

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents (1) a summary of the study, (2) a summary of the findings, (3) discussions of whether the attitudes toward married life of men is different from the attitudes in married life of women, and factors affecting men's attitudes and women's attitudes in married life regarding: financial management, household chores, babysitting, spousal treatment, and spouse's relatives (4) conclusions, and (5) recommendations for further study.

5.1 SUMMARY OF THE STUDY

This section summarizes the objectives of the study, subjects, materials, and procedures

5.1.1 Objectives of the Study

The study aimed to reveal if the attitudes toward married life between men and women in Bangkok are different. It also identified what factors influence men's and women's attitudes in 5 spheres: financial management, household chores, babysitting, spousal treatment, and spouse's relatives.

5.1.2 Subjects, Materials, and Procedures

The subjects were 102 married people in Bangkok who were divided into 2 groups: married men and married women. The instrument used in this study was a questionnaire which comprised three parts as shown below:

Part 1: General information of respondents including gender, age, number of years married, number of children, level of education, income per month, and the person who took care of their children (in case that married person had children).

Part 2: Attitudes toward married life. This part was further separated into five sub-parts: financial management, household chores, babysitting, spousal treatment, and spouse's relatives. It was designed to investigate attitudes of married people in Bangkok by using five-point Likert scales to measure if married people were aware of those attitudes which influenced their married life.

Part 3: Other comments and suggestions. This part was provided to the subjects to enter comments and suggestions and to express their ideas toward married life.

5.2 SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

The results of the study can be summarized as follows:

5.2.1 General information of respondents

The ratio of married men and women shared the same percentage of 50. Of the respondents, 42.16% were between 31-40 years old, followed by those whose ages are between 21-30 years old (25.49%). Only 2.94% of the respondents were aged below 20 years old. According to the number of married years, 39.22% of the respondents were married between 1-5 years, followed by those who were married more than 15 years, accounting for 28.43%. For the number of children, more than half of the subjects (56.86%) had 1-2 children. Only 9.80% of the respondents had children more than 3-4. Regarding the education level of the subjects, almost half of the respondents (43.14%) received a Bachelor's Degree. The percentage of the respondents who received primary school and a high school diploma were the same, i.e. 10.78%. Regarding monthly income of the respondents, most of them earned between 10,001 - 20,000 baht, followed by those whose income was in the range of 5,001 – 10,000 baht. Only one respondent (0.98%) did not reveal his/her income per month. Lastly, nearly half of the respondents (48.04%) took care of their own children. 31% of the respondents did not answer to this question because they did not have children.

5.2.2 Attitude toward five areas.

1) Financial Management

The majority of the subjects agreed with all of the statements which were: women should control the central budget of the family to take care of the household expenses (47.06%), men should take care of the majority of the household expenses (49.02%), personal expenses should be separated from the main expenses (54.90%), the irregular expenses should be shared between husband and wife (63.73%), and the ratio of the expenses should be divided according to the income level (49.02%).

2) Household Chores

The greater part of the subjects agreed with the first four statements which were: women should take care of the majority of household chores, whoever was available, that person should do the housework, household chores should not be the sole responsibility of either husband or wife, and the respondents agreed that they did not feel bad if their spouses did not do housework every day. In contrast, the subjects disagreed that some particular housework was only for the particular gender.

3) Babysitting

Per taking care of the children, most of the subjects agreed that whoever is available, that person should babysit, and that this responsibility should not be the sole task of either the husband or the wife. It should be equally shared between a husband and a wife. On the other hand, the main respondents disagreed that women should be solely responsible for babysitting, and they indicated that they felt badly if their spouse did not babysit their own children.

4) Spousal Treatment

According to the treating behavior of their spouses, the majority of the respondents agreed with all of the statements. They were satisfied with their spouses' behavior as follows:

4.1) More than half of the respondents (71.29%) agreed that they were satisfied with their spouse's behavior.

4.2) Even though spousal treatment before and after marriage was a bit different, 59.80% of the respondents agreed that they did not think it was a big issue in married life.

4.3) 54.90% of the respondents agreed that their spouses behavior after marriage barely changed compared to the behavior before marriage.

4.4) 65.69% of the respondents agreed that they recognized their spouses' behavior before marriage and they were able to accept that behavior.

4.5) Fifty-three subjects (51.96%) agreed that they did not want their spouses to treat them differently after marriage.

5) The respondents' relatives and their spouse's relatives

Regarding the respondents' relatives and their spouse's relatives, the greater part of the subjects agreed with all of the statements. They agreed that:

5.1) their relatives and their spouse's relatives were sometimes a part of the family decisions (37.25%).

5.2) their relatives and their spouse's relatives were not the major cause of the family problems (50%).

5.3) their relatives and their spouse's relatives sometimes supported their families (63%).

5.4) their relatives and their spouse's relatives should visit from time to time (71%).

5.5) they were satisfied with the behavior of their relatives and their spouse's relatives toward them (62.63%).

5.2.3 Other comments and suggestions

In the last section of the questionnaire, there were three open-ended questions and each question received numerous different comments and suggestions. Those comments and suggestions were summed up as below:

1) The first question asked if there was any factor affecting attitudes toward married life, if yes, what it was. 87.25% of the respondents did not reply to the question. However, the majority of the respondents (6.86%) provided the same comment that the social life and work status was another factor that affected their attitudes toward marriage.

