

Abstract

The objectives of this study, “Social Solidarity in the Family and Outside the Family of the Elderly: A Care of Retired Government Officials in Bangkok,” were 1) to study level of social solidarity of the elderly, 2) to compare social solidarity in the family with social solidarity outside the family, and 3) to study relationship between some social background variables and social solidarity.

Macro concept of social solidarity was applied to the study of social integration at a micro-group in family and in friendship group. General social solidarity and four dimensions of social solidarity – normative, functional, associational, and affective solidarity – were used in the analysis.

The data were collected by means of questionnaire from a sample of 305 retired government officials living in Bangkok. The results of the study are as follows:

- 1) The elderly tended to have high level of social solidarity both in the family and in friendship group.
- 2) In the family, functional solidarity was the highest followed by normative, associational, and affective solidarity respectively. On the contrary, in friendship group, affective solidarity was the highest followed by functional and associational solidarity. It was concluded that in general the elderly tended to attach or integrate more to friendship group than to the family both in general integration and in every dimension of solidarity.
- 3) In the comparative analysis of relationship between social solidarity in the family and those in friendship group, it was found that, in general, both were positively related. Those who had high level of integration in the family tended to have high level of integration in friendship group. Interestingly, the data revealed that affective solidarity in the two groups was inversely relative. Those who had low affective solidarity in the family tended to have high affective integration in the friendship group outside the family.

4) On the relationship between social background variables and social solidarity, it was found that only age was positively related to social solidarity; the older the age, the higher the social integration.

5) In additional analysis, it was found that social solidarity was positively related to secure of well being: the higher the social integration of the elderly to the group the higher his/her secure of well-being

