

Thesis Title A Comparative Study on Demographic and Socio-economic Characteristics of Divorcees and Non-divorcees in Bangkok Metropolis

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to compare the demographic and socio-economic characteristics between the divorcees and the non-divorcees in Bangkok Metropolis. The variables in the study are age at marriage, age difference, duration of marriage, number of children, educational difference and difference of occupational status.

The samples consist of 743 couples who registered their divorces from August to September 1989 at 23 districts in Bangkok. For the non-divorcees, the data were obtained from the study on "Determinants and Consequences of Contraceptive Use Patterns in Thailand" conducted by the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University in 1987. The samples of non-divorcees consist of 640 still married women. A set of statistical indicators such as mean and percentage are used and cross-tabulations are presented.

The results show that mean age at marriage of the divorcees is higher than that of the non-divorcees. Furthermore, the duration

of marriage and average number of children of the divorcees are lower than that of the non-divorcees. Half of divorcees have less than 5 years of marriage and one-thirds are childless. Spouse's age and marriage pattern between the divorcees and the non-divorcees are not different. In both groups, most of the husbands are older than the wives.

Talking about educational status, more men and women in divorce group have at least Bachelor's degree. Comparing educational attainment between men and women, it is not different among divorcees and non-divorcee groups. Among both groups, most men have higher educational attainment than their wives. However, at each educational level, most of divorced men and women are in the same educational level but in the non-divorcees group, men have higher education than women. Concerning occupation, more divorcees are found in the higher occupational status group. Comparing occupational status between men and women, most of the divorced men and women are at the same occupational status but men are in higher occupation status than female non-divorcees.

From the agreement on their children, the proportion of children live with their mothers equalise to their fathers. About half of divorced men provide financial support to women in case that children live with their mothers. However, about half of men do not provide any support to their wives. About four-fifths of women receive nothing from their husbands.