

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **CONCLUSIONS, DISCUSSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

This chapter presents (1) a summary of the study, (2) a summary of the findings, (3) discussions, (4) conclusions, and (5) recommendations for further research.

#### **5.1 SUMMARY OF THE STUDY**

The social and economic change effects the concept of motherhood, including the attitude of having a child by women.

##### **5.1.1 Objectives of the Study**

The main purpose of this study is to investigate 25-35 years old working women's attitude, both single and married, towards having a child.

The sub-objectives of this study are to look at the characteristics of women who have positive or negative attitudes toward having a child and to describe their reason for having or not having children.

##### **5.1.2 Subjects, Materials, and Procedures**

The subjects used in this study consisted of 125 females, aged 25-30 years old and 125 females, aged 30-35 years old who are all workers in Bangkok. Data in this study were collected from books, journals, websites and the responses to the questionnaires. All data received from the study were analyzed by the SPSS program.

#### **5.2 SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS**

The results of the study can be summarized as follows:

##### **5.2.1 Personal Information**

From the study, it was found that half of the participants were women aged from 25 to 30 years old and other half were women aged from 30 to 35 years old. Most of them are single and hold a Bachelor's degree. The highest number of participants responding to the survey was employees of private companies in the position of general official, who earned below 15,000 Baht/month. The great part of the respondents did not have any personal problems as regard becoming pregnant, as well as experience of pregnancy.

### **5.2.2 Family Characteristics**

It was noticed that most of the participants came from functional families. The single participants mostly lived with their own parents, more than stayed alone or lived with friends or cousins. Most of the married participants stayed with their partners who earn 15,000-30,000 Baht/month as a single family more than stayed together with their own parents or their partner's parents as a patriarchal family.

### **5.2.3 Intention to Have a Child**

The result showed that the majority of the participants had never been faced with experience of having a first child. A large number of single and married participants did not expect to have children when they are married and had never planned to have a child. Regarding the desired number of children, most of the participants expected to have two children: the first child at age of 31-35 years old, a fecundity start period in women; and the last child at the age of 35 years old.

It was noticed that most of participants did not know about the start and end period of fecundity in women. A small number of the participants agreed to continue their married lives without children more than accepting to undergo IVF or adopting a baby.

### **5.2.4 Factors Influencing to a Decision of Having a Child**

The majority of participants agreed that job security and good monetary condition are primary factors they will be concerned about when they make a decision to have a child. Beside the two primary factors, a further six factors were indicated as their secondary factors: a stable relationship with mate, a partner they can share the responsibility with, sufficient maturity, good physical health, good mental health and their partner's job security. A small number of the participants related that the government fertility control program is an important factor for them.

### **5.2.5 Attitudes Toward Having a Child**

It was noticed that the participants have a positive attitude toward having a child. Most of the participants believed that children are the center of the family and represent the love between husband and wife, and they didn't believe that children will make them become insane and be their burdens making them lose money, time and freedom.

The participants felt neutral in some aspects of attitude toward having a child which were that children can raise their social status; children are their hard work; the children are tools that hold parents together; children are the product which the wife has to serve the husband.

### **5.3 DISCUSSIONS**

This section discusses the outstanding issues in 3 areas: the participants' intention to have a child, factors influencing the decision to have a child and the attitudes toward having a child.

#### **5.3.1 Participants' Intention to Have a Child**

In reference to Chapter two, Vogel (2003, p. 1) indicated Eagly interpreted that with social role theory, women and men confirm gender stereotypes in large part because the different roles that they perform place different social demands upon them. The result of the study shows that most women obtain education and work outside the home and they do not expect to have children when they are married; additionally, they had never planned to have a child.

According to the study of C.Lampic, A.Skoog Svanberg, P.Karlström and T.Tydén (2006, p. 560) in chapter two, most women would like to have their last child between the ages of 35 and 44 years, an age period during which female productive capability declines. With this study, the participants expect to have the last child at the age of 35 years old.

Regarding the study of C.Lampic, A.Skoog Svanberg, P.Karlström and T.Tydén (2004, p. 560), women thought having children as being significantly more important than men, which means that women were more likely to practice IVF treatment or adopt another child if they lose their fertility. In this research, most of the participants agreed to continue their married lives without children.

#### **5.3.2 Factors Influencing to a Decision of Having a Child**

Referring to the study of C.Lampic, A.Skoog Svanberg, P.Karlström and T.Tydén (2004, p. 562) in chapter two, women regarded that the most important circumstance on their decision to be a parent is living in a stable relationship, sharing responsibility with a partner and feeling sufficiently mature. And the study of Robyn Parker and Michael Alexander (2004, p. 31), the importance of each partner's work,

parenting roles, the practical and emotional aspects of having, raising, and providing for children are considered key roles when men & women think about having a child.

In this research, women regard that the most important factors influencing a decision on having a child are the eight factors as follows;

- 1) good monetary condition
- 2) job security
- 3) stable relationship with mate
- 4) partner who can share the responsibility
- 5) partner's job security
- 6) good mental health
- 7) sufficient maturity
- 8) good physical health

### **5.3.3 The Attitudes Toward Having a Child**

In reference with Chapter two, the study of Priscila Diaz, Thierry Devos, Erin Viera, & Roger Dunn (2005, p. 1), couples with many children are respected because it is considered as insurance against high child mortality that is highly prevalent in Africa. From this study, only a few participants believe children can raise their social status.

According to the study of Priscila Diaz, Thierry Devos, Erin Viera, & Roger Dunn (2005, p. 1), children are thought of as extra hands for cattle herding, household chores, and as a source of security and wealth through dowries. In this research only a few participants stated that children are no-wage labors of family. Most participants believe children are the center of the family, the family's offspring, heir production and representatives of love between couples.

## **5.4 CONCLUSIONS**

The following conclusions can be drawn from the discussion above.

5.4.1 Forces by economic factors to work outside the home and the higher education obtained by women, their social role has gradually changed. Children are not their expectation after marriage; and they have no plans to have a child.

5.4.2 Even most working women do not expect to have a child after marriage, they still have positive attitudes toward children and that children are not a

burden which make them lose a lot of money & time, freedom, career opportunity, and risk of a blood infection / blowing out of amniotic.

5.4.3 The main reasons for having or not having children by working women, aged from 25-35 years old are physical health and time constraints.

5.4.4 Nowadays, the trend to stay single, delay marriage and delay pregnancy of women is higher.

5.4.5 Children's value to a family in terms of natural extensions of a committed relationship; however, if the women cannot have children, they agreed to continue their married lives without children.

5.4.6 The government fertility control program does not have much effect on the decision to have a child in working women.

## **5.5 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEACH**

Base on the findings and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations are made for further study.

5.5.1 Since this research has focused on only the attitudes of working women aged between 25-35 years old (fertility period age), the researcher has found that one more factor which influences the decision on having a child is their partner or husband. Further study is suggested to concentrate on men in order to find out their attitudes toward having children, the intention to have a child and factors influencing a decision to have a child

5.5.2 As the trend of single, delayed marriage and delayed pregnancy of women is higher and the increasing number of couples agreeing to continue their married lives without children. Moreover, the government fertility control program does not have much effect on the decision to have a child in women. Thailand may risk a crisis of having an elderly population more than the working population which will cause the next generation who are working-age people to have a hard burden in developing the country. For this reason, further research should find out the direction of the government productive fertility control program for Thai society.