

Research Title: Development of Law relating to Gratitude for Elderly in Thai Context
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ABSTRACT

This research aims at three objectives i.e. (1) To analyze the social and cultural context, obstacles linked to measures and law on gratitude; (2) To analyze policies, laws and strategies of foreign countries providing social security to the elderly especially those related to law on gratitude;. (3) To provide policy and legal suggestions to promote effective care for the elderly. The research utilized a mixed method including both qualitative research and quantitative research. The qualitative research exercised in-depth interview to 30 experts and related persons, document research and group discussion among 10 people. The quantitative research was utilized by questionnaires towards sample groups in 4 regions, totaling 400 people and using quota sampling method to collect data which were analyzed using descriptive statistics and reference research. The significant results of this research were summarized as follows:

1. At present filial piety problem in Thai society has not reached a critical point, not disappeared, merely decreased and had changing form pursuant to modern era. Thai society has still emphasized and endeavored to behave in good conduct by acting filial piety to parents who are elderly and not elderly, although it has limitations on time, money and distance.

2. Conversion of filial piety to be the law on gratitude may be done as same as 4 foreign countries where provide development of the law on gratitude but it must be high time of extreme necessity and appropriateness if such law on gratitude has coercion manner, penalty and other punitive measure in general against violators, otherwise detrimental effect will be occurred to the elderly, family and society.

3. Providing statutes of law and taking measure to promote/upheaval filial piety for the elderly who is not limited to parents are more possible than legislation of particular law on gratitude. The researchers suggest amendment to applicable laws such