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THONGCHAI SRIMUANG : THE POST-MARITAL STATUSES OF HMONG WOMEN : A CASE STUDY OF BAN THAPBOEK, WANGBAN SUB-DISTRICT, LOMKAO DISTRICT, PHETCHABUN PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISORS : RUENGDET PANKHUENKHAT, Ph.D., IAM THONGDEE, M.A., YONGYUTH BURASITH, M.A., 119 p. ISBN 974-04-2137-7

The objectives of this qualitative research were to study the post-marital statuses of Hmong women, changes of their statuses and factors or conditions influencing those changes. The data collection methods included interviews and participatory/non-participatory observations.

The study findings revealed that there were several post-marital statuses of Hmong women, including daughters-in-law, wives and mothers. Their statuses were restricted, secondary to those of men and wives who follow their husbands wishes. However, they were granted the right to pay homage to the ancestor spirits of their husbands and live with their husband's relatives. Regarding the power to make decisions and rights concerning family affairs, it was revealed that women's were restricted and different according to the family type. In an extended family, decisions were made by parents of the husband while the wife was a crucial laborer in the family and was required to provide services to the husband and his parents. In a nuclear family, decision-making by the husband was regarded as absolute while the duties of the wife included being a significant laborer and serving the husband. Factors making the statuses of women secondary to those of men were the male-dominated values and the capitalistic economic system, raising the values of men's work while degrading that of women.

From the research findings, it is recommended that state agencies improve and promote the statuses of these women by establishing women development organizations in communities with a mission to empower them from the suppression of men.