

ABSTRACT

RESEARCH PAPER : Thai Women's Opinion and Behavior on Interracial Mate
Selection : A Study of Thai Women Who Marry Danish Men
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The main objectives of this research are to study Thai women's opinion and behavior in interracial mate selection by marrying Danish men; personal, social and cultural factors of Thai women including their family influences in marrying interracially with Danish men; problems and obstacles derived from marrying Danish men. Twelve Thai women who marry or living openly with Danish men as husbands were interviewed in-depth as key-informants in the matters.

Results of the research can be summarised as follows:

1. Thai women's perception of mate selection changed from their teen-age expectation, most of which dream of marrying men with good job, high income capable of raising the family well. However, before deciding to marry Danish men, their expectations were lower considerably to only their men accept and respect the women's orientation families. More than one-half of Thai women who married Danish men more than once, still wanted to marry Danish men again, if possible.
2. Personal factors influencing the selection of Danish men as husbands among Thai women are mostly emotional, e.g., loving, understanding and liking; these are the most important factors. Among social and cultural factors, economic and social mobility, receiving social welfare and better living condition for self and family are the major ones.
3. Reactions from women's families to their daughters marrying Danish men are mixed, i.e., 50% accept since the beginning while the rest does not accept at first. No Thai women informants consulted their parents before marrying Danish men, after which they came to tell their parents and asked for acceptance.

4. Major problems and obstacles in marrying Danish men are skills in Danish language communication of which many Thai women lack. The adjustments between husbands and wives including their families are not a big problem.

Recommendations emerged from this research, among others, are Thai women wish to marry Danish men should understand Danish culture, language, social welfare system which emphasize self-reliance, for their better adaptation to Danish society.