

**THE INTERMARRIAGE OF THAI WOMEN  
IN GERMANY**

**Vilas Duangkummerd**

**A Dissertation Submitted in Partial  
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy (Population and Development)  
School of Applied Statistics  
National Institute of Development Administration  
2009**

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## **ABSTRACT**

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Intermarriage between Thai women and foreigners is a social phenomenon rapidly increasing. Its popularity stemmed from the expectation of a better living. However, their lives after marriage and moved to foreign countries are not as smooth and easy as expected. The objectives of this study are to find out what really happens to their marriages and livelihood in Germany, their economic, social condition, and health. The research would also evaluate how marriages affected their lives and family both qualitatively and quantitatively by studying from various documents and collecting data from field study. The questionnaires are used to collect data from 396 Thai women marrying foreigners. Besides, 11 Thai women in Germany and 12 women in North-Eastern part of Thailand are interviewed in depth.

The result of the study shows that the prenuptial background and general characteristics of most of the women is of the native habitats of rural areas, age at their first marriage ranges between 15-20 years and unsuccessful first marriage. Economically speaking, their income is barely enough and they have a lot of household burdens affecting their fertility. Having no child of their own gives them the opportunity to marry to foreigners.

The livelihood in Germany is a single family with low fertility rate due to birth control. Once abroad, Thais always like to congregate and this causes a lot of problems such as gambling, quarrel, adultery, comparison, competition, etc. Moreover, the migration from tropical country to cooler atmosphere is another difficulty. Language, food, culture, and social manners are matters they have to learn in order to live happily.

Most husbands do not agree with their sending money to support families in Thailand; therefore, these women have to find a job in order not to using their husbands' money. Some have to work as prostitutes legally while still married to their husbands because they have no special skills to find other jobs. Besides the necessity to support families in Thailand, the pressure driving them to work hard is the competition among them to show off their richness so they can gain the acceptance from all their neighbors in their hometown. From the viewpoint of the local developers, we find that Thai women play an important role in helping developing the community which is good for the economy.

This study also explores their attitudes towards intermarriage. Most of them voice their opinion against marrying for a better life and discourage young girls to do so. However, they give some advice to those seeking a happy marriage life abroad. In conclusion, the findings in this study are beneficial to female organizations and government sectors on devising plans to support Thai women marrying to foreigners and provide them with important information on adapting to the new environment.

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background and Significance of the Problems

The current development of the country spurred by the desire to achieve that quick economic success has inevitably affected the population in general. Progress and innovation in various forms play significant roles in deviating people's idea from traditional values and long existing culture. Some of these ideas are positive, while some are new phenomena in our society. Family is the primary institute in every society; and, stable and endured marriage leads to a good social foundation. Majority of people marry their loved ones within the same race because of their similarity in social background. In this connection, they can anticipate unanimous roles, social conduct, and cultures. Thus, married couples are satisfied and their marriage is secured. The bone of contention for this research finding has been initiated due to the fact that during the past two or three years there has been a new wedding phenomena reported in newspapers, particularly in the rural northeastern parts of Thailand. That is there is a rapidly increasing number in the case of crossed racial and cultural weddings between Thai women and foreign men. As seen in the past, these kinds of weddings would only occur to those well educated women who could exchange ideas, or those who worked overseas, and worked in serviced industries, who had opportunities to be acquainted with foreigners, and some agreed to spend their life together. However, interracial weddings currently attracting rural women to match-makers or someone they know. The crossed racial weddings between Thai women and foreigners have increased to the extent that they affect communities economically and socially. Nonetheless up to the present, there have been very few research conducted on the subject of intermarriages.

Historically, marriage between foreign men and Thai women first occurred when the country became engaged in interaction with the west. Before the fall of Ayudhaya kingdom, many visiting merchants of different nationalities, not only Chinese and Muslim (including Indians, Iranians, Arabs, Turks), but also Europeans such as Portuguese, Dutch, British, and French had come to the country. During Rattanakosin period, relation with the west became pronounced after the signing of Bowring Treaty with Great Britain in 1854. Hence, there was an inevitable influx of westerners into the country. Europeans traveled outside their continent in search of new colonial territories as well as looking for new sources of raw materials and new markets for their commodities, which were abundant after industrial revolution. Religious mission was also another factor. The kingdom had opened for more international diplomatic relations and trades to intensify modernization. Therefore, it was necessary to hire foreigners as government officials. Capable young men, including royal family members etc. were granted the King's scholarship to pursue their education overseas, including princes. This group of people became a modern Thai elites and relationship with the west became more entrenched. One apparent change in Siamese society was that there were intermarriages between Thai and westerners. Though the evident records of intermarriages were little known, a new wedding culture emerged. It was the beginning of "document" culture. The wedding was officially approved by written document. In 1935 the written document of a wedding was called a significant paper of a wedding registration, which was not only applied to foreigners but also Thais as stated in the provision of a law Code Book 5 Section 1449 of the Civil and Commercial. It stated that "The wedding as imposed by this Code will be complete once registered" (Dararat Mettarikanon, 2006: 79-92).

UN Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages as signed on December 10, 1962 and was referred to on the opening ceremony of Universal Family Year and the National Assembly Conference on Family 1994, is drafted on the 16<sup>th</sup> principle of the International Declaration on Human Rights which says males and females who are consenting adults eligible for marriage have the right to marry regardless of their races, nationalities or religions. According to the present Thai law, the Civil and Commercial Code Book 5, amended in 1976, allows freedom in spouse selection (Section 1458). This freedom is the

fundamental to of familiar stability. The case studies must be conducted in the way the phenomenon are neutrally observed as much as possible. It must not concluded that intermarriages are unnatural or social problems that need remedy (Ponce, 1974 quoted in Pongrapee Buranasompob, 2000: 2). In another word, it should be observed as an essential research topic to find the very true cause. This understanding will be more beneficial for finding variables concerning familial stability those enjoyed by spouses who are from different nationalities in the future.

A couple with the expectation of having a long marriage life are required to have or adopt the same level of knowledge, morality, way of life, and attitude towards life. The familial backgrounds as well as education both formal and non-formal become an indicator for a person's attitude. The couple loves each other. They are happy to share their lives together. They see the world from the same perspective. They can feel it is natural for them to live together as genuine friends. They ignore age factor. Amount of assets is unnecessary. They become truly interested in inner happiness. Majority of foreigners who get married tend to be loyal and responsible for their partners. This perhaps derives from Christian belief that wedding is an important bonding between two parties to commit to one another and will not part. Hence, we rarely see westerners accuse their wives as being too old and search for a new younger one. Besides, they prefer to have a partner and will choose to end the relationship when they cannot really get along well, rather than leading a double life. On the contrary, Thai women are convinced that most Thai men like to have many partners at the same time rather than being loyal to one particular partner. Therefore, marrying to a Thai man is the beginning of being a principal wife. Husbands will go on seeking a mistress and neglecting family welfare, while leaving their wives at home looking after children. Intermarriage has become a direct impact from the country's development which focuses mainly on materials at the expense of community's culture. Some people suffer from failure in their professions. In this regard, some women seek an alternative to better their lives and families by marrying foreigners (Monchai Patchanee, 2009: 3-6). There have been many research studies conducted on this matter to find out why more Thai women choose to marry foreigners. Findings are still vague as to where the actual cause is rooted from.

### 1.1.1 Thai Women who Married Foreigners

The statistics data has shown that there are 12,421 Thai women who married foreigners during 2007-2008. (Table 1.1) Most of the foreigners were Europeans. They were 2891 British, 1090 American and 813 Germans.

**Table 1.1** Number of Thai Women who have Married Foreigners During 2007-2008.

Ranking	Nationalities of foreign spouses	Number of Intermarriage Couples
1	British	2,897
2	American	1,090
3	German	813
4	Indian	781
5	Norwegian	776
6	Australian	616
7	French	412
8	Japanese	345
9	Italian	340
10	Swedish	332
11	Chinese	331
12	Swiss	304
13	Canadian	295
14	Taiwanese	290
15	Korean	265
16	Danish	259
17	Belgian	257
18	Dutch	242
19	Malaysian	227
20	Finn	162

**Source:** The Bureau of Registration Administration (BORA). Division of Registration and Identification Card Development. 2009.

### 1.1.2 Intermarriage Couples in each Province in the Northeast

Fundamental data survey conducted in many provinces in the Northeast shows that most of the Thai women who married foreigners migrate overseas. They regularly returned homes to visit their families during winter or during their husband's vacation. (Table 1.2). They spend approximately 1 month in Thailand. Apparently we can witness the scene of their relatives waiting for their arrival at many airports throughout the northeast. Some of them have decided to permanently settle in the women's domiciles. Their houses were always be built far beyond local standard. Whether their presence in the village can cause both short and long term effects towards society, economy, and politics or not has still not been studied, for example, the effect of their daily expenses on local economy, or the way they adjust to their new condition so as to live their lives, or the spread of the value of getting married to foreigners among the upcountry women. Those subjects are yet to be explored.

**Table 1.2** Number and Percentage of Intermarriage Couples in each Province in the Northeast in 2003

<b>Province</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
Nakorn Ratchasima	21.25
Khon Kaen	12.43
Udorn Thani	11.37
Nongkai	7.35
Mahasarakam	6.15
Chaiyapoom	5.67
Sri Saket	5.39
Sakolnakorn	5.06
Surin	5.03
Buriram	4.17
Loei	2.77
Yasothon	2.68
Nongbualampoo	2.15

**Table 1.2** (Continued)

<b>Province</b>	<b>Percentage %</b>
Nakornpanom	2.01
Kalasin	1.91
Ubolratchthani	1.46
Mukdaharn	1.26
Roi Ed	1.15
Amnatjarearn	0.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00</b>

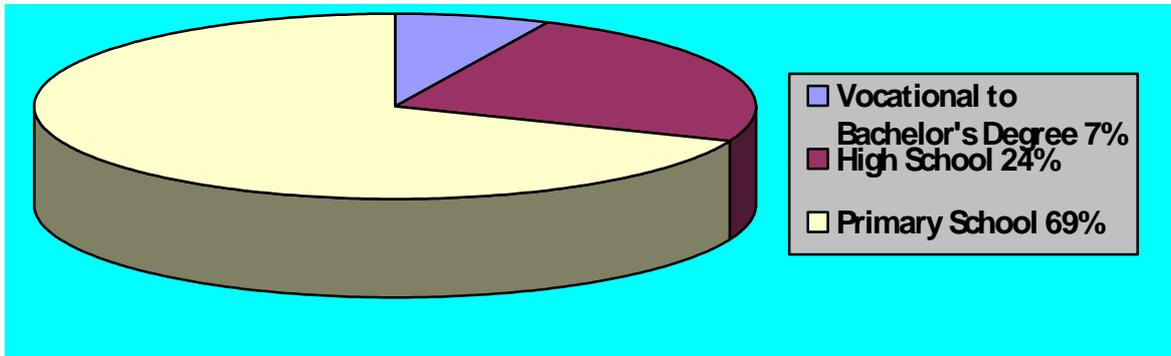
**Source:** Montri Deemanop. 2003.

An interesting data finding is that almost 70% of these women merely finished their primary school (Figure 1.1), their pre-marriage income amounted to between 2,900-4,600 baht per month, and their post-marriage income amounted to as much as 45,000 per month even though most of them were just housewives.

### **1.1.3 Educational Background of Thai Women**

Another interesting fact is that in some countries like Germany and Austria, men in agricultural sector tend to develop their preference for marrying foreign women from Thailand, Laos, and Vietnam due to the fact of sluggish economics in these countries, especially in Germany unification. Therefore, German women have to work to earn their living. More young women are looking for jobs, repulsive of the idea of getting married just to become housewives. As a result, men in agricultural sector who are in search of both housewives and field assistants have difficulties in finding their spouses. Asian women who are know to be diligent, tolerant, and tough have become their alternative, as these men might have seen a few cases of their compatriots marrying Asian women who proved to be good housewives and helping hands on the field. Subsequently, marrying Asian women has become a bandwagon (Institute of Future Studies for Development (IFD), 2005).

### Ratio of Educational Background of Thai Women



**Figure 1.1** Ratio of Educational Background of Thai Women

**Source:** Montri Deemanop. 2003.

Intermarriage is an increasing current in several villages in the northeastern part of Thailand as seen from the data figure. Poverty is a significant drive for those people living upcountry to abandon their hometowns for better opportunity somewhere else. Thai women who have married foreigners normally meet their spouses while working as prostitutes in Bangkok and major tourist cities. During the past 2-3 decades, it has become tradition that foreign men will take Thai women to live with them overseas. However, they also send back some money home. Eventually, the money is transferred into assets or even roads in the villages. Nevertheless, those who have married foreign men tend to induce their relatives to marry foreigners as well. This has become a new social value amongst young girls in the new social value of marrying foreigners when they grow up because established among young girls in the Northeast.

Not all Thai women who have married foreigners are prostitutes. Even if they are, they were not subject of social gossips as severely as it was in the past. Thai women do not feel ashamed to marry foreigners like the ones in the late 1960s and 1970s. Marrying foreigners seem to be positive enough for them. Some have continued sending home money. The total amount is estimated to be 40,000 million baht per annum. In the research findings from Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, Thai spouses married to foreigners transferred money to

the northeast amounting to approximately 35 million dollars or approximately 1,400 million baht (Post Today, 2004: 20)

Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board perceives the significant contribution to the country's economy from those intermarriage couples. Those women do not just bring in currency to the state, but also have potential in terms of being trade and cultural representatives, yielding additional income to the country. More intermarriage couples migrate back to their domiciles and the tendency is on the rising. The national policy is focused on simultaneous development in all aspects. Those who return to their domiciles tend to initiate some development in their own villages too. In this connection, these Thai women can play constructive role in some development programmes. For example, they can help promote local handicraft industry initiated under the OTOP (One Village One Product) project any regional tourism. If some appropriate training provided for them systematically, they can contribute to the campaign to attract tourism from to foreigners in the countries where they once lived.

These positive images and expectation convinced more Thai women to marry foreigners. They imagine that their lives will be improved. They would earn more money to send home. In contrast, the Protection of Thai Nationals Abroad Division, Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs has found a different truth. An annual report 2005 revealed that Thai women who married foreigners and migrated to their spouses' countries were being taken advantage of and became targets of various exploitations. For example, some become slaves in the house, abused by their own husbands and their families. Money expected to sent home was out of reach. In the end, when their husbands were fed up with them, they would be abandoned and ignored for weeks. Many too their children with them and away to seek refuge in emergency home for women begging to return to Thailand. The data shows increasing number of women seeking help from the National Federation for Helping Women in Emergency in the past two years. Ridiculously, some were being brought into the country and abused by the same man. Intermarriage is most popular amongst women in the northeastern region since they lack good fundamental education and, they are unable to speak English or other languages. Therefore, they are financially dependent on their husbands. Once their husbands abandon them, they

face significant problems to sustain their lives. Moreover, some are being looked down by other women who also marry foreigners. This is due to the fact that they came from different background in Thai society. Thus, they do not have something in common to share, resulting in no solidarity amongst them.

The Thai government perceives the potential of this group of women and seeks to support them for the Nation's economy. The question is whether the Thai government could foresee the complication of intermarriage relations or not. There are many different stories. Some succeeded in establishing their business successfully. Some faced difficulties, physical and mental harassment. Some experienced culture shocks. What will the Thai government do to solve the problems of these women whose marriage failed?

Intermarriage of Thai women is a very complicate matter. The research study conducted in the past focused mainly on women's qualifications, conditions, lives and problems, while ignoring other important circumstantial factors affecting their lives ranging from the level of their families, communities, domiciles, regions, national and international. These factors were not just a social or women's own problems, but they were also the by products of the national development. They relate to various social, economic and political conditions determining the direction of Thai society from macro level to village or community level.

Apart from economic factor, social factor as well as Thai people's attitude towards relationship between Thai woman and foreigners are different from those of the past. Foreign husbands' viewpoints are interesting, too, and should not be ignored.

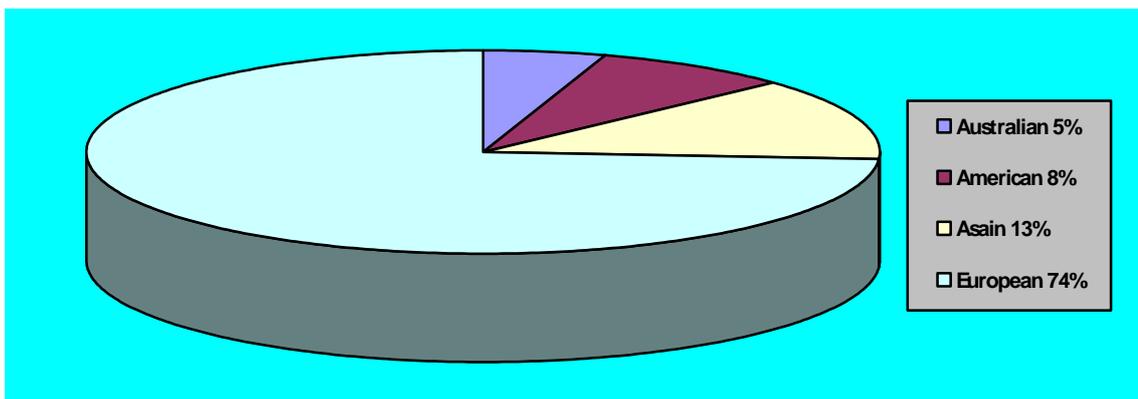
The researcher of this study is interested in the lives of Thai women after they were married to foreigner. How different were their experiences after living together? What were problems and obstacles they face in terms of economic, social and health circumstances? Did they succeed or fail in term of quality of life? What were the important factors contributing to their adjustment to the new environment? The ability to mix well with local people would determine their and own families well being. The research could help produce the preventive measures contributing the protection of women from being taken advantage of. Problems aroused because many of them lack sufficient understanding in local law and regulations, especially law on

family and human rights. Those problems are likely to be acute gradually. From the researcher's point of view, there should be suggestion for practical policy or practical approach to those problems, and for the guideline to understand this phenomenon.

