

Returnees vs Absentees : Are They Really Different ?*Pichit Pitakepsombati*

It is the purpose of this paper of test a rarely proved hypothesis which generally states that those who can and can not be interviewed or reinterviewed from crossectional or longitudinal studies are significantly different. In so doing, this paper uses the data from the study entitled *Thailand: Postpartum Sterilization by Nurse Midwives*, by comparing six variables namely age, number of living children, education, husband's occupation, time spent traveling to the hospital and satisfaction with the operation, between those who were sterilized one year earlier and came back for medical check up (676 out of original 820 cases) and those who were sterilized at the same time and did not return (total of 144 cases). It was found that those two groups are different significantly only in the occupation variable, as measured or evaluated by both Chi-square statistic and Index of Dissimilarity. Thus, the result of this analysis strongly refute the above hypothesis.