MALE PERCEPTION AND FAMILY PLANNING PRACTICE:
A CASE STUDY IN KHAOCHAKAN DISTRICT, SAKAEO
PROVINCE, THAILAND

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ABSTRACT

According to the Health for All in the 21st century program of the World Health Organization, gender issues are important to improve women’s health. Male contraception is cheaper and safe from complications. The husband is the head of the family so his decision-making is important for the couple’s choice of contraception method. Therefore it is important to understand male perceptions in order to address the problems involved in implementation of male contraception. In this study to determine the factors related to family planning practices and investigate the relationship between predisposing factors, enabling factors, and reinforcing factors and family planning practice, a cross-sectional survey was conducted in Khaochakan District, Sakaeo Province, Thailand during January 2004. One hundred and ninety husbands in four villages were selected by cluster sampling technique and interviewed by structured questionnaire.

This study revealed a contraceptive prevalence rate of about 95% among the respondents, while the prevalence of vasectomy was about 2%. The older husbands tended to use permanent methods, as did the older wives. The couples desiring children tended to use temporary methods. The couples living near the source of family planning services tended to use temporary methods, while couples living far from the sources of service used permanent methods.

Based on the result of this study, it is important to campaign for the permanent contraception method among young couples in order to improve the family planning program.

KEY WORDS: MALE PERCEPTION, FAMILY PLANNING, PERMANENT CONTRACEPTIVE METHODS