CHARDSUMON PRUTIPINYO: DETERMINANTS OF CURRENT WORKING RATE OF WOMEN AT PROVINCIAL LEVEL: ANALYSIS BY OCCUPATIONAL CATEGORIES. THESIS ADVISORS: KRITIYA ARCHAVANICHKUL, Ph.D., YOTHIN SAWANGDEE, Ph.D., SUREEPORN PUNPUING, Ph.D., CHURNRURTAI KANCHANACHITRA, Ph.D., ROSARIN GRAY, Ph.D. 233 p. ISBN 974-664-384-3.

This study examined, 1) the trend and pattern of work among women between 1969-1997 and 2) the determinants of working rate of women by type of occupation. The reports of a labor force survey between 1969 to 1997 of the National Statistical Office (NSO) were gathered in order to describe trends and patterns of work among women. The micro data from the labor force survey conducted by NSO in 1993 and 1998 were used for the second analysis. This study found that the expansion of economics during the 3 decades had resulted in a continuous increase in the working rate of women. In urban areas, high proportions of women's job were concentrated in industrial and service sectors. On the contrary, the majority of women in rural areas still worked in the agricultural sector as unpaid workers despite the Thai policy emphasizing industrialization.

The patterns of work were similar between 1993 and 1998. This study offers 6 submodels for predicting the working rate of women with demographic and socio-economic conditions between those 2 years. Most women's work was concentrated in three types of occupation: agricultural workers and farmers, sales workers, and craftsmen and laborers. The multiple regression analysis found that the rate of secondary educational attainment in women was the most influential factor in determining the working rate of women. This factor had a positive relationship with the working rate of women in sales, clerical, and professional fields, but a negative relationship with working rate of women in agricultural occupations. The informal labor market was positively related to the working rate of women in sales and agricultural occupations. The rate of migration and population in municipal areas was positively related to the working rate of women in clerical and service positions. Other factors, such as family size, unemployment rate, and wage rate proved inconsistent in explaining the working rate of women. In conclusion, Thai experiences of economic restructuring and increased educational attainment of women had resulted in an increased rate of work and occupational diversity among women. The models may be of benefit for policymakers, in that education should be provided and appropriated to the demands in the labor market, in order to combine agricultural and non-agricultural sectors.