



9 OCT 1996

**ETIOLOGY OF INFERTILITY IN CONTEMPORARY VIETNAM: A CASE STUDY
IN HOCHIMINH CITY**

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS
(POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING RESEARCH)**

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IN

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY

1996

71
C5322
1996

Thesis title **Etiology of Infertility in Contemporary Vietnam: A Case Study in Hochiminh City**

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(Population and Family Planning Research)**

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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study are to describe the differentials of socio-demographic characteristics, reproductive history, and etiology of infertility between primary and secondary infertility at TuDu Ob/Gyn Hospital, Hochiminh city in Vietnam, and to examine the relationships of some selected socio-demographic and previous reproductive history factors with etiology of infertility.

The study used primary data conducted from March 5 to 16, 1996 at TuDu Ob/Gyn Hospital in Hochiminh city, Vietnam. 312 infertile couples of sampled were used for this study.

Results showed that of 312 infertile couples, 61.9 percent had primary and 38.1 percent had secondary infertility. The infertile couples are relative old, with a mean age of wives of 33.1 years, and 35.9 years for their husband. The mean education level of wife

and husband are also relative high. Most of them have a duration of marriage from 2-5 years, and their mean duration of infertility is 5.8 years. The main cause of infertility is ovulatory disorder (46.8 percent), followed by tubal obstruction (30.4 percent), male problem (20.2 percent), and unexplained infertility (10.9 percent).

Of all the socio-demographic, reproductive history, and etiology factors examined, husband's educational attainment, age at marriage of wife, duration of marriage, gynecological diseases, contraceptive used, and etiology of infertility have significant differences between primary and secondary infertility group.

Most of characteristics of respondents do not have relationship with etiology of infertility. Only age, menstruation and length of menstrual period have significant relationships with ovulatory disorder. Tubal obstruction was related to education level of wives and PID. Poor semen quality were not significantly influenced by any factors. And Azoospermia and Oligospermia were influenced by venereal diseases only.

These results reflect a growing problem of infertility. They also suggest the need more attention about to medical techniques for diagnosis and treatment. And increased knowledge of behavioral patterns and risk factors allow for better reproductive planning and prevention of infertility through public health programs and health education campaigns.