The purpose of this study is to investigate economic, social and demographic characteristics effecting the non-economic cost of children. The data used in this investigation are derived from The Survey of The Cost of Children in Rural-Urban Northeastern Thailand conducted by the Institute of Population Studies, Chulalongkorn University. The fieldwork was conducted during April and May in 1982. The sample for this thesis covers ever married women who have living children ages are one to twelve. Information on cost of raising children of every child were collected. There are 1,813 cases in total. The percentage distribution, Chi-square test and Gamma wereused for the analysis.

The results show that some of the economic, social and demographic characteristics of women including occupation, family income level, educational level, mass media exposure, household member, age, duration of marriage, number of living children and child's birth-order have a significant impact on the non-economic cost of children. Women who are agricultural workers are likely to have non-economic cost of children higher than those who are not in agricultural work. In addition, women who have lower annual family income, lower education and less exposure to mass media tend to have non-economic cost of children higher than those who have higher annual family income, higher educational attainment and greater exposure to mass media. Moreover, women who stay in the households with fewer members are also likely to have higher non-economic cost of children. Demographic characteristics, including age of women, duration of marriage, number of living children tend to have negative relationship with non-economic cost of children. Finally, frist parity child tend to impose higher non-economic cost of children than children of later parity. However, neither the type of household nor the sex of children has any influence on non-economic cost of children.

ภาควิชา ___สังคมวิทยาและมานุษยวิทยา___

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