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MANEERAT PHAKTOOP : IMPACT OF MIGRATION ON AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE OF THAIS . THESIS ADVISOR : APICHART CHAMRATRITHIRONG, Ph.D., PHILIP GUEST, Ph.D., WASSANA IM-AIM, Ph.D. NAWARAT PHLAINOI, Ed. D. 195 p. ISBN 974-662-200-5

This paper examines the relationship between migration and the timing of first marriage in Thailand, using data from the 1992 National migration Survey (NMS) and the 1970, 1980, 1990 censuses as well as qualitative data collected in 1998. The methods used for analysis include descriptive methods to describe the sample, life tables to estimate the number of months after age of fifteen until marriage and proportional hazard models for the multivariate analysis.

Results indicate that migration slows the timing of first marriage for both males and females. The number of moves before marriage is linearly and positively related to the timing of marriage. There is a variation in the timing of first marriage by direction of migration, with migrants who moved from rural to rural areas exhibiting a more rapid tempo than migrants who under took other types of moves. Migrants who moved from urban to urban areas had the highest tempo of marriage. Concerning time spent in their new places, females who lived in their new places for one year before marriage had the most rapid tempo of marriage, followed by males who lived in their new places for 2-4 years. If migrants lived more than five years, the timing of marriage by females was slower than that of males. There is no difference in the tempo of marriage between migrants who moved within province, within regions or between regions. Others variables that affect timing of marriage include sex, in which males have a later age of marriage than females, higher education, and higher status occupations which are associated with later timing of marriage. Analysis effects of community variables shows that the effects of origin variables diminish when controlled by destination variables.