

**LEVELS AND PATTERNS OF CONTRACEPTIVE
KNOWLEDGE AND USE AMONG MARRIED WOMEN IN
UPLAND OF KANCHANABURI DSS**

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS
(POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY
2003**

**ISBN 974-04-3775-3
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AMONG MARRIED WOMEN IN UPLAND OF KANCHANABURI DSS****KOTAMBULUWE RALALAGE JINESHA RUPASINGHE 4538012 PRRH/M****M.A. (POPULATION AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH)****THESIS ADVISORS : VARACHAI THONGTHAI, Ph.D., SIRINAN
KITTISUKSATHIT, Ph.D.****ABSTRACT**

The selected data was from the 2000 Kanchanaburi DSS. It listed 461 currently married women consisting of 338 Burmese speaking women and 124 Thai speaking women that were analyzed for this study. Firstly, the levels and patterns of contraceptive knowledge and use have been analyzed. Secondly, the interrelation between contraceptive knowledge and use has been described.

Research was done to describe the levels of contraceptive knowledge “ with probing and without probing”. The results found that Burmese speaking women were less knowledgeable than Thai speaking women. Most of the Burmese speaking women knew about contraceptive methods after probing, but the proportion of Thai speaking women who answered without probing were higher than in Burmese speaking women. Most of Burmese speaking women and Thai speaking women knew of pills more than any other method.

The patterns of contraceptive knowledge differed by age of respondents and educational level, among both Burmese speaking women and Thai speaking women, but working status did not influence patterns of contraceptive knowledge in Thai speaking women.

The levels of contraceptive use were measured by, the levels of “currently using”, “ever used” and “never used”. Most of the Thai speaking respondents were using female sterilization while the Burmese speaking women were meagerly using pills.

Moreover, concerning the patterns of contraceptive use, the older women were more likely to use contraceptive methods than younger women. Education and working status influenced contraceptive use for all the respondents in the study.

Concerning the interrelation between contraceptive knowledge and use, there was no consistent link between contraceptive knowledge and use among Burmese speaking women and Thai speaking women. The status of contraceptive knowledge and use has a considerable gap among both categories of women in the study. But this study found that if the Burmese speaking women had more contraceptive knowledge, a higher proportion of Burmese speaking women would use them. Providing comprehensive contraceptive knowledge for Burmese speaking women that use their native tongue is one of requirements for uplifting the levels and patterns of contraceptive knowledge and use among Burmese speaking women in upland Kanchanaburi.

**KEY WORDS: CONTRACEPTIVE / KNOWLEDGE / USE/ THAI /
BURMESE SPEAKING WOMEN /KANCHANABURI**