#### 1.1.4 Intermarriage Between German Men and Thai women

The majority of foreigner marrying Thai women from the northeastern region were Europeans, particularly Germans who represented the highest percentage accounting for 20.1% most of them were middle-aged. (Figure 1.2)

#### Nationalities Ratio of Foreign Spouses in Northeastern Region



**Figure 1.2** Nationalities Ratio of Foreign Spouses in Northeastern Region

**Source:** Montri Deemanop, 2003.

The number of Thai women traveling to Germany is increasing. In 1975, there were 529 women who married German men, and the record number was multiplied to as many as 18,995 in 1994. The tendency for German men to marry German women is on decline. On the contrary, their tendency to marry to foreign women is on the rise. Many Thai women who migrated to in Germany found it very disappointing as life condition in Germany is not what they have anticipated prior to their journey. This disappointing circumstance was experiences to those who voluntarily agreed to go there and those who were deceived to marry or to work as sex

workers. Post marriage life as well as settlement in Thailand is important feature of this research due to its connection to their social live in Thailand.

## **1.2 Objectives**

1) To study post-marriage life and the true living conditions in Germany as well as problems relating to economy, society and health. Moreover, it is significant to establish knowledge base and data preparation that is updated to cope with current conditions concerning migration of Thai women who married foreign men.

2) To study reproductive condition of Thai women who married foreign men.

3) To analyze and to evaluate the effects on Thai women who married foreigners, on their family, and on society in terms of positive and negative aspects.

4) To find practical policies to cope with and to mitigate problems experienced by Thai women who married foreigners as an effective guideline.

## **1.3 Expected Benefits**

1) Knowing the environmental factors affecting the lives of Thai women married to German.

2) Understanding problems and obstacles of post-marriage life adjustment.

3) Contributing to the formulation of preventive policies and human resource planning that could help Thai women who married foreigners.

4) Data and findings from this research study can be used as fundamental knowledge for women's organizations and other related associations such as Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), the Protection of Thai Nationals Abroad Division, Department of Consular Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs etc. It is necessary to find obvious solutions to solve existing problems abroad and to supervise Thai women who were and persecuted as well as those who are interested to find out about this matter.

## **1.4 Scope of the Study**

1) The study covers only Thai women who married German at their reproductive ages ranging 15-60 years.

2) Data were collected from the families living in Munich, Frankfurt, Berlin, Dusseldorf, Hamburg and also those women returning to settle in Thailand.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

This chapter is focuses on ideas, theories and related research findings to link various concepts related to weddings or marriage as well as some factors concerning post marriage life of Thai women who married foreigners.

#### **2.1 Meaning and Significance of Marriage or Wedding**

Marriage is inevitably important since it is the foundation for family life considered to be the fundamental of society. From the past till present, forms of marriage have been changed significantly regarding spouse selection, wife and husband relations, life as couple, and couple roles as parents (Umaporn Trangkasombat, 2002: 27).

According to the Thai dictionary of the Royal Institute in 1982 edition, marriage or wedding means a traditional ritual to bond a man and a woman to be husband and wife. Marriage is considered to be essential as it is the beginning of fundamental family foundation. Nevertheless, marriage is a turning point of life. It is marked as a symbol that a person has reached his or her age of consent. They are ready to start a new family and bring up their own children.

Marriage is social mechanism facilitation men and women to spend their lives together as husbands and wives. There has been some evidence of marriage since prehistory. Most religions regard marriage as secret (Schwab, Stephenson and Ice: 1993). Wedding ceremony is considered to be a ritual making spouse life and sexual relations approved and accepted by the society.

People in general see marriage as beautiful, considering it a supreme goal in life. Therefore, many young people are hopeful to get married and build up their own families when they feel they are appropriate to do so. A case study in the USA, shown above 90 % of population would get married once in their life time (Carter and

McGoldrick, 1980: 122). Each individual has different view for making decision to get married. Some do it because of love, or because of the need to change their social status, because of wanting to be accepted as grown ups, or because of wanting to depart from their families and or because of looking for new experiences in life, etc.

### **2.1.1 Purpose of Marriage**

The purposes of marriage as follows:

2.1.1.1 To pass on their family names. The main objective of them being together is to bring up new offspring to carry on their family names.

2.1.1.2 To have appropriate sexual relations. Marriage approves sexual relations between men and women as correct and socially accepted. Furthermore, sexual relations within marriage frame will lead a person to further sexual development.

2.1.1.3 To set up a new family. Marriage creates a new family which is essential for the survival of a person. A new family will respond to the fundamental need to sustain their lives when they are sick, to protect their members out of dangers, and to pass on their culture, tradition and social value.

Apart from the practical purposes mentioned above, marriage serves the psychological purpose as follows:

- 1) The need for love, bonding and care.
- 2) The need for friends who can share feelings, interests, and mutual activities.
- 3) The need for security such as life stability, meaningful and valuable life, life continuity, and direction of life.
- 4) The need to be parents which is considered to be a symbol as a complete individual.
- 5) The need for collateral for family continuity and things they have collected in life.
- 6) The need to fulfill their sexual drive.

## **2.1.2 Type of Marriage**

### **2.1.2.1 Traditional Marriage**

Traditional marriage focuses on roles and duties as a significant aspect prior to love. Many couples got married without love. Some are convinced that love develop later on. In this type of marriage, roles of each spouse will be clearly assigned. A husband is the breadwinner. A wife is a housewife who brings up children. The process of spouse selection will target those who can perform a good role of a husband, a father, a wife or a mother. Very often prearranged marriage happened under the agreement of their father, mother and relatives. The wedded couples were not involved in their selection of partner.

In the past marriage was done for the sake of tradition as families struggled to survive due to hardship in their economic condition. Hence, couples who could well perform their roles were very important for the survival of the families.

Common problem in this type of marriage was the problem in performing their roles. Changes of roles amongst the couples were scarce. For example, husbands ignored doing housework, and they felt tense when asked to do so. Sometimes the couples might face the problems in adjusting their roles which led trapped wife syndrome. Women suffering from this syndrome when they were trapped at home looking after children. Repeating the same routine every day caused them to be bored, discouraged, and angry. They felt that they bore no value, making no progress, while the husbands were achieving progress in their career and gathering exciting experiences outside the house. Another problem concerning inefficient roles could cause by sickness and lack of preparation before marriage. Each one failed perform his or her role well enough. Thus, married life was bound to cause some problems.

### **2.1.2.2 Companionate Marriage**

This type of marriage considers love and opportunity for choice as essential. Each party decided to get married because of love, wanting to spend their lives together. Marriage based on love as a significant factor is rather a new phenomenon. It shows that security in life is not solely for survival necessity. Moreover, it shows equality between men and women. Women have broader opportunity in their education and professions as well as more choices to choose from.

Relationship between the couples is more important than their roles (men as breadwinner and women bring up children). There is no specific role for anyone. It is entirely based on their agreement. Therefore, we can see some differences in these couples. Husbands may bring up children while the wives work outside, for example.

Since there is no specific role, the problems arise as to the role one should take. One may seize the power as the leader of the family, thus causing conflict and cause some conflicts on who should be doing what duty. One may feel being taken advantage of as bearing all the burdens alone while the other one does not have to do anything. It is frequently found that a wife is angry when a husband does not give a hand for the housework while she has to also work outside the house. In this connection, communication is very important to help lessen the tension of their roles and to be mutually agreed upon.

Another frequently found problem is that once there was a conflict in their roles or communication, both felt uneasy and troublesome. They might feel that they were no longer a fond partner of each other. They feel anxious that marriage life was going downhill. Thus, this type of marriage is rather fragile than the first type, particularly when tension is high.

This type of marriage is based on satisfaction of both parties. Therefore, the couples have high expectation from one another. Marriage life will proceed smoothly when they are sufficiently mature to learn what they need from one another by learning to negotiate and expect what can be expected in reality.

## **2.2 Factors of Marriage**

At present one will start to think about their marriage when they are 20 onwards. In some societies marriages occur earlier than that. However, as higher education becomes compulsory for everyone, the tendency of the marriage age is rising. Most marriage is nevertheless based on love more than prearranged marriage (Pongrapee Baranasompop, 2000: 25). Present marriage concerns many variations as follows:

### **2.2.1 Proximity**

Proximity means most people choose to marry the ones who are living closer to them. Therefore, close relationship is more advantageous than remote relationship.

### **2.2.2 Attractiveness**

Attractiveness is highly significant. Courting starts when one is attracted to the opposite sex. In human history, it is full of stories of the beauties from both men and women. Beauty starts from being attractive. This could be the reason that accessory items are very popular as they are directly added to physical attraction. Younger women are more seductive for men, while men tend to be the opposite. It becomes common to see that women marry men who are ten years older. In contrast, it could be embarrassing if men marry women who are ten years older. Universally, most husbands are older than their wives. Young couples allow their husbands to be around 2-5 years older with some exceptions. Attractiveness and age are more significant as relationship is based on romantic love. Appropriate age to get married is also higher due to higher education.

### **2.2.3 Social Background**

After going through attractiveness and age, social background will be taken into account. In the past people, considered background concerning religion, tribes, complexion, education, professions, and classes. Parents would obstruct love across complexion, religion, classes, and culture. Many stories become immortal. It is simply understandable that people just only want their children to get married within the frame they see as appropriate. The society we live in now is more open, so it encourages more marriage across religions, tribes, and classes. If possible, majority of people will still insist in marrying the one they love within similar background, particularly the level of education. Similar level of education may make their life simpler to live together, while other variations are more wide opened. The world is getting connected easier through convenient transportation and communication plus the fact that new education and modern philosophy help broaden world view and life. Therefore, intermarriage across complexion, culture and religions are seen as common.

#### **2.2.4 Consensus**

The tendency to get married is nevertheless concerns consensus amongst couples. People who share similar opinion and attitude seem to be happier when they live together as they experience less conflict.

#### **2.2.5 Complementarity**

In this case a person can have opposite opinion or characters. But, this contrast is like opposite ends of a magnet. For example, one likes to cook, while the other likes to eat; one is hot tempered, while the other is good tempered; one is talkative, while the other enjoys listening.

The similarities and the differences that complement the couples also play their parts in spouse selection. Of course harmonious attitudes help relationship to be more positive as there will be less conflict and more fun to live together. But there are some variations that cause the differences in attitude and characters to complement one another. And the couples are happy to be together.

#### **2.2.6 Readiness**

To most people, age under 20 is considered not ready to get married. And, age above 30 is not trustworthy in the eyes of many. They fear that people who are old and unmarried may have some hidden problems.

#### **2.2.7 Familiarity**

Familiarity is a variation that bond people to love one another. We can observe that very often we find marriage amongst people from the same profession or people who are in proximity. Many experts say that if you like someone and they don't like you, please keep trying. It may be effective if you let them see you more often, but this also depends on some qualifications that are also attractive to the opposite sex.

### **2.3 Nuptiality and Fertility Conditions**

Fertility condition measure in population includes all births. All women in their fertile age are amounted to regardless their marital status. In reality women who give birth must commit sexual relations. We call those women who have partners or are married as “marital fertility”. We can calculate the index by using marital fertility as standing number divided by the number of married women. Therefore we can compare general fertility rate with marital fertility rate to find out the result of marriage that affects fertility conditions.

The study in nuptiality as explained in the dictionary of demography by the United Nations gives is about the study in marital frequency value, which focuses on qualification of people who are married or who are a couple and separation of those who are married or who are a couple.

In demographic term, we are interested in marriage or marital status as a mechanism to bond men and women to live together and have sexual relations. This becomes a channel to provide population with fertility condition. Therefore, when we gather marital status of population, we mean real marriage that people actually live together, regardless with or without official registration. (Pramote Prasartkul, 2000: 159)

### **2.4 Concepts and Theories Concerning Social Value on Marriage**

Merchantalism concept appeared after the industrial revolution around 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century. It emphasizes the benefits in economy politics and military. It believed that the more population meant the larger workforce. Batero believed that once food was abundant, there was tendency population be the increase in population. It was regarded as the country’s stability. But, human beings were limited in their capability, so the maximum level should be set for population increase. Normally, population increase women eventually balance itself, for example, poverty would be a factor that help forbid marriage. Sprangler says that there are many factors affecting the increase of population such as epidemics, wars, and marriage age delays.

To understand about fertility condition, Davis and Brake (1956: 211-235) created conceptual frame work to determine fertility condition by dividing groups of factors that relate directly to the fertility condition into 3 groups.

1) Factors affecting exposure to intercourse such as age when they first get married. If one can postpone their age higher before they get married, their opportunity to have sexual intercourse will be slow. Thus, it causes the span of pregnancies (through out fertility age) to decline.

2) Factors affecting exposure to conception, such as birth control. Both traditional and modern birth controls prohibit pregnancies. If it is committed during early pregnancy, it can be harmful. Birth delivering and number of babies way decline too.

3) Factors affecting exposure to birth delivering such as abortion or baby killing.

There are some factors affecting fertility conditions directly, which are demographic variations or it is called middle variations comprising 11 variations as follows:

#### **2.4.1 Group of Factors Affecting Sexual Intercourse**

2.4.1.1 Factors that make married couples in their fertility condition to live together or to separate. From each other

- 1) First age of marriage
- 2) Permanently single
- 3) Remaining fertility condition caused by the end of their marriage or during their couple life such as divorce, separation, desertion and the end of a marriage because of the husband

2.4.1.2 Factors that affect sexual intercourse between married couples

- 1) Refraining from sexual intercourse wholeheartedly such as observing some traditional events that prohibit sexual intercourse
- 2) Refraining from sexual intercourse not wholeheartedly such as deteriorating sexual drive, sickness, or upcountry work of a husband
- 3) Frequency in sexual intercourse, excluding refraining period from sexual intercourse

### **2.4.2 Group of factors affecting the birth**

2.4.2.1 Ability or inability to deliver birth unintentionally such as being sterilized caused by an accident.

2.4.2.2 Apply or not apply birth control. To apply means to use some tools or chemical substance such as medicine, injection, using hoops, using condoms, and natural methods like safety period counts and ejaculation outside vagina.

2.4.2.3 Ability or inability to have babies intentionally such as sterilization and other medical treatments.

### **2.4.3 Group of Factors Affecting Pregnancy and Birth Delivering**

2.4.3.1 Death of infants inside the womb or during birth delivering from unintentional factors such as natural abortion.

2.4.3.2 Intention to cause the death of infants in the womb or during birth delivering such as abortion.

Apart from 11 variations as stated above that affect fertility condition directly, research findings on the world fertility survey conducted in 1977 showed that attitude and social norms also play a part in fertility determination. These attitude and social norms are as follows:

- 1) Dreamed size of a family
- 2) Demand for a particular sex of a child or selection of a sex of a child
- 3) Knowledge on family planning and birth control

Theory on the decision to change marital status holds that the decision to change marital status of a person will depends to the social norms and culture. How they choose to conduct in their marriage depended on the tradition in which they where been socialized, which women a fine reference for them work regards traditions, morality, religions and law, etc. However, how much these factors contribute to their decision to change their marital status also depended on modern factors such as education, urban community experience, mass media usage, woman playing a part in workforce, modern character of a culture. An individual mentality will relate their thoughts more about themselves by showing some expressions such as being aggressive or clumsy when doing some activities. All of these relate to their

physical and mental changes such as thoughts about themselves, imagination about their physique. This kind of feeling children learn from their relationship with others. Physical changes are relevant to emotional changes in adolescents, especially irritation, anxiety, hatred, stress, etc.

## **2.5 Concepts, Theories, and Research Findings Related to Marital Stability**

Theory of Marital Quality and Marital Stability (Lewis and Spannier, 1979: 268-289). This theory is the collection of several ideas from scholars, presented in a conceptual framework as “marital quality directly affects to the marital stability”. Lewis and Spannier say that marital quality covers many worthy factors and is an evaluation of a marital relationship. It evaluates the continuity of married couples’ reactions. That is to say good marital quality relates to good adaptation, understandable communication between them, happiness in marriage life, satisfaction amongst them, less conflict, solidarity between them, and how they perform their roles as husband and wife.

