

Factors Affecting Satisfaction of Thai Senior Citizens Living with their Children

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A rapid decline in both fertility and mortality has affected age-structure of the Thai population. With the decline in average number of children living with old-aged parents, senior citizens' quality of living is an important issue. In this study, three objectives are: (1) to study living arrangements of senior citizens; (2) to examine their satisfaction; and, (3) to investigate factors affecting satisfaction of senior citizens living with their children. The analysis uses data from the 1994 Survey of the Elderly in Thailand, conducted by the National Statistical Office. Data concerning 6,233 senior citizens were employed and analyzed by frequency, percentage, cross-tabulation, mean, standard deviation, correlation and multiple regression analysis.

The results showed that majority of Thai senior citizens live with their children; a household usually consists of children, spouse, grandchildren, and others. Approximately 30 percent live without children and the majority of these senior citizens live with spouse only. There is a difference in arrangements of living with children between urban and rural areas. However, senior citizens in both areas have high scores of satisfaction.

Significant factors explaining the satisfaction in the *aggregate* model in declining order of importance are support from children, income sufficiency, marital status of senior citizen, health status, need to be cared for by children, and education. Although area of residence does not have any effect on satisfaction score, factors affecting satisfaction score are different between senior citizens living in urban and rural areas. That is to say, significant factors explaining the satisfaction in *urban areas* are, in declining order, income sufficiency, support from children, health status, marital status of senior citizens, and marital status of children. Significant factors explaining the satisfaction in *rural areas* are, in declining order, support from children, income sufficiency, marital status of senior citizens, health status, and need to be cared for by children. The effects on senior citizens' satisfaction of these factors are significantly positive, **except** for that of marital status of children which is *negative*.