

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This chapter reviews the literature in 4 main areas along with a summary: (1) the theory of esteem need, (2) the concept of social role (3) relevant research, and (4) summary.

2.1 THE THEORY OF ESTEEM NEED

The Esteem Need is the third stage of the Hierarchy of Needs which was developed by Abraham Maslow since 1940-1950's in the USA. The esteem needs can be divided into two types. First is self-esteem which results from competence of a task and the other is attention and recognition that comes from others. This is similar to the sense of belonging level; however, wanting admiration has to do with the need for power. Maslow believes that the only reason that people would not move well in the direction of self-actualization is because of hindrances placed in their way by society. He states that education is one of these hindrances. He recommends ways education can switch from its usual person-stunting tactics to person-growing approaches. Maslow states that educators should respond to the potential an individual has for growing into a self-actualizing person of his/her own kind. (Simons, J. A., Irwin, D. B., & Drinnin, B. A., 1987, p. 487) The diagram of this theory is as follows.



Note: The Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Pyramid. Retrieved November 9, 2007, from <http://www.ruralhealth.utas.edu.au/comm-lead/leadership/Maslow-Diagram.htm>

2.2 THE CONCEPT OF SOCIAL ROLE

The basic concept of social role is the different behavior and role of men and women towards social situations. Vogel indicated in his research that Eagly explained that Social role theory proposes that one reason women and men confirm gender stereotypes is because they act in accordance with their social roles, which are often segregated along gender lines. Due to the social role that women and men perform this requires different skills and it is associated with different expectations from society, women and men behave in gender-typed ways. Women more frequently exhibit traditionally feminine behaviors such as nurturance and a concern over personal relationships. They can rear children and take care of aging people better than men. Meanwhile men more frequently exhibit traditionally masculine behaviors such as leadership and assertiveness qualities and are more likely to work outside of the home than women. According to social role theory, women and men confirm gender stereotypes in a large part because the different roles that they perform place different social demands upon them (Vogel, 2003, p. 1).

Motherhood and giving birth is the main role of women and a process of life which women in the past realized as an important duty for all women. In this modern period, even the concept of reproduction is universal to promote population growth, the concept of motherhood is changed in women. The belief about childbirth is changed from the past.

In ancient times, the reason to have a child is as mentioned the need for an heir production, because Thailand society was an agricultural society. A child is concerned with laboring in the field. Having more children is having extra hands for household chores and field work. The belief about children is, producing a son is a service a wife owed her husband and his family. (Reneau, 2002, p. 1)

In the middle era, women seem to have had a greater role in society, the reason for having a child changed a little bit. Children are meant as a gift from heaven. Giving birth is a way for women to achieve the respected status of motherhood and paved the road from childhood to adulthood.

In modern times, some women still hold to the old value but some do not. Therefore the value of children has changed in this present period. Some women have a baby because they think children will help a problematic or struggling marriage and

assume that a baby will bring the couple closer together, meanwhile some women believe having a child is a hard work and is not necessary for them, thus they decided to stay single rather than get married and give birth.

As a result from the changing of an agricultural society to an industrialized one, the fertility rate in Thailand has continuously declined. As shown in the statistical report from UNICEF, the total fertility rate decreased from 5.5 in 1970 to 1.9 in 2005, and Thailand has experienced a 'reproductive revolution' (Bencha Yoddumnern-Attig, 1992, p. 13). Nowadays the proportion of 4-5 children per woman which was twenty years ago has changed to 1.6 (ปราโมทย์ ประสาทกุล, 2550, น. 2).

Table 1. The Rate of Progress

Rate of Progress	
Under-5 mortality rank	108
Under-5 mortality rate, 1970	102
Under-5 mortality rate, 1990	37
Under-5 mortality rate, 2005	21
Average annual rate of reduction (%)?, 1970-1990	5.1
Average annual rate of reduction (%)?, 1990-2005	3.8
Average annual rate of reduction (%)?, Reduction since 1990 (%)?	43
GDP per capita average annual growth rate (%), 1970-1990	4.8
GDP per capita average annual growth rate (%), 1990-2005	2.7
Total fertility rate, 1970	5.5
Total fertility rate, 1990	2.2
Total fertility rate, 2005	1.9