Lewis and Spannier mention in their theory on marital quality and marital stability that there are 3 factors that are significant to marital quality and directly affect to the marital stability as follows: (see figure 2.1)

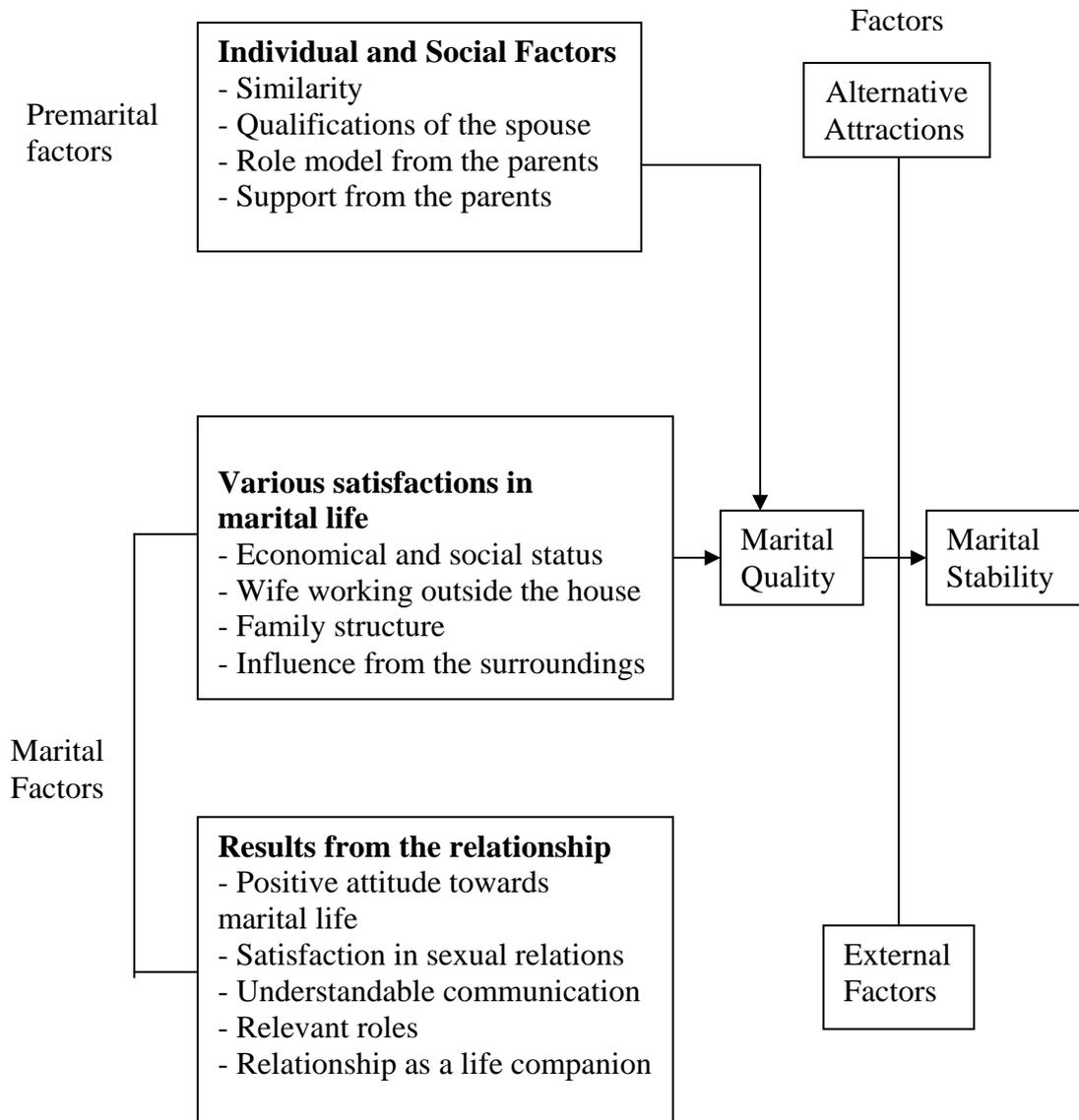
### **2.5.1 Premarital Factors Consist of:**

2.5.1.1 Similarities of marital couple such as race, economical and social status, religion, intelligence, age, etc.

2.5.1.2 Qualifications of marital couple such as level of education, first age of marriage, social classes, acquaintance between them, physical and mental health.

2.5.1.3 A role model from the parents means marital quality from families, childhood happiness, and the relationship of marital couple with their parents.

2.5.1.4 The support from the parents means unanimous agreement from the parents.



**Figure 2.1** Theory on Marital Quality and Marital Stability

**Source:** Lewis and Spannier, 1979: 289.

### **2.5.2 Marital Factors Consist of:**

2.5.2.1 Economic and social status, such as the couple's professions, economic stability in their family, and their household income, etc.

2.5.2.2 Wife working outside the house means women are satisfied with their jobs and approved by their husbands.

2.5.2.3 Family structure, such as having other people living together with marital couple or marital couple living with their own family.

2.5.2.4 Influence from the social surroundings of the marital couple, such as unanimous agreement from friends and relatives in their marriage as well as communication amongst friends of marital couple.

2.5.2.5 Positive attitude towards marital life, such as similarities in perceptions and communication between marital couple, evaluation of other people's value, relevance of the value.

2.5.2.6 Satisfaction in sexual relations means relevance in sexual relations and preference.

2.5.2.7 Understandable communication means "highly efficient in both verbal and non verbal communication".

2.5.2.8 Relevant role means appropriate roles and sharing responsibilities together.

2.5.2.9 Relationship as life companion means living together as a companion sharing activities and solving problems together.

### **2.5.3 External Pressures and Alternative Attractions Consist of:**

External pressures and alternative attractions are factors that control relationship between marital quality and marital stability. It is not always that a marital couple who has high quality of marital life obtain high stability. And, it is not always that low stability in life is caused by low quality of marital life. External pressures are social norms, regulations from various institutes such as law, society and religion, etc. Alternative attractions are results from comparison between costs and rewards. Rewards mean attraction that draws couples to share their live together. Costs mean anxiety, conflict, communication problems, lack of solidarity, etc. Both

rewards and costs indicate the quality of marital life and be used as tools to make decision to divorce. Thus, this indicates the stability in marital life too.

The theory of marital quality and stability can be concluded in the way that the better the marital quality, the more the marital stability. And, the security of marital life depends upon external pressures and alternative attractions, which are intervening factors between quality and stability in marital life.

#### **2.5.4 Marital Adjustment**

The quality of the marital relationship over the course of the family life cycle commands great interest from family researchers, Burr (1973: 30-41) says that marital adjustment comprises relevant resolution, mutual interests and activities, openly expressing love and trusting one another, less complaint and conflict, less lonely or less suffering.

Three patterns of marital adjustment (J. T. Landis and M. G. Landis, 1977: 240-241) are as follows:

##### **2.5.4.1 Compromise**

Marital couples learn to compromise to create satisfaction, sympathy, stable feeling, sacrificing, and not being selfish.

##### **2.5.4.2 Accommodation**

One learns to be humble to unite the family, not to be stubborn, to be cooperative physically, verbally, and mentally. Different opinion may occur but must aim at the same purpose.

##### **2.5.4.3 Hostility**

One can be hostile to the other and get back to normal. One needs to sympathize the other more, but this is risky for a break up if it is left too late.

#### **2.5.5 Marital Happiness**

Marital Satisfaction is a relatively stable attitude and attribute which reflects the individual's overall evaluation of the relationship. Marital satisfaction depends upon the individual's need, expectations and desire for the relationship. Hawkins (1968: 648) gives a definition that Marital satisfaction means subjective feelings in terms of happiness in which a couple obtains them from marriage. And, it is an

attitude variation that has a continuous character, ranging from highly satisfactory to less satisfactory. Marital satisfaction measure therefore covers various corner of marital life, such as financial condition in the family, external activities shared by husband and wife, love and bonding expression, housework, problem solving, etc. Burr (1973:41) proposed a concept related to marital satisfaction. Marital satisfaction is a significant objective in marriage. This means the demand of an individual is responded. The satisfaction can be designated in a particular terms as sexual satisfaction, relationship satisfaction, etc.

## **2.5.6 Concept Related to Marital Stability and Instability**

### **2.5.6.1 Marital Stability**

Marital stability is a normal marriage where there is no problem arising between the married couples (Levinger, 1979: 36). In contrast, “marital instability” shows that there is an existing problem in the marriage, which can be formal or informal according to social regulations. In another word, it can be concluded that marital stability will terminate when a natural death occurs amongst the married couple. Marital instability’s termination happens intentionally when one party decides to divorce or separate. Separation is an informal form, while legal divorce and desertion are assumed as formal. Therefore, marital stability can be classified into two forms as formal and informal as shown in Table 2.1.

Lewis and Spannier (1979: 270) applied Levinger’s concept to arrange a system related to marital stability. They proposed that marital stability drew other concerning factors prior to marriage such as personal matters, attitude, and value as well as other social factors, etc. Whether there would be other factors in their marriage life or not depends on other complicated conditions such as bonding, attachment, religious belief, etc.

**Table 2.1** Marital Stability as Classified by Social Regulations

Forms	Stability	
	Complete (stable)	Incomplete (unstable)
Formal	Legal marriage	- Separation by law, divorce - Divorce by law
Informal	Undisclosed	- Agree to separate - Desertion

### 2.5.6.2 Marital Instability

Marital instability is a word referring to refer to marital failure, divorce, broken up, low marital quality, and desertion (Booth and Johnson, 1983: 387). These definitions are all related. But, some are different in their concepts, for example, marital failure means legal divorce or permanent separation upon agreement. In another concept, marital failure means a negotiation that is not based on agreement which associates the death or desertion by one party.

In conclusion, marital instability concerns three groups of factors, demographic, economic and social, and psychological. The effect from each factor can be varied depending upon individual and social surroundings.

## 2.6 Marital Adjustment

### 2.6.1 Marital Life and Mental Health

Marital quality has some effect on mental health of an individual. In a case study, a married woman tends to suffer more from stress and mental illness, particularly melancholy, more than a single woman. A woman who got a traditional marriage tends to get bad physical condition, low self esteem, less confidence, and poor life adjustment when compared with a woman who voluntarily got married and has enjoyed rights with her husband (Avis, 1985: 127-138)

Men and women respond to marital life in different ways. From the research, it is frequently found that men seem to be happier with their marital life than women. Married women suffer more from stress, mental illness, and become less satisfied

with their marital life than their counterparts. In other words, men who divorce or separate from their wives tend to suffer higher from the stress and mental illness. And, some needed medical care in a hospital. Nevertheless, mortality rate is higher than women who divorce or separate from their husbands (Bloom, White and Asher, 1979: 234).

The difference between men and women may result from the different roles and duties. Married women have to bear more responsibilities on house works including bringing up children than their male counterparts. At present more and more women have to also work outside the house since husbands' incomes alone are not sufficient. Even working outside the house, women still take a burden in some house works as usual. They look after everyone while men only do their duty as breadwinners.

Marital life affected mental health a lot. Carefully handling the marital situation is very important, especially when one is suffering from mental health. In the research study, a wife who suffered from postpartum depression, and got a sufficient support from her husband recovered quicker than those who were neglected (Misri, Kostaras, Fox and Kostaras, 2000: 554-558).

Apart from directly affecting the mental health, marriage also affects the adjustment with other stressful symptoms (Friedrich, 1979: 1140-1141). In a family where there was a child suffering from chronic illness or severe illness, marital satisfaction was the best prophesy to tell whether a mother can adjust or not. A married couple who was very happy with their marital life and enjoyed good relationship tended to handle emotional situation during a crisis or a problem with their child better than those who were less satisfied with their marital life (Olmsted, Lewis and Khaw, 1982: 636-640).

### **2.6.2 Tension and Adjustment in Marital Life**

In a research study conducted amongst middle class families in the USA, the highest peak of tension occurred when having a child. The common factors of tension were economical problems, husbands' absence from home, conflicts between husbands and wives, and house works. We could find these factors throughout the life but it mostly happened during having a child. A husband and a wife had different

tension. A wife tended to be more stressful with house works and children, while a husband tended to suffer more from economic problems (Olson, McCubbin, Barnes, Larson, Muxen and Witson, 1989: 723).

If a married couple suffered from accumulated stress before hand, a new stress that occurred will result in their inconsistent obligation (McCubbin, Joy, Cauble, Comeau, Patterson and Needle, 1980: 855-871). For example, in a case of a couple who had some conflicts over a period of time, when a husband was unemployed they both decided to separate. Separation might not occur if a husband was not unemployed since the stress from the conflicts was still bearable. But, unemployment added to a new stress, thus, relationship that existed for a long time collapsed.

Adjustment in marital life is happening all the time. It is more difficult in a case that the spouse is so much different in background or culture. The ability to adjust with the tension is varied during the life cycle. It is the highest in the early stage when the couple is very close. And, it will be decreasing when a child becomes adolescent and leave the family (McCubbin and Patterson, 1982: 984). The efficient mechanism for adjustment is cognitive appraisal. Cognitive appraisal allows one to analyze the problem on how it happens and what is the most appropriate solution. The other one is cognitive reframing, where a problem is seen as positive. For example, the problem is seen as challenging the ability and will be won over and solved eventually (Reiss and Oliverly, 1980: 431-444).

### **2.6.3 Marital Life Changes**

During the early stage of marriage life, the couple learned to adjust to one another. They became flexible in their roles and will try to respond in a positive manner for mutual satisfaction. As time goes by, relationship started to change. Love was less intense. Excitement in couple life was less and less. In a research study conducted on 200 samples who had been married for more than 10 years with no record of divorce or separation, we find that relationship could be altered in various forms as follows (Cuber and Harroff, 1966: 478).

2.6.3.1 Marital life was all the time stressful as each one was not expressive, so conflicts were not solved correctly.

2.6.3.2 Marital life was no longer colourful though no conflicts arose. It became boring. There was no excitement. Love and satisfaction disappeared.

2.6.3.3 Marital life was neglected. There is no emotional bonding or expectation from one another.

2.6.3.4 Marital life made couples happy ones. They were satisfied, lively, and cooperative. This were rarely found.

In a research study, adaptability and flexibility were factors that forecast the success of marital life (Holtzworth-Munroe and Jacobson, 1991: 897). The best prophesy for satisfaction and success in marital life was the ability in conflict management. Or, it is simply said that a successful marital life is not because without conflicts but because of the ability to manage conflicts. (Markman, 1981: 760-762)

#### **2.6.4 Marital Satisfaction**

Marital satisfaction means how much a couple sees their relationship as satisfactory. In a study we find that there are many factors influencing marital satisfaction and we can divide into three factors as follows:

##### 2.6.4.1 Factor Regarding each Spouse

Childhood life and past experience, A happy married couple were normally brought up from a happy family. A typical happy family means:

- 1) Father and mother have good relationship
- 2) No conflicts between father and mother or just a minor one
- 3) Children are constantly trained for their discipline. No severe physical punishment.
- 4) Children are well affiliated with the parents.
- 5) Parents openly teach their children about sexuality, providing them with the right attitude towards sexuality. They particularly teach them that sex is not disgusting if done appropriately with the right one.
- 6) Children who have been brought up happily and firmly in their mind will grow up as successful when they get married like their parents.

#### 2.6.4.2 Emotional Recovery and Personality

A personal qualification of a husband and wife is an important one. In a research it was found that qualifications that could supplement marital satisfaction and success were:

- 1) Emotional stability and appropriate emotional expression
- 2) Self control
  - (1) Showing sympathy to others, putting oneself in other person's position, understanding other people's situations.
  - (2) Good decision and good skill to solve problems, such as analyzing the root of the problems and will not be emotional when solving problems.
- 3) Being flexible and adaptable to a new situation or other problems.
- 4) Becoming self confident but also listening to other people's reasons.
- 5) Being reliable and friendly.
- 6) Building up relationship with others.
- 7) Having a good personality.
- 8) Having a good skill of being in the public, sociable.
- 9) Having good communication with others.

#### 2.6.4.3 Factors Relating to Relationship

Relationship that causes satisfaction is as follows:

- 1) Sharing love profoundly.
- 2) Acknowledging each other's value, having positive attitude for things done by the others.
- 3) Temperamental compatibility.
- 4) Able to rely upon one another emotionally, handling each other's feelings, understanding.
- 5) Unanimous agreement on children matters.
- 6) A good balance in taking and receiving, not giving only or receiving only.

7) Able to solve problems together and brave obstacles together.

8) Sharing decision making, not single sided authority.

9) Having similar favourites and interests.

10) Getting along well in sexual intercourse.

11) Applying religion as a tool for mental strength.

#### 2.6.4.4 Factors Relating to other Systems

1) Good relationship with parents and amongst kin.

2) Good financial situation.

### **2.6.5 A Happy Married Life**

A happy married life means a married life where each one is satisfied and can develop further appropriately. In psychological term, it is often called functional marriage. In general, a functional marriage is completed when both can respond the needs of each sufficiently in materials, mind and soul. Their life becomes one. They progress together by maintaining a good balance between self esteem and companionship. This functional marriage is not fixed but is changing often, depending on time, social situations, and internal and external factors that affect the marital system.

### **2.6.6 Cooperation**

Marital happiness is a result from a good cooperation between married couple. They must possess love, devoted lead their marital life to success. Nevertheless, they need to have a good skills to solve some conflicts, to communicate and to adjust themselves. A happy marital life is not a tough job to do if they truly cooperate. Besides, there are some other concepts on adjustment as concluded as follows:

2.6.6.1 Adjustment by learning. John B. Watson refers to learning that responds to conditions, and conditions will build up a habit and familiarity of the learners. To learn more or less depends on frequency of the links related to these stimulants.

2.6.6.2 Adjustment arises from conditions in view of Skinner. Skinner pays attention to control and response. He believed that daily behavior of human

beings was a result from reaction to the environment. And, reward from learning was an important reinforcement. He emphasized response and reinforcement. Learning caused changes in response and changes happened because of reinforcement when action was initiated.

2.6.6.3 Adjustment is relationship between cause and effect, and human adjustment will achieve success or not depends on complexity in human nature.

