



27 NOV 1996

**ASPECTS OF ECONOMY, POWER AND STATUS AND THEIR
RELATIONSHIPS TO BREAST FEEDING BEHAVIOUR
IN SRI LANKA**

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จาก

มหาวิทยาลัยมหิดล

A THESIS SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS
(HEALTH SOCIAL SCIENCE)

IN
FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES
MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY
1996

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W668a
1996

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Thesis Title Aspects of Economy, Power, Status and Their Relationships to breast Feeding Behaviour in Sri Lanka.

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Date of Graduation 30 may B.E. 2536 (1996)

ABSTRACTS

This study describes the relationships between economy, power and status and breast feeding behaviour in estate sector in Sri Lanka. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were employed in collecting data from all mothers, with children in the age group 0-24 months, were interviewed in four estates of the Nawalapitiya Region in Kahawatta plantation. The sample size is 145. There are three objectives of this study: to investigate the relationship between income, education, occupation and breast feeding behavior, to identify the family, psychological factors and cultural beliefs related to breast feeding behavior, to describe other behavioural factors related to diarrhoeal diseases among children of working mothers.

Results: Economy, power and social status are main variables of this study and family factors, cultural beliefs and psychological factors contribute as descriptive variables. Among indicators of economy, i.e., income and land ownership are at significant levels but house ownership and subsidies received from the government are not. Though indicators of power; education and occupation are not statistically significant, the percentages of indicators shows uneducated and working mothers are more contaminated. On the other hand, educated mothers and house wives are in the less contaminated group. Social status is significant but negatively related to breast feeding behaviour. Family factors, psychological factors and cultural beliefs can be used as descriptive variables in studying breast feeding behaviour in Sri Lanka.