Note: The Rate Progress of Thailand, by Unicef. Retrieved November 9, 2007, from http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/Thailand_statistics.html

While the fertility rate declined, the mortality rate is gradually increasing, because Thai people have longer life spans. ปราโมทย์ ประสาทกุล (2550, น. 2) indicated that the variable of low birth rates is the main factor forming an old-age population bomb

and a change of population's age. The Office of the National Statistics observes that in the future, Thailand may risk the crisis of having a larger elderly population than a working population which will cause the next generation who are working-age people to have a hard burden in developing the country. The high number of elderly will effect both economic and social development, such as consumption, investigation, labor market, old-age pension, revenue, public health service, family institute, etc.

2.3 RELEVANT STUDIES

2.3.1 The study of Robyn Parker and Michael Alexander (2004, p. 24-31)

The study aimed to gather prospective and retrospective data; assess the degree of coincident between couples' views and expectations and those whose views carry the greater influence in predicting fertility outcomes and decisions; foster a clearer understanding of the importance of particular factors influencing fertility behavior posited by numerous researchers in the past decade. The result of the study is as follows:

- The importance of each partner's work, parenting roles, the practical and emotional aspects of having, raising, and providing for children are considered as key roles when men & women think about having a child.
- Women express more concern than men about the male partner's having the time and energy to put into his career and about the stress and worry associated with having the first or additional child.
- Women are more likely to assume most of the responsibility for the everyday care of the children more than men.

2.3.2 The study of Priscila Diaz, Thierry Devos, Erin Viera, and Roger Dunn (2005, p. 1)

The study aimed to investigate the capacity to which college women derive self-esteem from their identification with and their attitude toward motherhood and compare students with and without children where motherhood status may have an influence on the range of agreement between explicit and implicit measures of the

significance of motherhood in the students' self-concepts. The result of the study is as follows:

- Motherhood elicits more positive feelings than college education to college women.
- The implicit appeal of motherhood among students who are not mothers and among students who are also currently raising children are equally strong.
- Student, who held a high positive attitude toward motherhood and identified with motherhood, will have high self-esteem.
- Attention to the persistent character of gender roles on self-knowledge operates outside of conscious awareness because individuals may not be informed of the critical components of their self-esteem.

2.3.3 The study of Yetmgeta Eyayou¹, Yemane Berhane and Legesse Zerihun (2003, p. 171-174)

The study aimed to describe the socio-cultural factors affecting decisions related to fertility in the Suri ethnic group, Ethiopia. The result of the study is as follows.

- Children are highly valued and desired regardless of their sex because both sexes fill a very crucial gap in the cultural, economic and social life of a Suri family.
- Couples with many children are respected because it is considered as insurance against high child mortality that is highly prevalent in the area.
- Children are thought of as extra hands for cattle herding, household chores, and as a source of security and wealth through dowries.

The Suri couples are restricted from having the number of children they always desired by various factors such as child welfare, deterioration of maternal health due to closely spaced births and the continual threat of violence and bloodshed from neighboring Dizi, Me'en, Anuak and Bume tribes primarily for cattle in the area.

2.3.4 The study of C.Lampic, A.Skoog Svanberg, P.Karlström and T.Tydén (2006, p. 558-564)

This study aims to investigate perceptions of fertility issues, intentions for childbirth; including attitudes towards parenthood among male and female university students. The results of the study are as follows.

- The participants who did not have children, stated that they wanted to have children some day and preferred to have between two and three children.
- Women were significantly more pessimistic than men regarding the effect of parenthood on career and relationships with partners.
- Women's and men's preferred mean ages for having a child are in line with the mean ages of first-time parents in Sweden in 2004.
- Most women would like to have their last child between ages 35 and 44 years, an age period during which female productive capability declines.
- Women thought having children as being significantly more important than did men, which means that women were more likely to practice IVF treatment or adopt a child if they lose their fertility.
- Both men and women also regarded that the most important circumstance for their decision to be a parent are living in a stable relationship, sharing responsibility with a partner and feeling sufficiently mature.

This chapter has shown all literature reviews and relevant studies which will be used as sources of reference to discuss the findings of the study.