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NANTANA PREDASUWAN : A STUDY OF IMPACT OF MARRIAGE AGE AND CONTRACEPTIVE USE PATTERN ON FERTILITY OF THAI WOMEN. THESIS ADVISOR : ASSOC. PROF. BHASSORN LIMANONDA, Ph.D. 127 pp. ISBN 974-584-975-8.

The objective of this study was to examine the impact of two proximate determinants on fertility of Thai women (represented by number of children ever born, CEB). They are; age at first marriage and contraceptive use pattern. The data used in the study were taken from the Thai Demographic and Health Survey 1988. Sample size composed of 4,246 currently married women who were married once and had at least one ever born child. To serve the study's objective, women were divided into two groups; those who were married before and married after the announcement of the national population policy in 1970.

The analysis showed that among women who were married during pre-policy period, and currently aged 30-39, the negative effect of marriage age on CEB was not obvious, while the relation was much clearer among women aged 40-49. For contraceptive use pattern, it showed that women who never used contraceptive generally had larger number of CEB than those who used it at some period of time.

Among women who were married during post-policy period, who currently aged 15-24, 25-29 and 30-49, marriage age had statistically significant negative effect on CEB. Women aged 15-24, 25-29 and 30-49 who never used contraception had larger number of CEB than those who started using contraception earlier but not used it currently or those who currently still use contraception.

The indepth analysis of joint effects of age at first marriage and contraceptive use indicated that among women who were either married during pre or post policy periods, age at first marriage compared to contraception had played vital role in determining the differentials in number of CEB.