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**DETERMINANTS OF CONTRACEPTIVE USE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF
1987 DHS
DATA FROM SRI LANKA AND THAILAND**

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Thesis Title **DETERMINANTS OF CONTRACEPTIVE USE: A
COMPARATIVE STUDY OF 1987 DHS DATA FROM
SRI LANKA AND THAILAND**

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ABSTRACT

This study aims at identifying contraceptive use patterns and their determinants among the currently married women of reproductive age in two Asian countries, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The study draws upon secondary data from the 1987 DHS of the two countries. The analysis is based on the data of 5,449 women from the Sri Lankan sample and 6,226 women from the Thai sample respectively.

Contraceptive use patterns in the two countries are considered to be related to a set of demographic and socioeconomic factors. These include current age of women, marital duration, number of living children, residence, education, women's work status, husband's occupational sector and religion. Knowledge of contraceptive methods and sources of contraceptive services are also included as independent variables.

Sri Lanka and Thailand are both approaching high level of contraceptive use, although the level for Thailand is slightly higher. The two countries, however, have many things in common with regard to the patterns of contraceptive use and its relationship to most independent variables. Bivariate analysis suggests that for both Sri Lanka and Thailand, contraceptive use generally increases with number of living children, duration of marriage, level of education and knowledge of contraceptive methods and sources of service. Contraceptive use is also higher among the Buddhist women, those who lived in the urban area, and those whose husbands were working in non-agricultural sector. Age shows a linear relationship with contraception in Sri Lanka whereas in Thailand this relationship is somewhat curvilinear. Contraception is found to be higher among non-working women in Sri Lanka, but the reverse is true for Thailand.

Results of multivariate analysis show that all the demographic factors, age, number of living children and marital duration are established as among the significant determinants of contraceptive use in both Sri Lanka and Thailand. Among the socio-economic factors, however, only residence, religion and current work status of women are found significantly related with contraceptive use. Education of women and sector of husband's occupation are significant determinants only in Sri Lanka but not in Thailand. Husband's education has no significant effect on contraceptive use in

both countries. Knowledge of methods and knowledge of source for modern methods are also appeared to have strong influence over contraceptive use in both the countries.