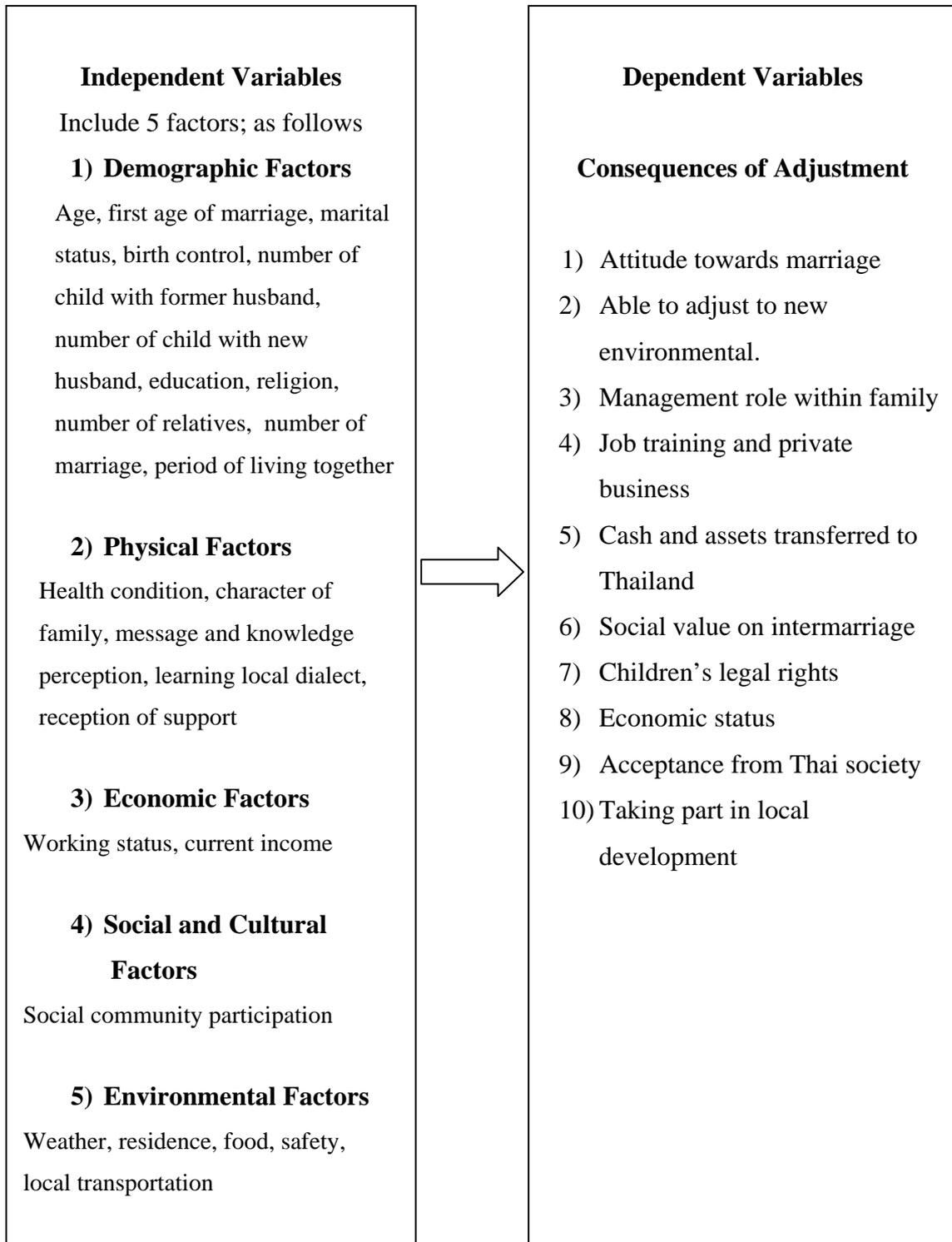
### **2.6.7 The Social a Adjustment Theory of Attitude Change**

It is believed that the process in individual adjustment occurs from reaction of an individual attitude and environment. There are two processes of attitude change as follows:

2.6.7.1 A state of decision making and analyzing new message by comparing with previous message and knowledge.

2.6.7.2 A state of attitude that occurs after analysis or after decision being made, an attitude change will be more or less depends on new message and previous ones.

## 2.7 Conceptual Framework in the Study



**Figure 2.2** Conceptual Framework

In conducting this study on intermarriage between Thai women and foreigners in Germany, the researcher developed the conceptual framework as shown in figure 2.2 and the variables in the framework can be explained as shown in table 2.2

**Table 2.2** Variables in this Study and Measurement of Variables

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Level of Measurement</b>	<b>Definition and Measurement</b>
<b>1. Demographic factor</b>		
Age	Ratio	Actual age ranging in years
Age for first marriage	Ratio	Actual age ranging in years
Marital status	Formulated name	Present marital status: 1. Register a marriage certificate 2. Not register a marriage certificate 3. Divorce
Birth control	Formulated name	Birth control: 1. Yes 2. Never
Period of time for living together	Ratio	Number of years living with foreign husband
Number of children with ex-husband	Ratio	Number of children with ex-husband or foster children
Number of children with new husband	Ratio	Number of children with foreign husband
Educational level	Formulated name	Educational levels: 1. Primary level 2. Junior secondary level 3. Vocational certificate/senior secondary level 4. High vocational 5. certificate/diploma 6. Bachelor degree 7. Master degree 8. Doctoral degree 9. Others

**Table 2.2** (Continued)

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Level of Measurement</b>	<b>Definition and Measurement</b>
Religion	Formulated name	Religions: 1. Buddhist 2. Christian 3. Muslim 4. Others
Relatives	Formulated name	Relatives: 1. No relatives 2. With relatives
<b>2. Physical factor</b>		
Health	Formulated name	Present health condition: 1. Physically fit 2. Congenital diseases
Visiting the doctor	Formulated name	Number of visits to the doctor: 1. Never 2. Once a year health check 3. Once a year for physical therapy 4. Once a year for congenital therapy
Family type	Formulated name	Family comprises a group of people who are bonding emotionally and mentally. They are economically dependant. They are related legally or through blood lineage. Single family: 1. Husband and spouse 2. Husband, spouse, and children Extended family: 3. Husband, spouse, children, and relatives from Thailand 4. Husband, spouse, children, and husbands' relatives

**Table 2.2** (Continued)

Variables	Level of Measurement	Definition and Measurement
<b>3. Economical factor</b>		
Profession	Formulated name	Present main profession: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not working</li> <li>2. Clerk or official</li> <li>3. Mechanic or craftsman</li> <li>4. Production line staff</li> <li>5. Farmer</li> <li>6. Employee and service</li> <li>7. Mobile vender/shop stall</li> <li>8. Private business</li> <li>9. Professional career like teacher, nurse, etc.</li> </ol>
Income	Ratio	Income accumulated from the main and secondary jobs together. Main job means income from 7 days work, no less than 40 hours per week. Secondary job means income from 7 days work, with less than 40 hours per week.
<b>4. Social and cultural factor</b>		
Social community participation	Formulated name	Meeting amongst Thais: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Yes</li> <li>2. No</li> </ol>
Information channels	Formulated name	Information channels from Thailand: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Newspapers/magazines</li> <li>2. Television</li> <li>3. Internet</li> <li>4. Friends/relatives</li> <li>5. Associations/Thai clubs</li> <li>6. Others</li> </ol>

**Table 2.2** (Continued)

Variables	Level of Measurement	Definition and Measurement
<b>5. Environmental factor</b>		
Environmental condition	Formulated name	Problems caused by environment: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No problems</li> <li>2. Weather condition</li> <li>3. Accommodation</li> <li>4. Food</li> <li>5. Safety</li> <li>6. Local transports</li> <li>7. Others</li> </ol>
<b>6. Consequences of Adjustment</b>		
1) Attitude towards marriage	Intervals	Degree of opinions towards marriage Score ranges from 1-5: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Definitely disagree</li> <li>2. Disagree</li> <li>3. Neutral</li> <li>4. Agree</li> <li>5. Definitely agree</li> </ol>
2) Able to adjust to new environmental changes.		
3) Management role within family		
4) Job training and channel for private business		
5) Cash and assets transfer to Thailand		
6) Social value on intermarriage		
7) Children's legal rights		
8) Economic status		
9) Acceptance from Thai society		
10) Taking part in local Development		

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **RESEARCH METHODS**

This research study was conducted by applying both qualitative and quantitative research methods, focusing on marriage between Thai women and foreign men in Germany.

#### **3.1 Scope of the Study**

The populations in this study are Thai women married to foreign men in Germany with the following qualifications:

3.1.1 Thai women married to foreign men or those living together as husbands and wives, and who were married women at reproductive ages (MWRA), aged 15-60 years.

3.1.2 Thai women married to foreign men with domiciles in Germany or Thai women married to foreign men and who had lived in Germany before, and then migrated back to Thailand.

#### **3.2 Qualitative Method**

In-depth interviews were conducted with Thai women married to foreign men and lived in Germany. The sample agreed voluntarily to be interviewed. The snow balls method was applied to reach the sample the researcher tried to gradually build up acquaintance with the first interviewee. Then, the researcher would induce her to introduce the person she personally knows who were qualified for the study. The diversity of fundamental qualifications of these women were their age, level of education, domicile, and method of travel to Germany. The method of finding the next sample was then been repeated till it reaches 11<sup>st</sup> interviewees. An appropriate gift from Thailand would be presented to the interviewee to thank for their cooperation. Nevertheless, the researcher informed the interviewees that their data would be used for analysis without revealing their actual names as well as those

independent variables providing some necessary data such as German government. Social activities within community were promoted by officials who have closely worked with women who have married to foreign men in Germany such as officials from the Protection of Thai Nationals Abroad Division, Department of Consular Affairs from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This includes data from Thai personnel who worked at Thai embassy in Germany regarding experiences, their opinions towards Thai government's initiative actions and foreign government, attention from the government sectors both in Thailand and overseas, and problems and obstacles as witnessed before.

Regarding the research conducted in Thailand, the researcher used the same technique for the in-depth interviews, which comprised 12 Thai women who were married to foreign men in Germany and migrated back to the north-eastern provinces of Thailand.

### 3.3 Quantitative Method

#### 3.3.1 Population

As shown by the demographic data of the Federal Republic of Germany the population of Germany is amount to 82.4 million (Federal Statistical Office of Germany, 2006). With 8.9 per cent of them were foreigners. According to the Royal Thai Consulate-General, 2007, there were 45,413 Thai women married to foreign men in Germany. The details are as follows:

**Table 3.1** Number of Thai Women Married to Foreign Men in all States of Germany, 2006.

State	Capital	Thai women who have married to foreign men
Baden-Württemberg	Stuttgart	7,592
Bavaria	Munich	7,549
Berlin	Berlin	4,128
Brandenburg	Potsdam	396

**Table 3.1** (Continued)

<b>State</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Thai women who have married to foreign men</b>
Bremen	Bremen	575
Hamburg	Hamburg	1,135
Hesse	Wiesbaden	5,215
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	Schwerin	136
Lower Saxony	Hanover	3,385
North Rhine-Westphalia	Düsseldorf	8,584
Rhineland-Palatinate	Mainz	3,610
Saarland	Saarbrücken	1,004
Saxony	Dresden	332
Saxony-Anhalt	Magdeburg	191
Schleswig-Holstein	Kiel	1,187
Thuringia	Erfurt	304
<b>Total</b>		<b>45,413</b>

**Source:** Royal Thai Consulate – General, 2008.

### **3.3.2 Sampling Method**

Two-stage sampling was used to select Thai women who were married to foreign men in Germany. According to 16 states in Germany, the first stage 5 states were selected because of their population size, and significant in politics, commerce, and cultural centre of the country (Federal Statistical Office of Germany, 2006). They were namely:

3.3.2.1 Berlin from Berlin state, as government centre

3.3.2.2 Munich from Bavaria state, as technological and scientific centre.

3.3.2.3 Frankfurt from Hesse state, as economical, financial and transportation centre.

3.3.2.4 Düsseldorf from North Rhine-Westphalia state, which is densely populated and an industrial city.

3.3.2.5 Hamburg from Hamburg state, a gateway for marine shipping.

Then in each stage the respondents were selected using random sampling. Estimation of the size of the samples of Thai women who were married to foreign men in Germany was done by Yamane's formula (1973: 127) as follows:

$$n = N / [1 + N(e^2)]$$

n = number of samples

N = number of population

e = possible deviation = 0.05

$$\text{Therefore } n = 43,413 / [1 + 43,413(0.05)^2]$$

n = 396 persons

According to the statistics obtained from Royal Thai Consulate-General, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Frankfurt, Germany, 2007, the sample size in each state were divided based on the size of the state as follows:

- 1) 67 respondents from 935 Thais in Berlin
- 2) 95 respondents from 1,295 Thais in Munich
- 3) 72 respondents from 1,025 Thais in Frankfurt
- 4) 99 respondents from 1,376 Thais in Düsseldorf
- 5) 63 respondents from 872 Thais in Hamburg.

### **3.3.3 Data Collection Tool**

The face-to-face interview using questionnaire was used to collect data. According to the conceptual framework, the question is developed consisting of 4 parts as follows:

Part 1 The Information on marriage

Part 2 The Information on living condition in Germany

Part 3 The Information on the impact on the married women and their families

Part 4 The Information on persons

The questions concerning Thai women adjust themselves in terms of positive and negative aspects consist of 15 questions.

**Table 3.2** The Rating Option for Positive Questions as Follows:

Agree Overwhelmingly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Disagree Overwhelmingly
5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point

**Table 3.3** The Rating Option for Negative Questions as Follows:

Agree Overwhelmingly	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Disagree Overwhelmingly
1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points	5 points

From those 15 questions, the total score calculated and recoded into 3 levels,  
e.g.

Score 15-35: Poor at adjust themselves

Score 36-55: Adjust them moderately

Score 56-75: Adjust them very well

### 3.4 Data Analysis

For the qualitative part, the content analysis applied to summarize the findings. On the other hand, description statistics Chi-Square Test and F-Test used to analyze data in the quantitative research part.

## **CHAPTER 4**

### **RESEARCH FINDINGS**

#### **4.1 Qualitative Research Findings**

##### **4.1.1 General Attributes, Marriage, True Living Conditions and Various Effects of Thai Women Who have Married to German Men**

The qualitative research of this research study on intermarriage between Thai women and foreign men in Germany has been conducted as in-dept interviews with Thai women who have resettled in Germany. Out of 12 interviewees, the youngest is 29 years old while the oldest is 54 years old. The data analysis has been divided into 4 parts as follows:

Part 1 The background and general attributes relating to Thai women who have married to foreign men in Germany and the data of their foreign husbands

Part 2 Marriage, reproductive stage, true living conditions in Germany in general and in details

Part 3 Positive and negative impacts on Thai women from adjusting themselves

Details of research findings are as follows:

##### **Part 1 The Background and General Attributes Relating to Thai Women who have Married to Foreign Men in Germany**

The qualitative research has been focused on personal life history by applying in-depth interviews. The moderating guidelines comprise the topics of personal background (original domicile, educational level, religion, family members, and previous jobs) and personal history (childhood life, methods of marriage, reasons/conditions for marriage, working experiences, financial status before resettlement, responsibility towards family, first resettlement, significant life change, travel to Germany: decision and traveling procedure) as well as demographic factors

such as age, first time marriage age, number of times for marriages, years of living with foreign husbands, marital status, birth control, number of children with former husbands, number of children with foreign husbands and some data concerning their foreign husbands such as career, income and educational levels. The details are as follows:

#### 1) Original Domicile

Thai women who have resettled in Germany come from every region of Thailand and the majority of them are from the northeastern provinces such as Udorn Thani, Nakorn Rachasima, Khonkaen, Burirum, etc. This finding is closely relevant to another research on “Thai Women’s Lives Abroad”, by the Economic and Social Development for the North-eastern Region (Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board, 2003). A significant data survey conducted in the northeastern region reveals that the number of Thai women who have married to foreign men amounted to 19,594 persons (Chapter 1). It is commonly known that the northeastern part of Thailand is rated as the poorest region. Current trend of marriages between Thai women and foreign men have eventually penetrated rural areas through match makers or someone they know. Expectation for a better life is the main reason.

#### 2) Educational Levels

Regarding this interview data, the majority of Thai women have not completed a bachelor’s degree level. Most of their educational achievement ranges from only primary school, secondary school and vocational school certificates. Those who received little or lacked education will likely get problem in learning German language both for themselves and for the instructors. It is compulsory by German law that married Thai women who live in Germany must take German language course for two years, sponsored by the government. Nevertheless, they must be able to speak and listen to German within a given time limit. Not an easy task at all to start learning German from a native speaker in a state-run institution. Therefore, a club of Thai people in Germany has set up a German language institution providing fundamental courses for basic communication by Thai instructors. An interviewee aged 38 commented that she did not attend a school because her parents were very poor. They made their wages through working in other people’s rice fields or

plantations. The parents moved their places around the workplace all the time. She once had a chance to attend a primary one class for a month. A teacher there told her parents that it would be a pity if she grew up without a future. Her parents argued that this would not be necessary for her daughter as she would grow up to get married and bring up children. When she was a teenage, she went to work in a factory by submitting a counterfeited certificate of primary 6 and secondary 3. All the details in the application form were filled in by her workmate. After her marriage, she has moved to live in Germany and it is compulsory that she will need to take a German course. She has managed to take both German and Thai language beginners' courses. She has studied Thai language from the books she brought with her from Thailand. In this connection, the researcher has an opportunity to discuss with some Thai instructors who teach German language. They admit that it is an extremely difficult and time consuming class. Many worry that they will not finish their courses within 2 years as mandated. These instructors would like to suggest that Thai women who get married and will move to Germany should be able to at least know how to read and write Thai language for their own benefits. Educational level is very important for decision to travel overseas. It is essentially associated with opportunity to learn how to live in Germany comfortably. Moreover, they can get a better job when opportunity arises.

The latest information from German embassy, Bangkok concerning those who wish to resettle in Germany to live with their husbands has covered a new law on immigration (legislation imposed by European Union on immigration and asylum seeking August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007). Visa will only be granted to those who want to stay with their German spouse or foreigners in Germany when they can prove that they are able to communicate basic German. An evident will be needed before they can go to Germany. This is to secure that at least Thai women will know how to communicate in German for their daily life and can take part in social activities from the very beginning of their stay. Those who fail to present their German language skill evident due to their physical disability, physical or mental illnesses, or being retarded will be exempted from the stated evident.

Basic German knowledge is an A1 level of language skill as imposed by the European Union. Thai women will need to understand and communicate

simple words in daily life as well as being able to introduce themselves with others, being able to question and answer on personal matters such as where do you live or who do you know?, and being able to request or to thank. This will be under the circumstances that the persons they have conversation with can speak clearly and are willing to assist. Significantly, Thai women must be able to talk about familiar things to respond to their need in daily life situations. Being able to write German will be essential such as filling in their name, surname, address, and nationality in a hotel form.

Besides, Thai women living in Germany will need to improve their additional learning efficiency from an acknowledged institution by the German government. Thai women should possess at least primary school level. Those who lack some educational background face a lot of problems for learning even though the course is conducted by a Thai instructor. They should concentrate on their language training seriously. Many of them get together when they attend classes and pay less attention. Therefore, this has caused some problems for their learning too.

