

ORAPIN KOTABE : A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF FACTORS AFFECTING STERILIZATION
AMONG RURAL WOMEN IN NORTHEASTERN AND SOUTHERN THAILAND. THESIS
ADVISOR : ASSO. PICHIT PITAKTEPSOMPATI, Ph.D. 99 pp.

The purpose of this study is two-fold. First, it is to determine which factors are associated with sterilization among currently married women aged 15-49 in Northeastern and Southern Thailand. Secondly, it is to compare these factors in light of their relative effects towards sterilization among these women. Based on two surveys of sterilization, namely "Factors Affecting Sterilization Among Current Married Women in Rural Northeastern and Southern of Thailand," conducted in 1987 and 1988, respectively. Eligible women for this study are 499 and 482 persons from the Northeastern and the Southern Studies, respectively.

The analysis was divided into the two types : contingency analysis and multivariate analysis. The analysis comprised of three variables : one dependent variable : sterilization, one independent variable and one control variable-a comparison between actual and desired number of children. From the contingency analysis, it was found that in the rural Northeastern study, couple's age, couple's education, women's attitude towards two child family policy and the personnel who delivered women's last baby were significantly related or associated with couple's sterilization, as indicated by Gamma statistic of 0.20 or higher. Also, they were related as postulated. In the Southern study, it was found that couple's age, women's education, women's exposure to mass media and the personnel who delivered women's last babies significantly affected couple's sterilization, as indicated by the Gamma statistic of 0.20 or higher. Results from the multivariate analysis of the Northeastern Study indicated that husband's age was the most important factor influencing couple's sterilization. The subsequent important and having significant effects were the personnel who delivered women's last babies and women's attitude towards the two-child family policy, However, results of the Southern Study indicated husband's age was the most important factor influencing couple's sterilization. In addition, personnels who delivered women's last born babies, women's exposure to mass media, husband's occupation and women's education also affected couple's sterilization significantly.

The subsequent important factor influencing couple's sterilization. A different of two areas, it was women's attitude towards the two-child family policy, in the Northeastern, women's exposure to mass media and husband's occupation in the Southern.