2) For the area that the respondents would like their spouses to improve the most, 58.82% of the respondents did not fill in the answer. 12.75% of the respondents commented that they would like their spouses to improve financial status, followed by sharing household chores (6.86%).

3) Regarding the question of what the subjects thought was the most crucial factor to maintain happy married life, 47.06% of the respondents left the answer blank. The outstanding factor that the subjects considered crucial to maintaining happiness in their marriage was an attitude of understanding (31.37%). The least crucial factors to lengthen married life were love, adjustment, compromising, and respect.

5.3 DISCUSSION

This section presents a discussion of the study results with relation to the research posed in Chapter 1.

5.3.1 Differences between men's and women's attitudes toward married life.

The study results reveal that the attitudes toward married life between men and women were more or less the same in almost all respects. Nevertheless, the attitudes of both sexes were significantly different in four areas which are: women should control the central budget of the family to take care of the household expenses, men should take care of the majority of the household expenses, spousal

behavior after marriage barely changed compared to the behavior before marriage, and relatives and spouse's relatives sometimes supported family.

From the table, it can be concluded that most of the attitudes toward married life between men and women are the same. On average, both men and women possessed knowledge of married life and were aware of some foreseen problems before and after marriage. The results of this study are consistent with the research by สุวรรณี พุทธิศรี และ นงพงา ลิ้มสุวรรณ (2546) that most of the married couples in Bangkok were satisfied with their married life even though they were experiencing family problems e.g. financial or household issues.

Compared to the research of รจนา, the results of this study are in contrast with the research by รจนา กุลรัตน์ (2545). The Research of รจนา reveals that the majority of the respondents were experiencing problems after marriage and they were not satisfied with their married life. However, the respondents of รจนา's research were not specified to be people in Bangkok, it was possible that the sampling group of รจนา and the sampling group of this study might not be same. As a result, the outcomes were opposite.

5.3.2 Factors influencing men's and women's attitudes in 5 spheres: financial management, household chores, babysitting, spousal treatment, and spouse's relatives.

Per the research Factors Affecting the Marriage Quality of Working Couple by Perrone & Warthinton (2001), one of its results was household economy. Income was one of the significant factors affecting the quality of married life which was consistent with one of factors in this study: financial management. Most of the respondents in this study were satisfied with their financial management which can be supported by Perrone & Warthinton's research that if the financial status of the family is sufficient, married life tends to be satisfying.

The study by จันทร์ชนก โยธินชัชวาล (2544) was also similar to the outcome of this study. Namely, จันทร์ชนก's study pointed out that if a married couple possessed a stable economic status that couple tended to not have significant family problems.

Regarding household chores and babysitting, most of the respondents in this study agreed that if their spouses shared household chores and babysitting, the respondents would be more satisfied with their marriages. Most of the respondents also agreed that household chores and babysitting should not be the sole responsibility of a particular gender. Whoever had more time should be in charge. This result was similar to that of the กิตติศักดิ์'s study.

5.3.3 Other related factors

Economy, politics, and society were parts of influence to married life. Some of the respondents in this study commented that society was one of the factors affecting marriage satisfaction and attitudes which responded to Perrone and Worthington (2001) that support from society could control happiness in marriage.

Communication was a factor reflecting the quality of married life (Perrone and Worthington, 2001). Some of the respondents in this study also expected their spouses to improve communication methods because they believed good communication between husbands and wives could create better understanding between each other. It was similar to Gomez's article (2009) suggesting that communication from the first date could control the entire of married life.

5.4 CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions can be drawn from the discussion above.

5.4.1 The attitudes toward married life between men and women in Bangkok are more or less the same. Nevertheless, they are significantly different regarding financial management, spousal treatment, and relatives. Most women agreed they should take care of the majority of the household expenses. As for the treating behavior of the spouse, men agreed that their spouses' behavior barely

changed after marriage. With regard to relatives, women were more likely than men to agree that their relatives and their spouses' relatives provide their family support.

5.4.2 The factors of financial management, household chores, babysitting, spousal treatment, and spouse's relatives influence men's and women's attitudes toward married life.

5.4.3 Married couples in Bangkok are aware of marital problems and are knowledgeable about marriage.

5.4.4 As each person has expectations from his/her marriage partner and also cherish certain factors to maintain happiness in married life, these expectations and factors should be taken into consideration by every married couple.

5.5 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Based on the findings and conclusions of this study, the following recommendations are made for future research.

5.5.1 The subjects used in this study were limited by the particular number and the area of Bangkok. The result might not be able to represent the entire population in Thailand. Nonetheless, the result was able to give an overall idea of the citizens in Bangkok with regard to how well they understand factors influencing their married lives. For further study, the sample size should be increased and should include people outside Bangkok so that the result can be generalized to reflect the entire population of the country.

5.5.2 There are some interesting factors affecting married life commented by the subjects such as understanding, honesty, forgiveness, trust, etc. Further research related to this topic should include those factors to expand the areas of the study.