### 3) Religion

Thai women have visited a Buddhist monastery regularly in Germany, particularly on some important Buddhist days. This provides a good opportunity to get together and do some activities amongst Thai people there. In this interview, there are some women who are also Buddhist but ignore to visit the monastery as they are convinced that Thai people hate one another and there are envies amongst them. And some are not satisfied accusing that some people benefit a great deal from being selected as committee members of the monastery. When discussing about their childhood life, most of them were born in families with financial problems. They had to support families by earning some wages when are very young. Before they get married to foreign men and resettle in Germany, they come from various working background and prefer to change their jobs all the time. The last job they did in Thailand would be the job that led them an opportunity to meet their foreign husbands. Their previous jobs were namely designers, news reporters, translators, hotel staff, prostitutes, etc. Some particular working skills are essential for them to continue as a career in Germany after their marriage such as Thai traditional massage or restaurant staff.

#### 4) Reasons, Conditions and Methods of Marriages

The most important reason for Thai women's decision to marry to foreign husbands is that they wish to better their living conditions. They wish to be wealthier. Some of the younger ones may have their reasons varied. Some may want to try to live overseas. Some want to prove their relatives' insults that they are wrong. But this is the minority of this case. When asked how they met their husbands, some of them began to meet foreign men in entertainment places or in restaurants where they worked. Some met the men through paid match making agencies, introduction by some relatives or friends, or modern communication tools. Thai women who met their husbands in Thailand would still keep in touch via letters with the men after they returned to their country. And, eventually an air ticket would be sent to the women as an invitation to visit and live with them. A decision to travel was made as a first step for a trial to live together. Then it followed by a registered marriage. Some get married with foreign men through introduction by the approval of their own relatives who already have foreign husbands.

#### 5) Financial Status Prior to Resettlement in Germany

Social value is a means of code of conduct. Everybody gives it a good attention. One wishes to obtain something, while the other wishes to be someone. One can be possessive. The researcher would like to focus on one particular social value. That is marriage with foreign men, and attitude towards overseas travel. There are some certain reasons for these respondents in this research study to make a decision to resettle. Economical factor is one of them. They want to have a better life. They want their families to step beyond poverty. They want to provide better education for their children. They look for a job in Germany and believe that getting married with a German will finally lead them to some job opportunity. All of these reasons resemble to the data collected from the interviews. An additional reason is that some are disappointed with their previous marriage with Thai spouse, convincing that marriage with foreign men will be more successful. Thai spouse behave like a playboy and seek concubines. Some cannot stand an insult from their very own relatives so they want to prove that they can be better by trying to live overseas. All of these influential factors contribute to their decisions to resettle in Germany.

#### 6) Significant Life Change

Marriage with foreign men in Germany is a very important change in Thai women's life. To live with foreign husbands, they will find that cultures are completely different. They will need to learn how to adjust to the new environment so that they can live happily. Inevitably, they find that their living condition is vastly improved, no burden on debts and start to have savings. Thai women try hard to go well with their husbands' families and bring their own children born with previous Thai spouse to get education in Germany.

#### 7) Travel to Germany: Decision and Traveling Procedures

Thai women rarely prepare themselves when they first travel to Germany. They lack significant information and do not really know where to get it. Nevertheless, time to make a decision is limited. Frequencies for their travels are approximately twice a year. It is interesting that they will not try to choose to fly with the national carrier, which is Thai Airways International as they are convinced that they will not be well taken care of and staff look down on them when traveling with foreigners.

### **Part 2 True Living Conditions in Various Aspects**

In this second part research, the researcher has conducted by interviewing respondents. Respondents were able to evaluate their true living conditions in various aspects by themselves. This covers 4 relative factors, which are physical factors, economical factors, social and cultural factors for getting married to foreign men, and environmental factors abroad.

#### 1) Physical Factors

##### (1) Health

Regarding physical health factor of Thai women, the researcher focuses on personal perception of physical condition that affects daily routines such as perception of physical strength, comfort, ability to handle physical malfunction, energy to go on daily, independence, ability to run daily routines, ability to work, ability not to be dependant upon medicines or other physical therapies, etc. It is found that most Thai women are satisfied with their physical conditions. They learn that it is necessary to maintain their physical strength, especially those who work

outside the house. Most of their wages derive from service orientated jobs. Therefore, income can be decreased if they are absent from working. They must get enough energy to go on in daily life. Obviously everyone hopes to have a better family life and improve their living conditions. Thai women are highly satisfied since public health service in Germany is excellent. They can obtain services equally.

## (2) Help and Support

Thai women can find help and support from Thai government through Thai embassy in Germany. Royal Thai Consulate-General is located in Frankfurt, Germany. When asked how impressed they are with the Thai embassy in Germany, they are impressed with mobile unit service provided by the embassy. But most of them are not impressed with services within the embassy as they are convinced that they do not get good enough services. And there is likely a class system there. They feel they are being looked down upon. For example:

Embassy officials apparently look down upon Thai women and they conclude that all Thai women in Germany are prostitutes. This stereotype affects any woman who visits the embassy. The officials should be more service-minded

The embassy officials act as though they were gods. They love to give command to the women to do many things and things must be done. A woman takes 300-400 kilometers on the train to visit the embassy but forgets to bring a duplicated document. She is then asked to go home to bring it

## 2) Economical Factors

Most foreign husbands disagree to send financial support to families in Thailand. Thus, it is necessary for Thai women to get some works like part-times and some services so that they will not interfere with their husbands' income. Here is an example depicted from an interview "I have never been a cleaner before when I was in Thailand. But I will never tell anyone back at home how I earn my wages since the exchange rate is high. It seems like a lot of money."

Some earn their living as professional prostitutes while still live with their husbands. The researcher had an opportunity to visit one of their workplaces. It is a 5-storey building. Each floor has been divided into private rooms. This whole building is a workplace for Thai women who are in this profession. The basement floor is exclusively for transsexual workers. These prostitutes have been advertised for their services in the internet including prices and appointment details for customers. Prostitution is legal in Germany. This is an excerpt from an interview with a Thai woman who is legally married to a German. She meets her husband once a week at his place outside the town.

Income from prostitution is unstable. It is not the same every month. But it is worth the expenses like food and rent. If you convert into Thai baht, you can rent a luxurious hotel room, which is approximately 5,000 baht per day. If you want to be in Germany, you need to be broad-minded. It is not a place for gold rush or should one look down upon this profession. Most people in this profession are working for their families, for their people back at home. No one wants to pursue this career. But it is different mentality. There are two colours, black and white. Of course, if I can choose, I would love to choose to be white colour. But I was born to be black. What can I do? But I am an optimistic person. If you ask me now, I will not recommend anyone to come here. It was only good in the past. I have confronted the problems myself. Therefore, I can tell you that it is not easy to sleep with other men. German husbands are not narrow-minded. They understand that it is a career. They can take it for grant

### 3) Social and Cultural Factors

#### (1) Social Welfare

From the interviews, German government provides social welfare to Thai women who are unemployed. They help support for house rent, public utilities, children school fees as well as German language courses for Thai women

who are married to German husbands. Nevertheless, annual medical check-up will be provided free of charge.

#### (2) Community Participation

In major cities where Thai women live, they are not isolated. They meet regularly. All are welcomed to take part in activities arranged by Thai communities, such as Thai embassy events, donation of cash or books for various organizations. A club for foreign husbands' wives meets once a month. It is mostly a meeting for exercise like ten pin bowling. A Thai woman reveals that she has a regular place for meeting once a week in a Thai restaurant in each town. They love to play "cash pool" like it is commonly enjoyed by most Thais back at home. Some meet the group for card game gambling in one of the members' resident. This is the source of upcoming problems. Some start to borrow cash. Some start to have quarrels. Some commit adultery with another Thai man working in Germany while foreign husband is out at work. By getting together in a large group, some Thais import goods from Thailand for sales, such as Thai food, Thai desserts, Thai movies and soap opera CDs. And there are some lottery draws for the prizes of gold necklaces from Thailand.

The society of Thais overseas exist some problems from disparaging amongst Thai women who are married to foreign husbands. They like to compare incomes, showing off who is richer. This is another problem causing some people to stay away from Thai communities in Germany to avoid any problems that may occur.

Besides, the image of Thai women in German is rather on a negative side. This is due to the fact that most Thai people in Germany are convinced that Thai women are prostitutes or used to be in the past.

#### 4) Environmental Factors Aboard

##### (1) Weather Influences towards Living in Germany

Another problem for Thai women to learn to cope with it is extremely cold weather in the winter. This is an example from the interviews. "During summer time, there will be strong wind blowing pollens in the air. I am allergic to it and get rashes on my skin and the breathing is clogged."

Thai women face more problems of allergy due to vast difference in weather between Thailand and Germany. Pollens in the summer cause irritation in the eyes, nasal congestion, breathing obstruction, asthma, nettle rashes. Some cannot leave their houses when they suffer from allergy. They need to find a doctor for remedy and get ready to cope with the next summer. One of interviewee said “The town I live in Germany is very cold. I need to remain healthy to confront with the changing weather. An annual physical check up is essential. When it gets too cold, I normally catch a cold, but it is not too severe. I can adjust myself to the weather here.”

One interviewee suffers from lacking sunlight in the long winter months. The sky remains dark all day long. She feels depressed and lonely to be left alone at home while husband is out to work. Problems in communicating in German with others also contribute to stress disease. When stress is being accumulated to certain levels, some can harm themselves unconsciously. And they need to meet psychiatrists. More and more Asian women who resettle in Europe suffer from stress caused by cold weather in winter. Another problem they face is the difference between Asian and western food. This can explain that when Thai women suffer from environmental problems, their efficiency to adjust is reduced.

### (2) Food and Lifestyle in Germany

According to the interview data, most interviewees cook Thai meals for their own consumption, while cooking also western food for their husbands. Etiquettes for dining culture play significant roles for Thai women who live with their husbands in Germany. They have to become more punctual for meal times. There is some particular etiquette for taking some food. They need to learn how to use knife and fork. They need to be well-mannered at the dining table. But there is an exception, when they meet amongst Thai peer groups, their etiquettes and manners at dining tables have gone back to traditional formats like when they were in Thailand.

### (3) Life Safety in Germany

The ability to run their lives and to work in a safe environment reflects in positive aspects towards life. From the interviews, most accommodations they live in are safe even some of them are rented houses or apartments. Most Thai women can feel that their lives are safe here in Germany since it is a highly safe

country with low criminal rate. The causes of the problems for safety arise when neighbor do not pay attention to one another. Some Germans do not like foreigners. Thus, Thai women have to be careful all the time and they cannot communicate correctly.

#### (4) Transportation and Daily Life in Germany

Transportation in Germany is very convenient. Mass transit systems in major cities offer convenient access to travel inside the cities and take less time. Some people who live outside town and are not convenient to travel on public transport decide to rent some apartments in the cities for their solutions.

#### (5) Mental Conditions and Life in Germany

From this research finding, Thai women are able to carry on their lives normally in Germany if they are patient and diligent to work for their survival. However, many of them feel lonely and miss their families in Thailand. They expect that in the future they will return to live in Thailand together with their foreign husbands and children.

### **Part 3 Impacts on Thai Women from Getting Married with Foreign Men**

Appropriate age of marriage and long marriage life enhance Thai women's good attitude towards marriage. More satisfaction has been attained in various aspects of life, such as family's financial status, external activities with spouse, expression of love and bonding, house works, and decision making (Hawkins, 1968: 550). An interview reveals that Thai women when getting older become less independent on their foreign spouse. They are able to sustain their living income. Their financial status is more stable. Thus, it is not necessary for them to adjust themselves so much. Women who get married at an early age for the first time are mostly done with Thai men. Once the family life is not what they expect, they decide to divorce. Then they get married with foreign men in need for stability, value, continuity and direction of life. There is such a high expectancy to raise their family to a better condition. In reality, life is not what one can anticipate. This has become the cause for dissatisfaction in life. When marriage life is not as anticipated and women getting more mature with lots of experiences, relationship of some couples

have also changed. Good attitude towards marriage life is declined. Some families encounter internal violence lacking happiness in life. Therefore, it is relatively believed that marriage with foreign men can be only a short term solution to get rid of poverty in Thailand.

Most impacts of marriages on how to handle changes that occur with Thai women are mostly routed from educational levels, which are limited. Most of them finished only primary and junior secondary levels, amounting to 55%. They later on confront with many troubles and are unable to handle with significant changes. We can find that the early stage of their resettlement in Germany, their German husbands manage everything. Sometimes Thai women do not perceive what is going on. This leads to being touted easily. An interviewee got married with a foreign man in Thailand and resettled with husband in Germany. After giving birth to a first child, there was a family problem. Her husband gave the baby to his sister requiring her signature to approve. She did it unknowingly since it was done in German language as well as she fully trusted her husband. Once signed, she can do nothing to get her child back and in the end she divorced her husband and was sent back to Thailand.

Considering acceptance in Thai society, Thai women in Germany accept that it is well accepted now in Thailand. Some interviewees are still convinced that it is still a negative attitude when one sees a Thai woman traveling with a foreign man, such as air travel especially on Thai Airways. When asked how they find solutions to this, most would try to behave normally and dress well. They avoid expressing their western style love in the public such as kissing openly. To behave as normal as possible can create a better image.

Regarding Chapter 1, intermarriage between Thai women and foreign men in the countryside has somehow expanded increasingly. This has become a new social value of Thai women. When asked generally how people find this attitude towards getting married with foreign men, most people are rather negative. They believe that those who try to married to foreign men are those who want to become rich. They think their husbands will support them financially. In fact many of them are touted for some other purposes, such as prostitution or house maids. Thus, it is essential for Thai women to study all of the details and German language as first priority.

Pointing out young girls' dream of getting marriage to foreign men, an interviewee provides an interesting comment on this. Nowadays, the fact that young girls from the northeastern part favour to marry to foreign men is not overwhelmingly what the girls want but they have been led by their very own parents. Young girls lose their virginity before an appropriate age because of arranged marriage. Then they part. Women are in charge of children upbringing. Therefore they seek opportunity to marry to foreign men hoping for a better future.

When asked how Thai women get along with husbands' relatives, Thai women are not really welcomed at the beginning of their resettlement in Germany. They fear that Thai women are only after some benefits. But most Thai women show their good conduct, honesty, sincerity, and thoughtfulness towards them and eventually they are well accepted.

#### 1) Family Impacts in Germany

##### (1) Roles in Family Management

Most Thai women and their German husband families are single families. Husbands are in charge with all decision makings and household expenses. From the interview we find that if the women want to send money home, they need to get a job and earn some wages themselves without disturbing their husbands to avoid any internal problems.

##### (2) Acceptance from Husbands' Peer Group and Relatives

Though most families are single family, but Thai women are well accepted by husbands' parents and relatives. They frequently visit one another during public holidays.

##### (3) Savings and Consumption

Thai women keep their savings in many different forms, such as bank deposit both in Germany and Thailand. Some invest in property, building houses, buying insurance for themselves and children, collecting jewelry and gold. However, there are some people who still ignore planning for savings but it is just a minority group. The savings is meant to be kept for later on in life and for tourism. Besides, they hope that finally they can return to Thailand to spend their life with their husbands.

## 2) Family Impacts in Thailand

### (1) Financial Status of Family in Thailand

Financial status of family in Thailand has been vastly improved since Thai women have sent home some money to their relatives regularly or occasionally for expenses.

We find an interesting data that some Thai women try hard to send home money as much as possible to build a house in Thailand. In order to express their well being and to be accepted in the village society, they would rather build a large house to show off. The bigger the house is, the higher the pressure to struggle to earn wages in Germany to send home money to pay off monthly installment for the house in Thailand.

### (2) Health of the Child Born with Foreign Husbands

We find that some Thai women who have children with their foreign husbands and return to resettle in Thailand have many children with special blood groups (RH-negative), which is the most difficult to find in Thailand. This is relevant to a report from The special report: “Special Blood Group of Foreigners’ the son-in-law”, (Nation Health Security Office (NHSO), 2009) on special blood group. The problem is that it is not easy to find blood replacement for this group in case one suffers from an accident and it is highly risky to get generic diseases.

### (3) Local Area Development Participation

Thai women agree and would like to support local area development. This tendency is positive for economical development. Some interviews with Thai women who return home annually during festive seasons to join various activities in the village reveal that they donate some charity for schools and temples. The other sample group of Thai women who resettle in Thailand also helps support their local area development, such as working in the center for foreigners in their provinces to help them when they have any problems. They also participate in village activities regularly, such as Buddhist charity to help support local schools or village activities

#### **4.1.2 Life and Living Condition after Marriage of Thai Women who Live in Thailand**

This research study on intermarriage of Thai women in Germany is a qualitative research. The researcher conducts in-depth interviews with Thai women who in the past resettled in Germany and have now returned to live permanently in Thailand. Out of 12 interviewees, the youngest is 35 years old and the oldest is 50 years old. The findings are as follows:

Taking into account their background and general attributes like educational levels, childhood life, working experiences and financial status of Thai women who are married to foreigners and live in Thailand are not different from those who resettle in Germany after their marriage. Most of them come from poor families with low income and it is necessary for them to be responsible for the families. The main reason to marry to foreigners is apparently caused by the economic factor. Marriage with foreigners is considered to be a very significant change in life of Thai women. To live with foreign husbands, they need to learn how to fit in a completely different culture. They need to adjust themselves to live happily. And the positive outcome gained from this interview is that their living condition is vastly improved, they are free from debts and have savings. At present, some live together with their German husbands in their own houses. Some families get approximately two visits a year from their husbands in Germany. Resettlement can be divided into two cases. The first case, Thai women never resettle outside Thailand after marriage. The latter case, Thai women who live in Germany return to Thailand permanently. Women in the first case may travel temporarily and stay for a short while, aged between 25-35 years old. The main reason for the interviewees who seek resettlement in Germany is because of work. The information they get is that the wages are high. Those who plan to have children want their children to have German nationality. Another reason is that they want to stay away from Thai society where having a foreign husband is not well accepted.

