptation childrearing become "natural" as central part of their daily life.