

Changes of Population Structure in Rural Thailand

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This is a study of the trend of rural population structure of Thailand in particular. Data used in this study are from the 1970 and 1980 population censuses and the 1990-2000 population projections for Thailand. Result the analysis shows some changes on the rural age structure, i.e., population structure in the past is pyramid shape and then has gradually changed in the recent past to a narrower base and wider upper part. The change is derived from the transformation of economic and social conditions and the introduction of family planning program which results in the decline of fertility level of rural population. The change in the population structure is reflected in the changing proportions of population in various strata, i.e., the children group, working age and aged people. Such change also brings about numerous effects on dependency ratio, aging. However, there is only a small change in sex ratio. For the aged group, the widowhood of women in rural areas is found to be rising because the life expectancy of men is always shorter than that of women.

The study of the change of rural population structure can facilitate rural development planning as well as human resource development. The study can also be used as a basic for the planning to prevent problems which may arise in rural area affected by the changing population structure.