I went to Germany for the first time three months ago. I applied for a tourist visa which was very complicated. When I came back home, I

didn't really understand why Thai people look down upon foreigners' wives. They gave me a weird look

Some interviewees do not seek resettlement in Germany because they are afraid of adjusting their lives.

Many Thai women don't achieve success in getting married to foreigners. Some work hard because they don't know how to spend money. Living in Thailand is the best as we speak the same language. At least we understand when we have problems. It must be really hard to have problems overseas. If it is necessary to be there, one must learn the language, law and regulations, and culture. And you must prepare to know which government department will be helpful when problems occur

I went to Germany with my spouse for two weeks. He wants to sell his condominium, his car and resettle in Thailand. It was extremely cold there. I don't like it. The food is inedible. I lose a lot of weight. I don't understand when they talk. I only smile

Those Thai women who have lived before in Germany and later on have returned to live in Thailand permanently give their reasons that they dream or hope to be back in Thailand when they get older. They prefer to live here and also it is their husbands' desire when they retire.

Thai women married to foreign men and live in Thailand apparently get a better living condition and are happier. They start to speculate some movable properties and real estate. Some try to lead their lives to a more westernized rather than getting their husbands to adjust to Thai-ness. This results in cultural assimilation by western way of living by acceptance and pride of the families with foreign husbands. For example, there are some significant changes in food consumption. Some Thai women have adopted western dining etiquettes, such as exact timing for meals and manners at the dining tables. Yet, some need to learn to cook western food

and have to eat what husbands prefer. Therefore, pattern of food is completely different from other families in the community. Regarding changes of their attire, this has not changed much, but it is more up to date since they have more purchasing power for good brands and good taste. One of interviewee said “After getting married with my foreign husband, I have become more courageous. I start to dress better as I need to please my husband who likes me to dress well”

The difference in adjusting after marriage is not necessary much as the women still live in Thailand except when they travel to visit their husbands’ relatives abroad. They need to get well with their husbands’ families, which only exists once or twice a year.

Regarding their health after returning to Thailand, most women are healthy. Allergic symptoms like cold weather allergy and pollen allergy disappear. Nevertheless, Thailand law does not require physical check up annually like in Germany. The couple therefore looks after themselves. Life without enforced rules results in negligence in doing some exercises, which is regarded as only a personal matter. Hence, Thai women who live in Germany appear to be healthier.

Living in a familiar environment, Thai women tend to participate more in religious activities, visiting temple and listening to Buddhist monk sermon. Their husbands who are from different religion are just as happy not to change their old belief. At the same time, Thai women who live in Germany find their free time from work or looking after their husbands to participate in some activities at a Thai temple. In contrast, there are some people who do not like to share those activities as they think that Thai do not love one another. There is envy amongst them. And there is too much competition amongst the women too.

Thai women who live in Thailand get regular income sent by their husbands for all expenses, while Thai women who resettle in Germany need to work to support the family. If they are unemployed, they get some welfare from the government but not so much. Here is information from interview “I take a beauty salon course hoping to run a small business when my husband retires and we will move to Thailand” and “I invest in a nursery. My husband wants me to run a business. He teaches me how to do it. Now I start to have some savings, a car, a house and my parents are well off”

During their stay in Germany Thai women are able to set free their own debts and their family debts accumulated before their marriage. Living condition is improved and they can afford anything they once never thought of. Their financial status is better and they start to have different kinds of savings, such as bank deposit and real estate speculation for life later on in Thailand.

I have some savings in the bank. I don't want to face hardship again. I don't want my mother to work in the rice fields again. If my husband runs away, no one can look down upon me. Most bargirls don't normally like to save their money. It's easy to find, but it's also easy to spend. Not many think about their future. When sincere western guys who are ready to look after them, they in return deceive those guys just for cash and go back to work in the bar as usual. They are not honest. I would like to warn all Thai girls that the future is unstable. They must learn how to make savings

In relevance to impacts on oneself, Thai women have positive attitude towards marriage as husbands take good care of family. Foreign men respect women and are responsible. They even introduce their relatives to marry foreign men. At the same time they disagree with the fact that some women marry western men for hope that they will become richer. They are convinced that foreign husbands will support them financially. In reality, some women are being touted, such as prostitution and house maids. Therefore, it is necessary to study all details carefully and learn some German language.

Relating to impacts on family factor, their financial status is improving. This affects their economic expansion. Household expenses on personal items and household appliances have been increased.

My parents in Udonthani don't seem to have any comment. They like my husband because he helps everything. But some of my neighbors look down on me. Some ask me to find one for them because my husband is really a good person. He builds a house for

the family. My neighbors are envious. Of course it's normal. When you have money, anybody wants to visit you. Wherever I go, people look at me because I am not good looking but my husband is a handsome guy

As stated above, ways of live of those who marry foreigners and live in Thailand have somehow affect Thai culture. It is slowly being assimilated by western culture with overwhelming approval and pride, such as dining etiquette and attiring. Some new houses built or some old house improvements have been more and more modernized in western style. In this connection, marriage with foreign men has also caused weakness in language usage identity since newly born generation children are half-breeds. Two languages are being used in the family to communicate with children. Therefore, this can lengthen their language learning ability when compared with children the same age who speak only one language. These children get confused and cannot master either language.

The women's relatives do not obstruct the willing to marry foreign men. In contrast, they welcome this idea. They are well accepted in society, particularly in the northeastern part of Thailand. Thai women in the northeast are convinced that local people in the village accept and respect their marriage as long as their foreign husbands are wealthy.

When I come back to Udonthani, many people gossip me. They give me a weird look. But when they see that my financial status is better, they want me to take their children to Germany to get money. I think I do my best. My previous Thai husband didn't make anything better. But my foreign husband takes good care of everything. The only problem is the language, but that's not a big thing. When you have money, you are welcomed everywhere but you cannot avoid any gossips. Well maybe it's because I am not educated

Thai society is completely different from western world. Thai women's attitude towards expression by others is rather negative. This feeling exists when they travel with their foreign husbands, particularly when flying. Nevertheless, some competition and comparison exist amongst those who have foreign husbands.

Regarding their social activity, some meet once a month as a member of foreigners' housewives club. They meet for some exercises like ten pin bowling. Some help develop their local areas in various aspects like offering school scholarship, proving computers to school, or donate some charity for their village temples.

I am the chief of center for foreigners in Roiet province. When foreigners face any problems in Thailand, they contact me for assistance. I participate regularly in village activities, such as arranging charity to support school activities and donate some money for village activities

Apparently new financial status can be visible when one of family members marries to a willing foreigner. There are some changes. Initially, their family debts will be paid off or remain as little as possible. Then there will be some help on accommodation and household appliances where the family never had an opportunity before, such as a big house. This distinctive change happens in a short time. This kind of impacts brings satisfaction to the Thai women, their family and society to a certain extent. On the contrary, the drive to build a nice house to show off their wealth in order to get acceptance can lead to borrowing for some house loans. The pressure will fall upon those who struggle to work hard in Germany to pay monthly installment.

The reason I build a big house is not because I want to be boastful but my husband likes it that way. He wants me to live comfortably. I am still working to help my mother. I am not acting like a boss. When my husband gives me money, I keep as savings. When I need some things expensive, I wait for him. He comes once a year, but he sends

money every month. If opportunity to develop the village arises, I am willing to give a hand. I don't want to see my country folks look down upon each other. I want to see the progress in the village. Foreigners are not envious sort of people. They will be happy for you if you're well off

#### 4.1.3 Comparison between Thai Women who Live in Thailand and Thai Women who Resettle in Germany after Their Marriage

**Table 4.1** The Comparison between Thai Women who Live in Thailand and Germany after Their Marriage

Key Issues	Thai Women in Germany	Thai Women in Thailand
Back ground and general attributes of education, childhood, work experiences	No difference	No difference
Marital status	Officially registered	Register is done after marriage or living together as husband and wife.
Children from a previous husband	Children stay with relatives in Thailand. Most are problem children as lacking love and warmth. In case resettle with foreign husband, they are well looked after.	Remain with the family

**Table 4.1** (Continued)

<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Thai Women in Germany</b>	<b>Thai Women in Thailand</b>
Children born with foreign husband	Children stay with the family overseas	Remain with the family
Present marriage life	Mostly beginning to build a family. During the first 10 years of marriage, foreign husband is still working.	Living a long time in Germany and wanting to return to live in Thailand when getting old or husband retires
Physical health factors	Obtaining annual physical check up as imposed by law. Doing regular exercises. Congenital diseases are allergies caused by cold weather.	Looking after oneself
Income	Foreign husband is responsible for household expenses and they get their own income from working.	Receiving money monthly sent from their husband

**Table 4.1** (Continued)

<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Thai Women in Germany</b>	<b>Thai Women in Thailand</b>
Social and cultural factors, social welfares	Compensation from the government when unemployed, financial support for taking German language courses, annual physical check up	Improving financial status and self sustainable
Participation in community activities	Once a week. Some problems from discrimination amongst people themselves.	Participating in religious activities. Helping develop the village.
Dining etiquette	Changing their dining etiquette and manners, and cooking	No change
Attiring culture	Attaching to western culture. Husband is influential for choosing patterns of attiring.	No significant changes, except more compatible to their financial status.

**Table 4.1** (Continued)

<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Thai Women in Germany</b>	<b>Thai Women in Thailand</b>
Environmental factors	Early resettlement affects them mentally and they feel lonely as the weather is cold. Rapid change causes some physical health problems. New accommodation, means of transportation and safety bring their good quality of life.	Familiarity with the same environment
Impacts from marriage, attitude towards living condition	Comfortable in the new environment	No change
Attitude towards adjusting	Necessary to adjust oneself in a new environment and mostly do it well.	Not necessary to adjust
Handling changes	Able to handle changes With determination and preparation	No change

**Table 4.1** (Continued)

<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Thai Women in Germany</b>	<b>Thai Women in Thailand</b>
Positive attitude towards marriage	Life is improving	Life is improving
Necessary communication	A significant problem to learn and understand within 2 years after resettlement	Try to communicate with their foreign husband
Foreign language skills	Very important to possess speaking and listening skills for daily life	Lacking fluency and Expertise
Roles in household expenses management	Husband's duties	Self management by financial support and advise from foreign husband
Career training and business channels	Working and sending home financial support. Hard working like daily wages and service jobs.	Investing in small businesses supported by foreign husband
Movement of cash and properties	Transferring money to look after parents and children regularly	Possessing some properties and savings

**Table 4.1** (Continued)

<b>Key Issues</b>	<b>Thai Women in Germany</b>	<b>Thai Women in Thailand</b>
Young girls' dream to have foreign husbands	Disagree	Pushed by parents
Acceptance in Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common norm in Thailand</li> <li>Being seen as negative when in the public or traveling</li> </ul>	Convinced that local people accept it anyway if they are wealthy.
Status show off to local people	Finding something good and never had before for the family. Building a new house with western style even though this can put high pressure for them to work harder to send money for installment of the house.	Receiving money from the husband or their own savings to build a new house.
Participation in developing local areas in Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help support by donating cash to schools and temples in the village when visiting hometown</li> <li>Help promote on One Tambon One Product (OTOP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation of foreign husbands in the province</li> <li>• Participating in village activities regularly</li> <li>• Bringing creative ideas to develop local areas</li> </ul>

## 4.2 Quantitative Research Findings

### 4.2.1 General Attributes, Marriage, true Living Conditions and Impacts on Thai Women who Marry Foreign Men in Germany

This quantitative research study on intermarriage between Thai women and foreigners in Germany has been conducted with 396 respondents. The data analysis has been presented in four parts as follows:

Part 1 Background and general attributes about Thai women who marry foreign men in Germany and the data of foreign husbands

Part 2 Marriage, reproductive condition, true life and living condition in Germany from overall picture and details

Part 3 The Difference between Cities of Study, and Life and Living Conditions of Thai Women

Part 4 Impacts on Thai women from adjusting themselves in terms of positive and negative aspects.

The details of findings are as follows:

#### Part 1 Background and General Attributes about Thai Women who Marry Foreign Men in Germany

##### 1) Original Domicile

Thai women who resettle in Germany come from every part of Thailand. Amounting to 44% of them are from the northeast and 26% are from the central region.

##### (1) Educational Level

Their educational levels are mostly under a bachelor's degree. Their levels are ranging from primary, secondary and vocational certificate. Most of them are in primary level amounting to 29.8%, 24.7% are in junior secondary level, and 21.5% are in high school or equivalent level. Those who did not get any education amount to 2%.

##### (2) Religion

Most Thai women are Buddhists amounting to 97.7%, Christian 1.5% and Muslim 0.8% respectively.

## (3) Number of Relatives from the Same Parents

Regarding research findings, Thai women who marry foreign men in Germany come from middle range family. Their relatives range from 1-5 persons amounting 57.3%, while those from a large family with 6-10 members amounting to 36.6%.

**Table 4.2** Summary of Background and General Attributes about Thai Women who Marry Foreigners (396 respondents)

<b>General Attributes</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Background Domicile</b>	<b>100.0</b>
North	16.7
Northeast	44.0
Central	27.0
East	7.3
South	5.0
<b>Educational Levels</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Primary	29.8
Junior secondary	24.7
Vocational certificate/secondary	21.5
High vocational certificate/diploma	7.1
Bachelor's degree	14.1
Master degree	0.8
No education	2.0
<b>Religion</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Buddhist	97.7
Christian	1.5
Muslim	0.8

**Table 4.2** (Continued)

<b>General Attributes</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Number of Relatives from the Same Parents</b>	<b>100.0</b>
No relatives	3.3
1-5 persons	57.3
6-10 persons	36.6
More than 10 persons	2.8

## 2) Demographic Factors

### (1) Age

Regarding age range of Thai women in Germany, most are between 31-40 years old. Age group of 31-35 years old amounts to 31% while age group of 36-40 years is at 25.8% respectively. Next below is age group between 26-30 years old amounts to 15.2%. And age group of 41-45 years old amounts to 10.4%. An average age is 37.10 years old. Most women found in this research study are in their working age and they are building up their family. They are mature. Retired women are the least number since living a long time in Germany can cause home sickness. Therefore, many of them decide to return home when they are old. Hence, there are not so many old aged Thai women in Germany

### (2) First Age of Marriage

More than half of respondents got married when they were teenagers. That is when are between 15-20 years old, amounting to 35.6%. Age between 21-25 years old amounts to 24.5%. In this interview, the youngest age of first marriage is 18 years old and the oldest is 39 years old. The first age of marriage covers the beginning of couple life of Thai women. But since most Thai women are from countryside origins, getting married when they are young is a common practice. Their educational levels are mainly at primary level. Therefore, this can be the cause for their first marriage failure. They are then inspired to marry foreign men hoping that this will be a guarantee for a better quality of life and living condition.

### (3) Marital Status

Regarding demographic research study, Thai women who are married to foreign men in Germany must possess certain qualities. They have to be married women at reproductive ages (MWRA). That is they are 15 years and above, having residence in Germany or used to live in Germany and return to live in Thailand now. Visa acquisition for Germany requires Thai women to legally register their marriage with German men in order to resettle in Germany. From this research we find that their first registered marriages amount to 60.1% while 39.9% went through their previous marriages.

### (4) Number of Years that They Live with Foreign Husbands in Germany

Thai women who live with foreign men in Germany as husband and wife between 1-3 years amount to 23.0%, while those who live 7 years and above to 43.2%.

### (5) Birth Control

Thai women who are married to foreign men in Germany have adopted birth control approximately 65.7%. Methods of birth control can be divided as birth control pills 40.1%, condoms 10.3%, vasectomy 9.8%, acupuncture 2.4%, vaginal rings 1.8%, implantable rod 0.8%, sexual intercourse between 7 days before and after menstruation 0.5%, and 34.3% never practice birth control.

### (6) Number of Children with Previous Husband

Number of children with previous husbands before they marry to foreign husbands has been collected in this study. Majority of them do not have children, amounting to 23.8%, having 1 child amounting to 10.6%, having 2 children amounting 4.4%, and having 3 children amounting to 1.1%.

### (7) Number of Children with Foreign Husband

Number of children born with foreign husband has been collected in this survey. Those who do not have any child amount to 44.7%, having 1 child amounting to 29.0%, having 2 children amounting to 18.2%, having 3 children amounting to 8.1%

**Table 4.3** Summary on Demographic Factors of Thai Women who Marry Foreign Men

<b>Demographic Factors of Thai Women</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Age (years)</b>	<b>100.0</b>
20-25	3.0
26-30	15.2
31-35	31.0
36-40	25.8
41-45	10.4
46-50	7.8
51-55	3.5
56-60	2.0
60 and above	1.3
<b>First Age of Marriage (years)</b>	<b>100.0</b>
15-20	35.6
21-25	24.5
26-30	23.7
31-35	10.2
36-40	6.1
<b>Number of Marriages</b>	<b>100.0</b>
1	60.1
2	39.9
<b>Number of Years Living with Foreign Husband</b>	<b>100.0</b>
1-3	23.0
4-6	33.8
7 and above	43.2
<b>Birth Control</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Never	34.3
Birth control pills	40.1
Vasectomy	9.8

**Table 4.3** (Continued)

<b>Demographic Factors of Thai Women</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Condoms	10.3
7 day before and after menstruation intercourse	0.5
Acupuncture	2.4
Implantable rod	0.8
Vaginal rings	1.8
<b>Number of Children with Previous Husband</b>	
Nil	23.8
1	10.6
2	4.4
3	1.1
<b>Number of Children with Foreign Husband</b>	
Nil	44.7
1	29.0
2	18.2
3	8.1

### 3) Personal Data of Foreign Husbands

#### (1) Husbands' Career

Most foreign husbands who marry Thai women work in private sectors amounting to 47.7%. Next below are businessmen, amounting to 14.1%. The rest have various professions like state officials, engineer/technicians, farmers, etc. Their jobs involve overseas travels and get some opportunity to travel to Thailand. Then they have a chance to meet Thai women and decide to live together. (Table 4.3)

#### (2) Income of Foreign Husbands

Income of Thai women's husbands ranges between 50,000 baht to 200,000 baht per month. Those with an income between 50,000-100,000 baht per month amount to 43.7%, between 100,001-200,000 baht per month amounting to 39.7%, and between 200,001-300,000 baht per month amounting to 6.6%. The

income of Thai women's husband is considerably high when compared with Thai cost of living standard.

