

### **Abstract**

#### **The Effect of Women's Status and Roman Catholicism on Fertility of Catholic Women in Thailand**

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This study examines the relationship between women's general characteristics, women's status and religiosity and number of children ever born, live births during 1997-2000, current contraceptive practice of Catholic women in Thailand. The finding indicated that age, age at first marriage, education and years in Catholic school are significantly related to number of children ever born. Age and age at first marriage are significantly related to live births during 1997-2000. Age and father's education is significantly related to current contraceptive practice of women. The variation of number of children ever born, recent births and current contraceptive use were largely explained by the set of general characteristics of women. Way of living of Catholic in Thailand has likely been integrated with the Thais especially their reproductive behavior.