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SASAMON SRISUTHISAK : FAMILY PLANNING POLICY ANALYSIS IN THAILAND. THESIS ADVISORS : SUPHOT DENDOUNG, Ph.D., KRITAYA ARCHAVANITKUL, Ph.D., SIRIWAN GRISURAPONG, Ph.D. 69 p. ISBN 974-662-664-7

This study is intended to examine factors which affected the establishment and development of the National Family Planning Program, and to assess the impact of the family planning program on women's health. A qualitative research design was adopted. Data were collected by documentary research and in-depth interview of key informants with tape recording. Data were processed by manual compilation including cut and paste techniques. Data analysis was content analysis and analytic induction. The result were presented in text. Parts of the results were presented as direct quotation to substantiate some important points.

The findings of this study demonstrated that bureaucrats and bilateral donor agencies played the prominent roles to convince the Thai cabinet to formulate and implement an official demographic policy which emphasized the need to lower birth rate via the promotion of the National Family Planning Program during 1970. In addition, the population growth rate in Thailand during 1970 was quite high, so the state realized the need to lower birth rate through the National Family Planning Program.

This study also revealed the success of the National Family Planning Program in Thailand due to an appropriate array of maternal and child health services delivered through family planning clinics. Thus, the people can utilize these services efficiently. However, the provision of family planning reflects weak points on counseling and information dissemination, failure to promote all contraceptive methods by promotion of only long lasting methods, and the fact that these services were not provided to unmarried women and teenagers. Hence, it was necessary to combine reproductive health concepts with the National Family Planning Program in order to meet the users' needs as well as to extend the benefit of family planning to all people.