

The family planning strategy for the hill tribes

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ABSTRACT

The hill tribal population is a multiethnic and minority group of people living in the mountain area in the northern part of Thailand. The latest figure of population gathered during 1979-1987 by the Tribal Research Centre is approximately one percent of the Thai population. These people have the high fertility rate of about 4 children per married women. Although the government has provided contraception devices, it is found that the acceptability rate is not as high as expected. The Institute of Health Research, Chulalongkorn University has been working with the hill tribes since 1979. The study areas were 2 villages of Karen and H'mong in Mae Cham District, Chiang Mai Province and 7 villages of Karen in Mae La Noi District, Mae Hong Son Province. One component of the study was family planning service. It was not difficult to build up the understanding of risk of having a lot of children, especially among women. The motivation of spacing was suggested. Even though there was different of contraceptive use among H'mong and Karen, the acceptability of injective contraception was quite high. To accomplish the family planning programme, the government must design certain systems or specific strategies. For example, the number of health workers should be increased and there should be more advertisement, distribute knowledge and develop understanding. In addition, the techniques used in certain groups and areas must be distinguished.

Key words : Family Planning. Hill tribe.

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