

**AGEISM, STIGMA OF TUBERCULOSIS AND ILLNESS  
EXPERIENCE OF ELDERLY FEMALE PATIENT IN  
YOGYAKARTA INDONESIA**



**YUDHANTO EDDY HASTOMO**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF  
MASTER OF ARTS (HEALTH SOCIAL SCIENCE)  
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY**

**2013**

**COPYRIGHT OF MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY**

AGEISM, STIGMA OF TUBERCULOSIS AND ILLNESS EXPERIENCE OF  
ELDERLY FEMALE PATIENT IN YOGYAKARTA INDONESIA

YUDHANTO EDDY HASTOMO 5438167 SHHS/M

M.A. (HEALTH SOCIAL SCIENCE)

THESIS ADVISORY COMMITTEE: PIMPAWUN BOONMONGKON, Ph. D.,  
NATTHANI MEEMON, Ph. D., THAMARAT MAROHABUTR, Ph. D.

ABSTRACT

This study was aimed at understanding how social context in terms of women's roles and status, ageism, the stigma of tuberculosis (TB), and the health care context influences the elderly female patient's illness experience. An ethnographic study design was conducted involving observation combined with three focus group discussions with 8 elderly females, 8 elderly males, and 8 adults between the ages of 35-55; in-depth interviews with 15 elderly; and semi-structured interviews with 6 health workers.

The elderly female TB illness experience was affected by existing ageism and the stigma of TB that disadvantages their illness experience. Ageism among the elderly female was found in misconceptions, negative beliefs, and prejudice towards ageing patients. Stigmatization of TB affected elderly female patients such as in the expected mutual understanding to keep a distance from others or to have limited contact with the community and family members. Furthermore, this illness experience was unique, personal, and characterized by individual perceptions, irrationality, subjectivity, and perceived illness, which influenced the individual's health care seeking behavior.

Therefore, establishing a TB program among elderly females should involve better comprehension of the illness experience, and the information provided to them should be based on a sensitive approach by assisting and addressing concerns during treatment and medication.

KEY WORDS: CRITICAL MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY/ AGEISM/ STIGMA/  
ELDERLY ILLNESS EXPERIENCE / MEDICAL PLURALISM/  
TUBERCULOSIS

117 pages