Thesis Title · Value of Children of Slum Women

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this Study is to investigate the reasons for wanting children and value of children of slum women. The study examines relationship between socio-economic and demographic factors and value of children and fertility. The sample of 209 women is purposively drawn from three slums in Bangkok metropolis. Eligible women are women aged 20-34, having at least one child and currently living with husband. The structural questionnaire is used to interview these women.

The results of the study show that the most important advantage of having children is the emotional value and the second most important advantage is the self enrichment and development. The financial costs for raising children is seen as the most important disadvantage. Most women are expected to have little financial support from their children when the children grown-up, but most of them want to live with their children when they get old, particularly among the lower socio-economic status group.

Regarding pattern of fertility and family planning in slums, the finding indicate that the fertility level in there in three slums is quite low, as the average number of desired children is

only 2.14, compared with the average number of 3.0 for the whole country. Eighty-eight percent in this study currently use contraception.

According to the multiple regression analysis, only one value of children, namely economic benefits and security value of children have significantly positive relationship with the number of living children. The socio-economic and demographic factors that have significant relationship with fertility of women in slums are age, participation in labour force, education and wanting to live their children.