

## ABSTRACT

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**Key Words:** ADHD, THAILAND, CULTURE AND ADHD, KNOWLEDE OF ADHD

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**Dissertation Title:** A STUDY ON THE KNOWLEDGE OF ADHD AMONGST THAIS AND INFLUENCE OF THAI CULTURAL FACTORS ON ATTITUDES AND PERCEPTIONS OF ADHD

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The current research examined the level of knowledg of ADHD in Thailand (study 1), as well as cultural factors that may influence attitudes/perceptions of ADHD in Thailand (study 3). As part of study 2, psychometric properties of measurement instruments/questionnaires used to assess cultural factors were evaluated for use in the Thai context. These measurement instruments were utilized in study 3. Study 1 utilized a sample of 614 Thai parents with school-aged children. Study 1 found that the sample answered 43.59% of the KADDS correctly . Study 2 (EFA and reliability analysis) utilized 200 Thais and study 3, 323 Thais (CFA) to examine the psychometric properties of the following instruments in a Thai context: Multidimensional Health Locus of Control Scales (MHLC), the SBI (Religious Beliefs/Practices), the Community Attitudes Towards the Mentally Ill scale, the ADHD Stigma questionnaire (ASQ) (attitudes towards ADHD), Choi's Analysis-Holism Scale, the ADHD Beliefs Scale-revised (perceptions of ADHD). Cronbach's alpha ranged from .814 to .909. Study 3 (n = 323) further analyzed the

relationship between cultural factors, such as religiosity, stigmatization of mental disorders, holistic thinking, health locus of control and attitudes/perceptions of ADHD, moderated by prior exposure to ADHD via SEM. Study 3 found significant relationships between cultural factors and negative opinions of ADHD; however, these negative opinions tended to be reduced by having prior exposure to ADHD. The current research aimed to contribute to the understanding of unique aspects of ADHD in Thailand. Future research may explore methods to increase knowledge of ADHD and reduce negative attitudes/perceptions of ADHD.

