

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY MALE  
PARTNER DURING PREGNANCY IN ATTAPUE PEOVINCE,  
LAO P.D.R.**

**SYSAVANH PHOMMACHANH**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT  
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR  
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS  
(HEALTH SOCIAL SCIENCE)  
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES  
MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY**

**2007**

**COPYRIGHT OF MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY**

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN BY MALE PARTNER DURING PREGNANCY IN ATTAPUE PROVINCE, LAO P.D.R**

SYSAVANH PHOMMACHANH 4838035 SHHS/M

M.A (HEALTH SOCIAL SCIENCES)

THESIS ADVISORS: PENCHAN SHERER, Ph.D.,  
SIRIWAN GRISURAPONG, Ph.D., SUREE KANJANAVONG, Ph.D.,**ABSTRACT**

The objectives of this study were to understand pregnant women's experiences of domestic violence by male partners, and to describe the forms, perceptions of, and factors related to domestic violence against pregnant women. A cross sectional, retrospective, and qualitative study using social-cultural, feminist and family perspectives was conducted from July to October at the provincial hospital, local health centers, and at the home of informants in Samakixay district, Attapue province, Laos. Screening techniques and snowball sampling were used to interviewees. In-depth interviews were conducted with three women who were pregnant at the time of interviews, four women who had recently given birth, and six women who had experiences of domestic violence during pregnancy.

This study found that the women had experienced multiple forms of domestic violence since before pregnant, and during pregnancy. The violence became more severity during pregnancy. This is due to patriarchal social and cultural structure; because of given gender inequality in terms of the rigid role of male authority as a head of the family, females take submissive roles under the control of husband. Patriarchal control over female body and sexuality, it is seen pregnant women are a much more passive sex than women without pregnancy.

Although, the socio- economic characteristics of informants were not direct factors related to domestic violence, but the education and occupation influenced the way they solved problems. Most informants blamed themselves for the violence; this means that they were not able to see the patriarchal social structure as the root cause of domestic violence during pregnancy. Hence, they simply kept silence and tried to conform patriarchal expectations, because the perception in Lao society of domestic violence as a private matter. Other factors associated with domestic violence during pregnancy were unwanted pregnancy, alcohol used, unemployment of husband, jealousy, and mother in-law support of the husband; domestic violence tendencies.

Recommendations to raise awareness of severe problem of domestic violence, the law against domestic violence should be enforced, these laws and human right in general should be publicized though radio and TV by government, non government organization, and Lao Women Union. Health care system should consider creating for screening pregnant victim as a regular service in order to provide psychological counseling and social support. Moreover, blood surveillance on HIV/AIDS among pregnant women should be done. Finally, it is crucial to improve access to education, and create development programs to generate family income in order to enable women to have economic independence.

**KEY WORDS: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE/PATRIARCHY/ PREGNANT WOMEN**

157 P.