ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to understand the satisfaction of family planning practice and services among married women who were using contraceptive pills or injections in Loengnoktha district, Yasothon province in Thailand. Especially, it looked into male participation, side effects of pills and injections, the accessibility and quality of family planning services which were assumed to be relevant to the satisfaction.

This research applied two complementary research techniques, i.e., cross-sectional descriptive study and focus group interview. The focus group interviews and a survey were conducted in Feb. and March 1997. The questionnaire was administered to 228 married women aged 15-49.

The research findings were as follow:

1. The majority of respondents were satisfied with the family planning practice and services. Some respondents were, however, dissatisfied with family planning practice and services obviously.

2. The majority of husbands seemed to participate in family planning. Around 10 percent of the respondents were, however, unable to judge whether they were satisfied with the deciding of the time to have children and the contraceptive method with their husbands. There was a relationship between females satisfaction and male participation.

3. There was no association between the recognition of existing side effects and the satisfaction, as well as the fear of side effects and the satisfaction. Despite the results, a number of females who were using the contraceptives had health complaints and were worrying about side effects from the contraceptives which they might have in the future.

4. The accessibility of family planning services did not influence the satisfaction, but the difference in the quality of services provided to the beneficiaries was associated with their satisfaction in the study area. Around 7 percent of the respondents were dissatisfied with the distance and waiting time to get family planning services.