### (3) Educational Level of Thai Women's Husbands

The levels of education of Thai women's husbands are mainly college level or bachelor's degree, amounting to 80.9%. It is can be divided into college level at 25.3% and bachelor's degree at 55.6%. Secondary school level amounts to 10.1%, which is ranking in a similar number as those with above bachelor's degree level at 9.1%.

**Table 4.4** Personal Data of Foreign Husbands

<b>Personal Data of Foreign Husbands</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Career of Foreign Husbands</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Private sector employees	47.7
Businessmen	14.1
State officials	11.4
Engineer/technicians	13.6
Farmers	4.3
Laborers	3.5
Retirees	2.3
Teachers	0.5
Doctors/nurses	1.5
Others	1.1
<b>Income Levels of Husbands (baht/month)</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Less than 50,000	3.5
50,000-100,000	43.7
100,001-200,000	39.7
200,001-300,000	6.6
300,001-400,000	2.0
400,001-500,000	3.5
More than 500,000	1.0

**Table 4.4** (Continued)

<b>Personal Data of Foreign Husbands</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Educational Levels of Foreign Husbands</b>	<b>100.0</b>
High school	10.1
College	25.3
Bachelor's degree	55.6
Higher education	9.1

### **Part 2 True Life and Living Conditions in Various Aspects**

This part of research study has been conducted by handling out questionnaires to respondents. Respondents are able to assess their true life and living conditions in various aspects by themselves. The area of study concerns 4 factors, which are physical factors, economical factors, social and cultural factors for getting married to foreign men, and environmental factors overseas.

#### 1) Physical Factors of Thai Women in Germany

##### (1) Health

Health of Thai women who marry foreign men has been focused on personal physique that affects daily routines, such as physical strength, comfort, ability to handle illnesses, energy to go on in daily life, freedom on physical movement without being dependant on other, ability to do daily routines, ability to work, not being dependant upon medication or other remedies, etc. German law has imposed a compulsory annual physical check up and blood check before getting marriage. We find that Thai women who are healthy and lack congenital diseases amount to 62.4%, and 37.6% suffer from congenital diseases. Thai women and their spouse do exercises regularly. (Table 4.4)

##### (2) Congenital Diseases of Thai Women

Common diseases found in 37.6% of Thai women who suffer from congenital diseases can be divided as allergies 30.2%, and back, joint, and bone aches 16.8%. The rest are gastritis, blood pressure, thyroid, kidney, diabetes, liver disorder, and other diseases.

## (3) Number of Visits to the Doctors

Regarding number of visits to the doctors, Thai women see doctors more than once a year for physical check up at 45.5%. The next below is once a year for physical check up at 25.8%. And those who see doctors more than once for curing congenital diseases amount to 18.7%. However, this figure outnumbers those who never see doctors for physical check up that amount to only 10.1%.

**Table 4.5** Health Data of Thai Women who Marry Foreigners

Health	Percentage
<b>Present Health Condition</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Healthy and no congenital diseases	62.4
Suffering from congenital diseases	37.6
Allergies	11.4
Back, joint, bone aches	6.3
Gastritis	3.3
Blood pressure	3.3
Thyroid	3.0
Kidney	2.3
Diabetes	1.8
Liver disorder	1.5
Constipation	0.9
Stress	0.7
Tumor	0.7
Obesity	0.7
Blood disorder	0.7
Migraine	0.5
Heart disease	0.5

**Table 4.5** (Continued)

<b>Health</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Number of Visits to the Doctors</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Never see doctors	10.1
Once a year for physical check up	25.8
More than once for physical check up	45.5
More than once for curing congenital diseases	18.7

#### (4) Characteristics of Family

Family is considered to be a group of people who are bonding emotionally and mentally in life. They are dependant on one another economically. They are related legally or blood lineage. It can be divided into:

Single family comprises husband and wife or husband and wife including children.

Extended family comprises husband and wife including children and relatives from Thailand, or husband and wife including children and relatives of husbands.

In this research study, Thai women who marry foreign men in Germany spend their life mostly as a single family. This corresponds with typical characteristics of majority of European families that amount to 86.6%. Families that consist of husband and wife amount to 62.4%, and families with husband and wife including children amount to 24.2%. There are not many Thai women who live alone. Some families resettle to Germany soon after their marriage to live with husband's relatives. Thai women are typically humble, and they try to adjust themselves to a new environment so they can be well accepted by others. They learn to adapt to their husband's family. Only 2% brings their relatives from Thailand to stay together. (Table 4.6)

**Table 4.6** Members of the Family of Thai Women in Germany

<b>Members of the Family</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Husband and wife	62.4
Husband and wife including children	24.2
Husband and wife including children and relatives from Thailand	2.0
Husband and wife including children and relatives of husband	5.8
Living alone as divorced from their foreign husband	5.6

#### (5) Perception of News and Information

Good perception of news and information is beneficial for a person to have a good life quality. The data gained is important for decision making in all aspects, like decision to work or decision to spend their lives. This research study has taken into account the perception of necessary news and information that can be beneficial for everyday life.

This also includes channels for news and information from Thailand. This more or less helps Thai women tremendously to relieve their loneliness and homesick. It is found that Thai women do not receive news and information for daily routines much more than before. The channel for news and information they receive the most is from an internet, amounting to 39.9%. It is the most convenient channel, but it depends on the person's ability to operate computer. The next below is through television at 33.3%. Moreover, majority of Thai women never contact or receive any information from any overseas association at 92.9%. The result like this is due to the fact that most Thai women remain with the family and do not get together with other Thai people. If they have to leave the house, it is for work. They work hard and pay less attention to news and information. The source for official news from Thailand is scarcely perceived. Government sectors are lacking relevant public relations. In addition, traditionally most Thai do not like to make a contact with any government departments, except only for contingency. Another significant reason concerning perception of news and information is

language barrier. During early resettlement, Thai women still have communication problems with local language.

**Table 4.7** Perception of News and Information

Sources of Information	Perception of Information	
	Yes (%)	No (%)
Newspaper	28.8	71.2
Television	33.3	66.7
Internet	39.9	60.1
Friends	26.5	73.5
Association	7.1	92.9

#### (6) Reception of Assistance

Thai women who marry foreign men can receive Thai government assistance through Thai embassy in Germany where the Royal Thai Consulate-General is located in Frankfurt. The number of Thai women who make a contact with the embassy amounts to 57.3%. The most reason for contact is on the passport issue, amounting to 49.8%. (Table 4.8)

**Table 4.8** Contacts Made with Thai Embassy in Germany

Contacts Made with Thai Embassy	Percentage
<b>Contact with the embassy</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Yes	57.3
Never	42.7
<b>Subjects of Contacts Made with Thai Embassy</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Marriage registration	6.6
Children resettlement overseas	1.3
Visa problems	4.0
Requisition of nationality	1.3
Passport	49.8
Document alteration	37.0

## 2) Economical Factors

### (1) Relative Works of Thai Women in Germany

Thai women who marry German husbands are housewives and take care of husband and children, which amount to 43.4%. Some of them find some work to do to help themselves and family as they feel awkward to beg money from their husband. They want to maximize their ability or to meet other Thai people at the workplace. This can help relieve homesick. Therefore, it is important to get a job for sufficient income to help support family in Thailand. Majority of Thai women are positive and satisfied with the work they do, amounting to 56.6%. The most popular job is being employees and working in service sectors, amounting to 23%. They apply for a job at general places with no further training. The next below job is assembly line staff at 13.4%. The rest are doing other professions, such as private enterprise like grocery, mechanic or craftsman, specialized professions, and clerks or officers. It is noticeable that the least number of Thai women work as clerks or officers. Relatively they lack some acquired knowledge and relevant ability. Taking into account their educational background, most are not qualified to get a job that requires higher education. (Table 4.9)

### (2) Level of Income

The level of income for working outside of Thai women ranges between 20,001 baht to 40,000 baht, amounting to 18.7% of Thai women who work outside. The next below income ranges from 40,001 baht to 60,000 baht and less than 20,000 baht respectively. (Table 4.9)

**Table 4.9** Principal Career of Thai Women

<b>Relative Works of Thai Women in Germany</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Principal Career of Thai Women in Germany</b>	<b>100.0</b>
No work	43.4
Clerks or officers	1.5
Mechanics or craftsman	6.8
Assembly line staff	13.4

**Table 4.9** (Continued)

<b>Relative Works of Thai Women in Germany</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Employees and service jobs	23.0
Private enterprises such as grocery	10.1
Specialized professions	1.8
<b>Level of Income of Thai Women (baht/month)</b>	
No income	35.9
Less than 20,000	14.9
20,001-40,000	18.7
40,001-60,000	16.2
60,001-80,000	6.1
More than 80,000	8.3

### 3) Social and Cultural Factors

Community Participation amongst Thai people amounts to 89.4%.

**Table 4.10** Community Participation

<b>Community Participation</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Meeting amongst Thai People</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Yes	89.4
No	10.6

### 4) Environmental Factors Aboard

Environmental factors in Germany study is based on environment that affects life sustainability, such as freedom of life, no detention, safety and security. A good environment relatively means to live in a pollution free environment, get convenient means of transport, find easy reach of financial source, receive health care services and social welfares, get access to information, get skill improvement, enjoy recreations, and leisure activities. Therefore, 64.4% of research respondents find no problems in living in Germany. However, 35.4% experience the following problems:

### (1) Weather Influence on Life Sustainability in Germany

It is hard to adjust to an extremely cold weather in the winter; thus, 86.3% suffer from weather influence. Some particular winters, the temperature drops so low. The early resettlement women have to confront this vastly different weather from Thailand. Another problem arising from the weather is pollen spreading in strong wind. Many suffer from allergies, which is relevant to health data collected, amounting to 9.7%. The other problems that can be found are rapid change of weather patterns, amounting to 2.4% and heat wave at 1.6%.

### (2) Accommodation and Life Sustainability in Germany

World Health Organization has defined that accommodation is an index to assess life quality. Thai women totally agree that accommodation is appropriate for their life at 99.2%. Only the least number of 0.8% live in a limited space.

### (3) Food and Life Sustainability in Germany

Food is regarded as the first priority for Thai women, which amounts to 77.8%. Western food is completely different taste from Asian food. Most foods are instant. Thai women are originally from countryside and cannot be familiar with this kind of food. However, the common problems Thai women encounter are strong smell of Thai food that can annoy neighbor, amounting to 5.6%. Nevertheless, Thai food in Germany is highly priced, amounting to 5.6%. Thus, it is necessary for Thai women to cook their own meals.

### (4) Safety for Life Sustainability in Germany

Safety imparts positive attitude towards life sustainability and work. Most Thai women find their life safe, amounting to 96.5%. It is merely 3.5% that feel unsafe.

### (5) Travel and Life Sustainability in Germany

Majority of Thai women do not find any problem in their travel, amounting to 96.5%. Transportation in Germany is considered to be convenient. Mass transportation makes their journey quicker. The only problem they find is limited bus service, not knowing the routes, and not being able to communicate, amounting to 3.5%.

**Table 4.11** Overseas Life Sustainability

<b>Overseas Life Sustainability</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Overseas Life Sustainability</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Finding problems	35.4
Not finding problems	64.6
<b>Influential Weather for Life Sustainability</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Rapid change of weather patterns	2.4
Extremely cold weather	86.3
Heat wave	1.6
Pollen spread in the air through strong wind	9.7
<b>Condition of Accommodation</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Appropriate	99.2
Limited space	0.8
<b>Food</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Food taste	77.8
Food smell	5.6
Instant food	11.0
Highly priced food	5.6
<b>Safety for Life Sustainability</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Some Germans do not like foreigners	21.3
Neighbors do not pay attention to one another	35.7
Be careful all the time	21.3
Cannot communicate correctly	21.3
<b>Travel Within Local Areas</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Cannot communicate correctly	18.7
Cannot drive	43.8
Limited bus service	18.7
Not knowing the routes	18.7

### **Part 3 The Difference between Cities of Study, and Life and Living Conditions of Thai Women**

Referring to Chapter 3, the research has divided areas of study into 5 states, which are important in their differences. To study life and living conditions of Thai women, we can separate the samples into three different groups. Firstly, cities with more than 5,000 Thai women who marry foreign men are Munich from Bavaria, Frankfurt from Hesse, and Düsseldorf from North Rhine-Westphalia. Secondly, a city with approximately 4,000 Thai women is Berlin from Berlin. And lastly a city with approximately 1,000 Thai women is Hamburg from Hamburg. There are some significant findings as follows:

#### 1) Thai women in Munich, Frankfurt, and Düsseldorf

In Munich, there is a Thai monastery resided by Thai monks. It is a gathering place for Thai people living in Munich and nearby to perform Buddhist rites. There are some active organizations offering help for those foreign women in need volunteered by a group of Thai people. In Frankfurt and Düsseldorf, people meet by exchanging visits or meet at an acquainted friend's house to share the food together. The nature of problems here are not different from the problems occurred in other states. The most common problem is language which leads to other problems like disadvantage to find a job, family problem from incomprehensible communication, and lack of significant legal knowledge.

#### 2) Thai Women in Berlin

Berlin is a government state of Germany. Thai women are majority members of Thai community here including their children born with previous husbands as well as born with their foreign husbands. In the areas, one can find Thai monasteries, Thai restaurants, Thai supermarkets, night life entertainment complex, and legal brothels. The places mentioned above are the source of information. Thai women scatter in various zones, particularly in the areas where rents are cheap and occupied by foreigners. Thai women enjoy associating with other Thai women. On a fine day, Thai women can be found in a large public park in the heart of Berlin together with their foreign husbands. The common problems Thai women living in Berlin and marrying legally with their German husbands face are their husbands' chronic alcohol addiction, following by family violence. Relevantly, they suffer from

some illnesses caused by mental effect. They do not know sufficient German to discuss it with psychiatrists to receive proper remedy. Likewise, Thai women who are not legally married to their German husbands always have problems of visa, accommodation, and lack of work. Another relative problem is society looks down upon them as most of them are assumed prostitutes. Nevertheless, German people in general are rather negative with Thai women and their children. Thus, it affects their life sustainability as well as their children. Ban Ying Association (House of Women) has provided contingent accommodation and women trafficking study project. Moreover, there is a center for Thai community where entertainment has been arranged for charities.

### 3) Thai Women in Hamburg

Hamburg is a large city where there are many foreigners. Thai women meet at Thai restaurants. A casino, where many Thai women work has become a recreational ground after work. Thai housewives do not have a chance to gamble since their income is low. A certain number of Thai women do not have high education and are unable to further advanced German language class. Hence, they cannot get any better jobs than general house, office or school cleaning, or an assistant in a Thai restaurant. Similar problems found amongst Thai women are problems in language, husband's abuse, loneliness, job seeking, and adjusting to new culture, etc.

## **Part 4 Impacts on Thai Women from Getting Married to Foreigners**

This research study includes questions concerning attitude of Thai women towards marriage, focusing on marital life, adjusting, ability to handle changes, acceptance in Thai society, social value of Thai women towards marriage with foreigners, and young countryside girls' dream of marrying a foreigner.

A significant finding reveals that Thai women as much as 46% agree that marriage with foreigners make their life better. The reason they agree is because they can see apparent positive changes. Life is more comfortable, more stable, and more income. Marriage leads them to resettle in Germany. Many harmoniously agree that they can adjust themselves to a new environment, amounting to 47.5%. And 22.2% overwhelmingly agree. This is due to the fact that Thai women prepare to resettle in

Germany and ready to cope with significant changes. Regarding ability to handle other changes, we find that 40.2% agree, which corresponds the Theory of Marital Quality and Marital Stability, (Lewis and Spanier, 1979: 268-289). A good marital quality is relevant to good adjusting. There must be comprehensible communication between the spouses. Happiness in marital life is high. Both are satisfied with one another. There is low contradiction. The couples are well united.

Regarding attitude towards having a foreign husband is smoother than having a Thai husband, 37.1% agree, while 32.3% overwhelmingly agree. Only 1.5% disagrees. Taking into account this attitude, we can explain that most foreign husbands see family as an important institution. Most Thai women see that husbands are responsible and look after the family well. Foreign men respect women highly. In psychological term, this is called functional marriage, which corresponds to a concept of D. E. Scharff and J. S. Scharff (1987). Functional marriage will lead to happiness.

Thai women agree that it is common for their marriage to be well accepted in Thai society, amounting to 49.9%. More marriage between Thai women and foreigners are expanding in rural areas. It has become a social value. In this study, 40.7% agree with this social value, and there is a tendency to expand in the future. However, some sample groups have varied opinions. They see that the reason they choose foreign husbands because of love and personal satisfaction, amounting to 15.4%, while 13.9% disagree with this social value of marrying to foreigners.

