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VIRASACK BANOUVONG: CONTRACEPTIVE USE AMONG RURAL
MARRIED WOMEN IN XIENGNGEUN DISTRICT, LUANGPRABANG
PROVINCE, LAO.PDR. THESIS ADVISORS: BOONYONG KIEWKARNCA
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A cross sectional descriptive study was conducted on contraceptive use among married women in Xiengngeun District, Luangprabang province, Lao PDR, with the aim to identify the socio-demographic factors, psycho-social factors and environmental factors associated with contraceptive use.

The 300 married women aged 15-49 years from twenty villages in Xiengngeun District, Luangprabang Province were purposively selected and interviewed by using structured questionnaire during March 1999. From this result it was found that the majority of married women were between the age 26-35. More than half of the studied married women 60.7 percent had primary schooling, 35.3 percent had 3-4 living children and the mean number of living children was 4.40. The results of this study revealed that 76.7 percent of the married women used contraceptives and the most popular methods used were pills and injection. There were statistically significant relationships between contraceptive use and education of married women, monthly income, ethnic groups, occupation, duration of marriage, knowledge about contraceptives, source of service, distance, convenience of service, contraception information, effectiveness of information, heard information from health personnel and heard information from Lao women union.

The major finding of this study revealed that 42.8 percent of married women did not use contraceptives due to fear of side effects, 23.0 percent want more children, 14.2 percent thought contraceptives were not safe, 11.4 percent wanted to leave it to nature and 8.6 percent due to breast feeding. One of the strategies to overcome this problem is to give an effective educational program. The results of this study can provide necessary information for health planners and decision makers to improve the programme and strategies to suit the situation according to the need of the community.