

Title : A Study of the Impact of Village Development
on Fertility Decision-Making
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ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this research study was the determination of the impact of village development on fertility decision-making.

The research proceeded by collecting data from a sample of 220 households in Tambol Kuyaimae, Amphur Snamchaiyaket, Chacherngsao Province. Of these 220 households, 100 were selected from the more developed villages of Bangmaphung, and Phonyam, while another 120 were selected from the less developed villages of Tamung, and Nongyang, Housewives who were Thai, aged not above 45 years, of Buddhist religion, and have lived continuously for 5 years in the same village, were interviewed with a set of questionnaire prepared in advance.

The data were analyzed using arithmetic means, standard deviations, and percentages in the description of samples' general characteristics. To make the comparative study on the socio-economic, educational, psychological, as well as demographic variables which the latter includes fertility decision-making between both groups of the sample, t-test was used. Finally to determine the impacts upon fertility decision-making of levels of village development, Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) in coupled with Multiple Classification Analysis (MCA) were used.

Findings

1. The average age of the wives in the more developed villages, and the less developed villages were between 32-33, while those of the husbands were between 36-37, period of marriage were between 12-13, Age of marriage, for the females were between 19-20, while for the males it was about 24. Averaged length of time spent in school was 4 years for the housewives in both groups of the villages,

while for the husbands they were 4.45 and 4.10. Average years of residency in the village for the two groups of the villages, the more developed, and the less developed ones, were placed at 23, and 15 years respectively. In both groups of the villages, the families were of the nucleus type rather than the extended ones. Socio-economically, in the more developed villages, the average annual income of each household was Bath 15,320 and the average of 0.33 of the housewives participated in labour force ; while that of the less developed village was Bath 22,125 and 0.74 of the housewives participated in labour force,

2. Further analysis using t-test showed that there was no difference between the two groups of villages concerning (averaged) number of household membership, number of children ever born, number of infant and child mortality (0-5 years), literacy capability of the housewives, acceptance of values of children, decision regarding ideal family size, past methods of birth control use, and desire for future use of the birth controls. But a statistically significant difference was found to exist in the comparison made between the two groups of villages in terms of average annual income, housewives' participation in labour force knowledge about population and family planning, attitude concerning populations and family planning and decision concerning desired family size. All of these variables were statistically different at 0.01. It was also found that the methods used in birth control at present was statistically different at 0.05.

3. Analysis of the data using ANOVA, and MCA revealed that after the control of the socio-economic, educational, psychological and demographic variables, it was found that a sample of households in the more developed villages preferred both desired family size and ideal family size bigger than the less developed ones, but in term of the decision as to whether or not they practice birth control or use of contraceptive it was found that a sample of households in the more developed villages use of contraceptive at present much more than the less developed ones. The three covariate variables in this study : mothers' Literacy skill levels, knowledge concerning populations and family planning, and household average annual income could be used in the determination of desired family size with the confidence at the statistically significant level of 0.00, 0.02, and 0.04 respectively and could be accounted for 16 percentages of variance.

The two covariate variables, the mothers' literacy skill levels, and the mothers' participation in labour force could be used in the determination of ideal family size with the confidence at the statistically significant level of 0.01 and 0.04 respectively. The independent variable included the two covariate variables could be accounted for 10 percentages of variance. Only one covariate variable that could be used in the determination on the decision as to whether or not they practice birth control or use of contraceptive

at present was the number of children ever born with the confidence being established at the statistically significant level of 0.00 and could be accounted for 10 percentages of variance.