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INVOLVED /FACTOR AFFECTING MEN'S ROLES

MUKDA SAMNUANKLANG : THE ROLES OF MEN IN REPRODUCTIVE  
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The purposes of the study were to examine men's roles in the reproductive process and the determinants of men's roles. Men's roles focus on men's sexuality, being supportive during pregnancy and childbirth, throughout the reproductive process. The samples in the study were 360 men whose wives delivered their firstborn in government hospitals in Bangkok. The research instruments used were a self-administered questionnaire for those 360 men and in-depth interview guidelines which were used to obtain data from 25 men. Descriptive statistics were employed to describe men's roles throughout the reproductive process and the 3 subsets of men's roles, sexuality, pregnancy supportive and childbirth involved roles. Stepwise discriminant analysis was used to determine whether 10 predictors of men's roles could distinguish men's sharing roles from non-sharing roles. The data was collected from both 360 men and 360 spouses by a self-administered questionnaire, separately. Descriptive analysis was used on the data collected, and the findings were as follows:

1. Men's roles performed throughout the process were non-sharing, or separating roles. Men's sexuality roles were separating, while men shared more in reproductive roles (pregnancy supportive and childbirth involved roles). Male and female perspectives on men's roles in the reproductive process were significantly different in sexuality roles. Perceived reproductive roles were not different.

2. Factors that determined men's roles throughout the reproductive process were the gender role norm opinion and shared housework. Factors that determined 3 subsets of men's roles were as follows:

- 2.1 The gender role norm opinion, shared housework, and the husband's higher education level determined men's sexuality roles.

- 2.2 Mature love, androgynous personality, and shared housework determined men's pregnancy supportive roles.

- 2.3 Mature love was the most important factor which determined men's childbirth involved roles.

The result of the study suggests that men's roles throughout the reproductive process tend to increase men's participation in childcare. The findings do have clear implications for social policy makers, educators and health professions to facilitate more men's sharing roles in sexuality and maintain men's sharing roles in reproduction through re-socialization.