

**Thesis Title**            A Comparative Study on Economic Activities of Never Married and Married Aged in Thailand

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### **ABSTRACT**

The objectives of this research were to investigate the demographic, household and residence characteristics of celibate, married and widow/divorced/separated aged, to compare the economic activities between these groups and to determine the factors affecting economic activities of the aged. The data was obtained from Thailand's Employment Status Survey Project (Labour Force Survey), conducted in 1994, round 3, and selected only the information from cases that were age 60 years and over nationwide (18,387 in total). Data were analyzed with percentage, mean, crosstabulation and logistic regression analysis.

The results show that the total aged population in Thailand in 1994 was approximately 4 million. About 60 percent were married aged, 38 percent were widow/divorced/separated aged while only 2 percent were celibate aged.

For celibate aged, most of them were female, 60-64 years, primary school, heads of household, living with 2-5 members in household; rural area and central region (excludes Bangkok Metropolis).

Most of the married aged were male, 60-64 years, graduated from primary school, heads of household, living with 2-5 members in household; rural area and northeastern region.

Most of widow/divorced/separated aged were female, half of them were 70 years and over. Most graduated from primary school, were heads of household, living with 2-5 members in household; rural area and northeastern region.

Comparative study on economic activities between celibate, married and widow/divorced/separated aged found approximately 36 percent of Thai aged populations were still at work. Married aged had the highest rate of economic activity of any aged group. For the aged workers, all marital status have similar characteristics, except the number of members in household and region. In all marital status, most aged workers are male, 60-64 years, graduated from primary school, head of household and live in rural area. Married aged who live with 2-5 members in household and non-spouse aged who live alone were mostly working. Married and widow/divorced/separated aged living in northeastern region were mostly working while celibate aged mostly lived in south region. In every marital status, most of aged who were workers were working in agriculture and own-account workers. Most of aged who were not workers said "very old" as the reason for not working.

From analysis of the factors affecting economic activities of the aged with Logistic Regression Analysis, it was found that all demographic, household and residence factors were significant, especially the effect from marital status variable. Celibate aged had probability to work greater than married or widow/divorced/separated aged. This model of analysis explained about 75 percent of the variance of the aged's economic activities.