

# **Family in Contemporary Thai : Trend in the Future**

by

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A Survey Research Granted by Thai Khadi Suksa Institute,  
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**1993-1996**

## Abstract

The study of family in Contemporary Thai : Trend in the future aims to analyze forms of family in Thai society from the past 50 years. The study looks at socio-economic factors that cause the transformation of Thai family structure. The study also seeks the existing of the ideal type of the family in changing contemporary Thai society.

This study focuses on the documentary survey with field survey from female teachers and female workers in Samutprakarn province. Interviews of social workers at the hospitals and social welfare agencies in Bangkok and Samutprakarn province are conducted to supplement the survey data.

The study finds that forms of Thai family gradually changed from extended type to various forms of family but drastically reduce in size. It is also found that the relationship between family and other traditional institutions such as religion and cultural has been declining. The increasing of divorce rate is evidenced in the study. Changing of family roles in socialization, cultural and value orientation from traditional to modern way are also found in this study.

The study sees trend in increasing of nuclear family and non-traditional forms of family such as single-parents, separated-parents and childless families. However, it suggests that Thai families are now facing serious problem of family and domestic relationship. These problems mostly

resulted in divorce, separate, extramarital relationship, financial problems, family violence and so on.

On the ideal type of family, the study suggests that nuclear-type family where the next-to-kin members are closely related with clear-cut roles of each members seems to be the most healthy form of the family in contemporary changing Thai society.

The researcher points out that changing form of Thai family is inevitable due to change in socio-economic structure in Thai society. The results of study imply that several measurement are needed to be posed by various sectors from micro level unit of family itself to the macro level such as mass media and public sector especially the government where the family policy could be initiated. The family policy should be formulated and implemented with the main purpose of maintaining the family function and preventing further declining in its function.

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