

Jeeranun Phimthavorn 2013: Life Aspects of Single Mothers: The Case Study of Family Network Foundation in Bangkok. Master of Arts (Applied Sociology), Major Field: Applied Sociology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Thesis Advisor: Assistant Professor Sowatree Nathalang, Ph.D. 200 pages.

This qualitative research aimed to study; 1) life aspects of single mothers in family network foundation in Bangkok and 2) the single mothers' way of life and how they adjust themselves into Thai city in Bangkok. The example group for this study were 15 single mothers who are members of Family Network Foundation in Bangkok. Qualitative method was used for this research to get information in details and covers all the issues needed.

The results of the study showed that 1) the age of the sample group ranges from 38 to 53 years old. They are divorced and finished postgraduate level. They work as office employees and earn around 30,000 baht monthly. They have 1 kid on average after divorce. Most kids are male. The main cause for being single was having a deceased partner. The longest period of being single has been 18 years and the shortest has been a 1 year. 2) About the general wellbeing, there are drastic changes in many ways. Financially, they have less income with less ability to buy. Psychologically, they have mental stress due to the divorce which they learn to cope and face the situation as time goes by. The society accepts them and understands the situation. Their immediate family also understands the changed situation and ready to provide motivations and support both mentally and financially. There is no change in their career. 3) Regarding to the way of life, the adjustment and the preparation for raising kids, single mothers have to take all responsibilities and establish a financial plan for the kid's future. Most of them have structural plans in both education and social activities. They want to spend more time with the kids doing activities together as well.

The suggestions are divided into practical single mothers should be conscious in order to solve problems, realizing that the child is her first priority, encourage themselves, be positive, try to maintain good mental health and find a way to live happily with her kids. The advice for those considering becoming single mothers is that if a divorce is unavoidable, they should contemplate if they are able to raise children on their own, suggestion for policy experienced single mothers should provide mental guidance for those who are facing the crisis. Support from the government welfare and family organizations such as counseling and kids' activities will be very helpful.

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Thesis Advisor's signature