

Continuity and Change in Thai Family Patterns and Household Composition

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Thai society is undergoing demographic, social, and economics changes, which are changing in Thai family patterns and household composition. The changes are, however, not uniform over the past decades. Processes of social and economic development acted to encourage greater levels of such changes. There was, however, no simple and direct relationship between changing socio-economic and demographic behavior. Meanwhile, changes in demographic behavior, including reducing family size, delaying age at first marriage, increasing migration rate, and changing in household composition, could help provide the implication for better understanding important linkages between individual lives and larger social and economic processes.

This paper aims to investigate the continuity and change of Thai family's patterns and household composition. We take advantages from the last five Thai Population and Housing Censuses of 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 to describe an accelerating trend in Thai family patterns and household composition. Moreover, we address questions related to population, family, and household changes – how it changes over five decades. The data do not provide the opportunity to examine the extent to which factors affecting such changes. This is undertaken through a descriptive presentation of variations in the patterns of Thai family and household composition. We expect the results from the study could provide a rich information on Thai family pattern and household composition.

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