



29 MAY 1991

THE PRACTICE OF CONTRACEPTION
AMONG THE THAI-MOSLEMS AND THAI-BUDDHISTS IN THE
SOUTH OF THAILAND.

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

IN

FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY

1990

Thesis Title The Practice of Contraception
Among the Thai-Moslems and the
Thai-Buddhists in the South of
Thailand.

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Date of Graduation 15 February B.E. 2533 (1990)

Abstract

This thesis is a comparative study of the contraceptive practices of the Thai-Buddhists and the Thai-Moslems in the South of Thailand.

The data analysed in this study were taken from the Contraceptive Use Pattern Survey (CUPS), which was conducted between April to June 1987 throughout Thailand. The study analyses the socio-demographic characteristics, patterns of contraceptive use and factors affecting contraceptive use, among the Thai-Buddhists and Thai-Moslems in the South of Thailand.

The findings show that religion played a key

role in causing differences in the use of contraceptives between the Thai-Buddhists and the Thai-Moslems. Among the Thai-Buddhists contraceptive use was nearly twice as high as among the Thai-Moslems and they were also using more permanent methods than the Thai-Moslems. Female sterilization was popular among the Thai-Buddhists. The Thai-Moslems preferred to space rather than to limit their births. The pill was the most commonly used method among them. Socio-economic factors like education and occupation also had some effect on contraceptive use among these groups. The effects of both factors were greater for the Thai-Moslems anyhow, than for the Thai-Buddhists.