

Population and Fertility of “Mong” People

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Abstract

Mong is the hill tribe people in Thailand whose has many in number and specific in lifestyle as well as unique in social culture affecting to their health conditions such as value of having many kids without using any contraceptive methods especially vasectomy. The data from Thailand Hill Tribe Survey in 1985-1988 of National statistical Office (NSO) reveals that Mong people has 7.9 persons per household by average with 51.3 percent of crude birth rate and population increasing rate in 4.3 percent. Mong people have mean age on 13.9 years old with dependency ratio 120.6 but contraceptive usage among them is only 15.8 percent. The number of infant mortality per married mother age between 15-44 is 3.5 by average. For almost 20 years, there have been many changes in all aspects covering social item, infrastructure, migration, socioeconomic development and health promotion in upper areas due to government and private hill tribe development projects. Health Development Center for Upper Area, Department of Health is an agency taking responsible for hill tribe people on health care promotion and project evaluation. The center provided a structural survey of hill tribe people since 1996 and agreed to provide a new survey for checking any changes. Thus the population and fertility study project for Mong has launched on 2005.

This study uses data in population and fertility from hill tribe population survey through representative method based on random sampling. The data are gained from 13 provinces where Mong people mainly settle. The demographic study reveals that Mong household has 7.2 persons by average with mean age on 18 years old. Life expectancy at birth of Mong people is 77.6 years; 85.9 for man and 76.2 for woman. Sex ratio at birth is 103:100 and dependency ratio is 83.4 by average as 76.2 of child and 7.2 of elderly dependency. Fertility study shows that crude birth rate is 28.5 whereas crude death rate is 2.0 per 1,000 persons. Infant mortality rate is 6.4 per 1,000 live birth children with 2.7 percent of increase rate. The average number of children ever born (CEB) per ever married women aged between 15-44 is 3.4 whereas contraceptive usage rate is 66.3 per cent.

In conclusion, population increase trend of Mong people has gradually decreased while contraceptive usage tends to rise significantly. However, the value of having many children is still popular among Mong people due to CEB per ever married women has never changed in rate as well as child dependency ratio is still high. This value will finally affect to socioeconomic and health care aspects. Thus, some appropriate strategies on health care development for Mong people are importantly needed especially for youth.