

Thesis Title Proximate Determinants of Fertility, in
Sri Lanka: An Analysis of Bongaarts' Model

Name Sandrasekeram Jegatheswaran

Degree Master of Arts in Population and
Social Research

Thesis Supervisory
Committee Varachai Thongthai, Ph.D
Buppha Sirirassamee, Ph.D
Chakratit Dhanagom, M P A

Date of Graduation 5 February B.E. 2533 (1990)

ABSTRACT

Proximate determinants in fertility have become increasingly important and of much concern to policy makers, program planners and managers in many changing societies of the Asian region.

The objective of this study is to determine the effect of the proximate variables to fertility in Sri Lanka 1975 and 1987, and to assess the trends in the proximate determinants of fertility by geographical sub - groups. In this study, (applying Bongaarts' model) the three principal intermediate variables are considered inhibitors of fertility, because fertility is lower than its maximum value as a result of delayed marriage, the use of contraception and postpartum infecundability induced by breastfeeding.

In Sri Lanka a two intermediate fertility variables are responsible for most of the variation in fertility levels of populations. Those are namely - contraception and proportions of marriage - are the most important determinants of fertility. High prevalence of sterilization and traditional methods has a strong fertility inhibiting effect in different geographical regions in Sri Lanka.

This study is based on data from the Sri Lanka World Fertility Survey (SLWFS) 1975, and Sri Lanka Demographic and Health Survey (SLDHS) carried out in 1987.