

Rural Thai Social Setting and Family Planning Activity: Effects on Female Sterilization

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A fundamental question of fertility research is the role that family planning program effort has on fertility decline. This paper examines how social setting and family planning program activity affect the acceptance of female sterilization among a sample of Thai women. Family planning activity and social setting variables are measured at the community level while sterilization is measured at the individual level. The results demonstrate that the acceptance of female sterilization was not significantly related to variation in indexes of family planning activities, although social setting variables and individual characteristics both contributed to explaining variations in levels of recent female sterilization. The analysis illustrates the difficulties of establishing a linkage between family planning program activities and contraceptive use within a context where contraceptive use is high and the family planning programs has been in existence for a number of years. In such a context motivation for using contraception can be assumed to be high and it is unlikely that variations in program activities will have significant effects on use patterns.