

Thesis Title : Factors Relating to the Participation in Family Planning of the Royal Thai Airforce Officers

Name : Kasama Rochananil

Degree : Master of Education (Population Education)

Thesis Supervisory Committee :

Supawan Plainoi, Ed.D.

Paitoon Potisarn, Ed.D.

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ABSTRACT

The purposes of this study were to ascertain as to how the Royal Thai airforce officers participated in family planning and to study the relationship between the participation in family planning of such officers and the population, economic, social and psychological factors.

The population for the study included 700 married male Thai airforce officers from the ranks of corporal up to group captain who were stationed in the Bangkok Metropolis areas. A questionnaire and three tests were used to collect data which were then computerized with the SPSS/Pc⁺ program. The percentage, Arithmetic Means, Standard Deviation, Correlation and Multiple Correlation Analysis were used as statistical tools.

The research results are as follows:

1. As regards the general characteristics of the population, the officers' average age was 39 years, the average marriage time was 13 years, the average age of the officers' wives was 36 years, most of the wives were government officials and their highest educational attainments were Higher Certificate of Vocational Education and Certificate of Vocational Education. Their average family income before any expenditures was 9,996 baht per month. As for the desire to have children, it was found that they did not want more children, knew well about family planning, were aware of and had access to the available family planning services,

especially the temporary birth control methods of using condom and taking birth control pills. In terms of receiving information, most the population got it from daily newspapers. The officers believed that family planning was a good practice, the quality of children was more important than the quantity, and gender of children did not matter.

2. As regards the participation in family planning, it was found that the officers did at the middle level. As for the participation in thinking about family planning, they took part in planning for the number of children and the timing to have children. As for the participation in actual birth control, most of them had no more than 2 children with more than 2 years of intervals. Most use the temporary birth control methods and did not want to have the vasectomy operation. The factors affecting their decision to have the vasectomy were the assurance of security and having many friends doing at the same time.

3. As regards the relationship between participation in family planning and the population, economic, social and psychological factors, it was found that there were three important variables for the participation in both thinking about family planning and conducting birth control. The officers' age had a negative relationship while beliefs in family planning and the access to family planning services and a positive one.

Recommendations

It is recommended that there be a policy to encourage and support more airforce officers to participate in family planning. The governmental agencies and private sector dealing with family planning should also help airforce officers. The airforce officers who have had the vasectomy operation should be used as resource persons for family planning and there should be effective means to disseminate information on family planning so that more officers and other people will accept family planning and decide to participate which will lead to the reduction of the population growth rates as a whole.