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SAOWAPHAK SUKSINCHAI: MISCARRIAGE AMONG DISPLACED PEOPLE: A CASE STUDY OF KAREN WOMEN IN TAK PROVINCE, THAILAND. THESIS ADVISORS: ASSOC. PROF. KRITAYA ARCHAVANITKUL, Ph.D., MASAKI MATSUMURA, Ph.D. 89 P. ISBN 974-663-157-8

In this study, an attempt is made to examine the impact of displaced related factors and risk behaviours of displaced Karen women staying in camps in Thailand on their reproductive health, especially the experience of miscarriage. To achieve the objectives of this study three types of statistical tools are utilized. Univariate analysis to describe background characteristics of displaced Karen women. Bivariate analysis to examine the gross effects of independent variables on the proportion of miscarriage. And multivariate analysis i.e. multiple regression model to examine the net effects of independent variables on ratios of miscarriage.

This study used primary data from a sample survey of 1,053 women, conducted during May and June, 1999 in two asylums in Tak province, Huay Kalok camp in Mae Sod district and Mae La camp in Tha Song Yang district. This was simple random sampling procedure based on the population proportional to size of each study camp. This study further analyzed information from 902 married women in the sample survey who had at least one pregnancy during their life time.

The results of this study demonstrated that among the six independent variables included in the study, three variables, family size, health problems, and working status of women had significant effect on their ratios of miscarriage. However, three independent variables, education of women, daily number of cigarettes smoked by the women, and duration of residence in camp did not have a significant relationship with ratios of miscarriage. Women with small family size, women with health problems especially body-ache, and women who were working during the survey had higher ratios of miscarriage compared to their counterparts.

This study suggests a number of recommendations to improve conditions of displaced Karen women and thereby reduce incidence of miscarriage. Reproductive health knowledge and services should be provided and properly target women of reproductive ages. Appropriate opportunities should be given to these women for cash - earning work in the camps, so that they will engage in creative activities and will be able to fulfil their own needs for improved nutritional conditions. Appropriate information, education and communication programs should be launched targeting women of reproductive ages providing reproductive health knowledge and also to discourage the unhealthy habit of smoking.