Regarding young rural girls' dream of marrying foreigners when they grow up, most people overwhelmingly disagree, amounting to 27%, and disagree 17.7%. A figure of 34.8% shows neutral opinion towards this attitude. (Table 4.12)

**Table 4.12** Summary of Impacts on Thai Women who Marry Foreign Husband

<b>Impacts on Thai Women who Marry Foreign Husband</b>	<b>Level of Opinions</b>					<b>Total</b>
	<b>Disagree Overwhelmingly</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Agree Overwhelmingly</b>	
Marriage with foreign husband makes living condition better	1.5	4.8	21.2	26.5	46.0	100.0
Able to adjust to changes of environment	0.0	4.8	25.5	47.5	22.2	100.0
Able to handle other changes	0.0	6.3	32.1	40.2	21.5	100.0
Having foreign husband makes life smoother than Thai husband	1.5	11.6	17.4	37.1	32.3	100.0
Marriage with foreigner is common to be accepted in Thai society	1.3	6.6	27.3	49.9	22.7	100.0
Nowadays, marriage with foreigner is social value for Thai women	5.1	13.9	15.4	40.7	25.0	100.0
Young rural girls' dream to have foreign husband	27.0	17.7	34.8	10.9	9.6	100.0

### 1) Adjusting Oneself to Fit Husbands' Relatives

Attitude from Thai Women's Point of View on Problems in Adjusting Themselves to Fit Their Husband's Relatives. This study survey finds that Thai women who marry foreigners have no significant problems with the relatives of their husbands, amounting to 88.1%. This shows a positive relationship. Regarding cultural conflict with husbands' relatives, the researcher has defined questions into various different points, such as communication problems, amounting to 35%. Problems caused by the differences in culture, such as smell of Thai food, manners, habits like jealousy, being mean, and selfishness, difference in ideas, and non acceptance of Thai daughter-in-laws, amounting to 24.3%. Financial problems amount to 14.3%.

**Table 4.13** Adjusting of Thai Women and Subjects of Matter with Husbands' Relatives

<b>Adjusting and Subjects of Matter with Husbands' Relatives</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Adjusting Oneself to Fit Husbands' Relatives</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Having problem	11.9
Having no problem	88.1
<b>Subjects of Matter with Husbands' Relatives</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Finance	14.3
Communication	35.0
Habits	15.0
Difference in ideas	11.4
Difference in culture	24.3

### 2) Adjusting Oneself to Fit Life Overseas

(1) Taking a local dialect course (level of German language knowledge) It is relatively important to possess skill in German language for everyday life in Germany, either listening, speaking or writing. Thai women concentrate most at listening and speaking German, while the next below is writing.

## (2) Career Training and Running Private Enterprises

On the matter of household expense that it should be the role of a husband, we find that 36.1% overwhelmingly agree, while 10.6% disagree that their husband has to be solely responsible for household expense. Thai women should assist their husband by working to increase family income, amounting to 40.9%.

## (3) Cash and Assets Transfers to Thailand

It is a common practice in Thailand that children will look after their parents and improve their living condition. Thai women send some money home to assist their family, which is corresponding to the result of this study, amounting to 47% of respondents who agree overwhelmingly, while 36.4% agree.

**Table 4.14** Adjusting, Career Training and Money Transfer of Thai Women to Fit Life Overseas

Local Dialect,Career Training and Money Transfer to Fit Life Overseas	Level of Opinions					Total
	Disagree Overwhelmingly	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Agree Overwhelmingly	
<b>Learning Local Dialect</b>						
Knowledge, ability and skill to use local dialect is necessary	0.0	0.5	3.8	16.9	78.8	100.0
Must possess reading and writing skill in local dialect	0.0	0.0	3.0	38.6	58.3	100.0
Must possess listening and speaking skill in local dialect	0.5	1.3	5.6	47.7	50.5	100.0
<b>Career Training and Running Private Enterprises</b>						
Burden of household expense is husband's role.	6.3	10.6	19.2	27.8	36.1	100.0
It is necessary to help increase family income	1.5	5.1	14.4	38.1	40.9	100.0
<b>Money Transfer to Thailand</b>						
It is responsibility to send money home	3.0	6.6	7.1	36.4	47.0	100.0

### 3) Debt Situation

Regarding the debt situation of the sample group, 79.5% are debt free. The family income is sufficient to sustain their life in Germany. Those who have some debts amount to 20.5%. Debt situation is a contributing factor to resettle both internally and externally. The main reason for owing debt overseas of Thai women is caused by economical problem that affects the sustainability of their family. (Table 4.15)

**Table 4.15** Present Debt Situations

<b>Present Debt Situations</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Owing some debts	20.5
Without debts	79.5

### 4) Health Problems

Adjusting to a new environment does not affect Thai women health, amounting to 54.5%, while 44.4% have been affected. The main cause of health problems derive from extremely cold winter, which amounts to 61.4%. Loneliness is considered at 13.6%, and allergies caused by pollens in the spring amount to 11.4%.

**Table 4.16** Adjusting Affects One's Health

<b>Adjusting Affects One's Health</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Health Effects</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Has some effects	44.4
Has no effects	54.5
Do not know	1.1
<b>Causes of Effects</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Cold weather	61.9
Time difference	1.7
Pollens of flowers in some seasons	11.4

**Table 4.16** (Continued)

<b>Adjusting Affects One's Health</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Stress from work	5.7
In need for sunshine	4.0
Loneliness	13.6
Frozen food	1.7

#### 5) Problems of Family Violence in Germany

Happy families without family problems relatively outnumber those who have, amounting to 82.6%. And it is a merely 17.4% that suffer from family violence. The main cause of violence is communication, the next below is alcohol consumption and the difference in culture and tradition.

**Table 4.17** Family Violence

<b>Family Violence</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Family Violence</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Suffering from this problem	17.4
Do not have this problem	82.6
<b>Causes of Family Violence</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Communication	43.5
Different tradition	21.7
Foster father-foster child	4.4
Alcohol consumption	30.4

#### 6) Legal Rights of Children in Germany

Thai women who marry to foreign men in Germany are entitled to get legal rights for their children. A new born child with German husband will be given German nationality, while children born with previous Thai husband and resettle in

Germany will be able to choose their desired nationality when they are 18 years old. Most of them do not face problem in legal rights for children, amounting to 94.2%.

**Table 4.18** Legal Rights Problems of Children

Legal Rights Problems of Children	Percentage
Having problems	5.8
Having no problems	94.2

#### 7) Financial Status of Family in Thailand

Since Thai women in Germany have sent home some money for necessary expenses, they appear to have a new social value to show off their financial status. Apparently one can see how improved the financial status of a family. Social value to marry foreign men has tempted more rural women in the northeastern part of Thailand. There is a phenomenon to compete in building a bigger house to show off their wealth amongst one another. In this research study more than half of the women disagree with this idea, amounting to 56.3%, while 27.3% are neutral and see that it is a personal matter.

#### 8) Participation in Local Area Development in Thailand

Most Thai women agree with the idea to help develop local areas, amounting to 81.6%, which is a good sign for economic development.

**Table 4.19** Attitude of Thai Women who Marry Foreign Men towards Financial Status of Family in Thailand and Social Participation

Financial Status and Social Participation	Level of Opinions					Total
	Disagree Overwhelmingly	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Agree Overwhelmingly	
<b>Apparent Financial Status</b>						
Building a big house to prove to their wealth to people in the village	23.7	32.6	27.3	10.8	5.6	100.0

**Table 4.19** (Continued)

Financial Status and Social Participation	Level of Opinions					Total
	Disagree Overwhelmingly	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Agree Overwhelmingly	
Participation in Local Area Development						
Should support local area development in Thailand	0.0	1.5	16.9	41.2	40.4	100.0

#### **4.2.2 Impact Factors that Have Effects on the Women who Marry Foreign Men and Their Family in Germany**

Taking into account the impact factors that have effects on the women who marry foreign men and their family in Germany, the researcher has collected data from Thai women who marry foreign men in Germany. The sample consists of 396 respondents. The data analysis has been done through various procedures. The research findings are as follows:

##### 1) Analytical Result

Analytical data result has revealed that most Thai women adjust themselves very well with their marriage after their resettlement in Germany. The figure shows that 59.1% adjust themselves very well, while 40.9% adjust themselves moderately.

##### 2) The Analytical Results of the Relationship between Variables

The researcher has applied Chi-Square Test to test the relationship between 8 variables, such as age, occupation, income, educational level, number of children born with foreign husband, number of living years with foreign husband, problems for living overseas, and problems of family violence. The details of analysis are as follows:

##### (1) The Analysis between Occupation and Income Relatively to the Age of Thai Women

Regarding the data of relationship between occupation and income relatively to the age of Thai women who marry foreign men in Germany (Table 4.20), we find that women aged between 31-40 years old work and earn higher income per month than women in other age groups, including those who do not work and those who do not have monthly income. The next below age group is between 41-50 years old, and those who are not over 30 years old respectively. When testing to find the relationship between occupation and income per month in relevance to age group of Thai women, the relationship is statistically significant. That is Thai women aged 31-40 years old are able to get higher income than women in other age range. Apparently this age range is working and family building age. When compared the difference in income, this depends on the types of work. Most are working in the assembly line. The next below is running their own enterprises. Moreover, Thai women aged 41-50 years old earn higher than women aged below 30 years old. That is what experience counts.

**Table 4.20** Relationship between Occupation and Income per Age Group of Thai Women

Variables	Age of Thai Women (years)				Total	Chi Sq. (Sig.)
	Less than 30	31-40	41-50	51 and above		
<b>Occupation</b>						
No work	20.9	56.4	16.9	5.8	100.0	25.326
Assembly line staff	15.1	69.8	3.8	11.3	100.0	(.013)
Employees and service attendants	11.0	56.0	27.5	5.5	100.0	
Private enterprises	15.8	63.2	13.2	7.9	100.0	
Others	28.6	38.1	26.2	7.1	100.0	

**Table 4.20** (Continued)

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Age of Thai Women (years)</b>				<b>Total</b>	<b>Chi Sq. (Sig.)</b>
	<b>Less than 30</b>	<b>31-40</b>	<b>41-50</b>	<b>51 and above</b>		
<b>Income</b>						
<b>(baht/month)</b>						
No income	23.9	62.0	10.6	3.5	100.0	61.659
less than 20,000	16.9	67.8	10.2	5.1	100.0	(.000)
20,001-40,000	8.1	54.1	31.1	6.8	100.0	
40,001-60,000	25.0	32.8	25.0	17.2	100.0	
60,001-80,000	12.5	75.0	0.0	12.5	100.0	
Higher than 80,000	9.1	54.5	36.4	0.0	100.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>56.8</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

(2) The Relationship between Occupation and Income of Thai Women

In this research finding, we find that most Thai women do not get income from working as they are dependant upon their husbands. Nevertheless, their level of education is not qualified. Therefore, most work as assembly line staff, earning less than 20,000 baht, and between 20,000-40,000 baht per month respectively. The income is similar to Thai women who work as employees or service attendants (Table 4.21). When testing to find the relationship between occupation and income per month, it is statistically significant. That is Thai women who run their own private enterprises earn high income when compared with other occupations. Most private enterprises are restaurant owners, spa and massage business. Whilst other occupations yielding high income are specialists, such as craftsman, medical doctors, nurses, administrators, etc.

**Table 4.21** Occupation and Income of Thai Women

Occupations	Income (baht/month)						Total	Chi Sq. (Sig.)
	No income	Less than 20,000	20,001- 40,000	40,001- 60,000	60,001- 80,000	Higher than 80,000		
No occupation	80.8	2.9	8.7	7.6	0.0	0.0	100.0	348.60 (.000)
Assembly line staff	0.0	42.3	38.8	18.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	
Employees and service attendants	0.0	22.0	23.1	19.8	19.8	15.4	100.0	
Private enterprises	0.0	18.4	13.2	28.9	7.9	31.6	100.0	
Others	0.0	15.3	36.1	11.1	10.7	26.8	100.0	
<b>Total</b>	35.9	14.9	18.7	16.2	6.1	8.3	100.0	

(3) The Relationship between Children Born with Foreign  
Husband and Other Variables in This Analysis

The relationship between number of children born with foreign husband and the age of Thai women (Table 4.22) has been found to have no statistically significant relationship. However, the relationship between number of children born with foreign husband and occupation and income of Thai women has some statistically significant relationship. That is Thai women who do not have children, working as employees and service attendants the most. Also, assembly line staffs that do not have children amount to equal number of Thai women who do not have occupation. To sum up, women who earn higher income per month have fewer children than those women who earn less per month.

(4) The Relationship between Educational Levels of Thai Women  
and Other Variables in This Analysis

The relationship between educational levels of Thai women and variables in this analysis has been found to have statistically significant relationship (Table 4.23). The research reveals that Thai women under 30 years old exist in every

level of education. Women aged between 30-40 years old finished their secondary level, while women aged 51 years old and above finished only primary level. The relationship between educational levels and occupations in Table 4.1 page 72 (background and general attributes about Thai women who marry foreign men) has been analyzed separately between levels of education. Thai women finished primary school level the most. But when combining the data of junior secondary school level and high school level together, secondary school level has become the biggest group of Thai women. A significant finding reveals that Thai women with primary till secondary school qualifications work as assembly line staff with income ranging from 20,000-40,000 baht per month. Also Thai women who are employees and service attendants are those with secondary school qualification. In this connection, Thai women who earn higher income are mainly those running their own enterprises with secondary school till master's degree qualifications. Regarding the relationship between educational levels and number of children born with foreign husband, Thai women with primary and secondary school qualifications share a similar one child per family. Those women with diploma and above mostly do not have any child, 2 children, and 1 child respectively.

**Table 4.22** Ages, Occupations, and Income Together with Children Born with Foreign Husbands

Variables	Number of Children born with Foreign Husbands				Total	Chi Sq. (Sig.)
	0	1	2	3		
<b>Age (years)</b>						
Less than 30	44.4	27.8	20.8	6.9	100.0	11.636
31-40	42.7	28.0	21.8	7.6	100.0	(.235)
41-50	50.0	29.2	11.1	9.7	100.0	
51 and above	48.1	40.7	0.0	11.1	100.0	
<b>Occupations</b>						
No job	41.3	34.9	15.1	8.7	100.0	21.991
Assembly line staff	41.5	34.0	15.1	9.4	100.0	(.038)
Employee and Service attendants	54.9	16.5	18.7	9.9	100.0	
Private enterprises	39.5	34.2	18.4	7.9	100.0	
Others	45.9	8.3	45.8	0.0	100.0	
<b>Income (baht/month)</b>						
No income	44.4	26.8	18.3	10.6	100.0	63.555
Under 20,000	27.1	32.2	35.6	5.1	100.0	(.000)
20,001-40,000	50.0	28.4	2.7	18.9	100.0	
40,001-60,000	37.5	35.9	26.6	0.0	100.0	
60,001-80,000	62.5	37.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	
Higher than 80,000	66.7	15.2	18.2	0.0	100.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>44.7</b>	<b>29.0</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

**Table 4.23** Educational Levels of Thai Women who Marry Foreign Men and Other Variables

Variables	Educational Levels				Total	Chi Sq. (Sig.)
	No Education	Primary	Junior Secondary- High School	Diploma- Master's Degree		
<b>Age (years)</b>						
Less than 30	0.0	31.9	36.1	31.9	100.0	37.271
31-40	3.6	23.6	57.3	15.6	100.0	(.000)
41-50	0.0	34.8	34.8	30.3	100.0	
51 and above	0.0	48.1	18.5	33.3	100.0	
<b>Occupations</b>						
No job	1.2	34.9	47.1	16.9	100.0	76.131
Assembly line staff	0.0	43.4	41.5	15.1	100.0	(.000)
Employee and Service attendants	7.1	27.1	51.8	14.1	100.0	
Private enterprises	0.0	0.0	65.8	34.2	100.0	
Others	0.0	26.0	39.5	34.5	100.0	
<b>Income (baht/month)</b>						
No income	1.4	31.7	47.9	19.0	100.0	103.40
Under 20,000	0.0	35.6	42.4	22.0	100.0	(.000)
20,001-40,000	0.0	26.6	37.5	35.9	100.0	
40,001-60,000	0.0	32.4	63.2	4.4	100.0	
60,001-80,000	4.3	18.7	39.0	38.0	100.0	
Higher than 80,000	0.0	12.1	42.4	45.5	100.0	
<b>Number of Children with Foreign Husband</b>						
0	4.7	18.7	45.6	31.0	100.0	44.483
1	0.0	43.5	40.9	15.7	100.0	(.000)
2	0.0	25.0	52.8	22.2	100.0	
3	0.0	37.5	62.5	0.0	100.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

When testing the relationship between the problems of family violence and educational levels of Thai women, it is found to have statistically significant relationship. That is most Thai women with secondary school levels encountered family's violent problems before, while the next below are those with higher education (Table 4.24).

**Table 4.24** Family's Violent Problems and the Levels of Thai Women's Education

Family's Violent Problems	Educational Levels of Thai Women				Total	Chi Sq. (Sig.)
	No Education	Primary	Junior Secondary- High School	Diploma- Master's Degree		
Never	0.6	32.1	44.3	22.9	100.0	31.795
Encountered	9.5	11.1	60.3	19.0	100.0	(.000)
<b>Total</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>29.8</b>	<b>46.2</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

(5) The Relationship between Number of Living Years with Foreign Husbands and Other Variables in This Analysis

Thai women aged below 30 years old have spent their life living with foreign husbands in Germany during various periods equally. Women aged 51 years old and above have stayed with their foreign husbands more than 7 years. Those women who do not work or assembly line staff as well as employees and service attendants mostly have also stayed with their husbands longer than 7 years. Regarding the income per month, it is can be summarized that the longer Thai women spend their life with their foreign husbands, the higher their income per month. When comparing with educational levels, the number of living years with their foreign husbands of Thai women shows no significant differences (Table 4.25).

**Table 4.25** The Number of Living Years with Their Foreign Husbands and Other Variables

Variables	Number of Living Years with Foreign Husbands (years)			Total	Chi Sq. (Sig.)
	1-3	4-6	7 and above		
<b>Age (years)</b>					
Less than 30	36.1	31.9	31.9	100.0	34.451
31-40	21.3	38.7	40.0	100.0	(.000)
41-50	19.4	33.3	47.2	100.0	
51 and above	11.1	0.0	88.9	100.0	
<b>Occupation</b>					
No job	26.7	31.4	41.9	100.0	24.637
Assembly line staff	30.2	22.6	47.2	100.0	(.002)
Employee and Service attendants	6.6	41.8	51.6	100.0	
Private enterprises	36.8	31.6	31.6	100.0	
Others	42.1	16.6	41.3	100.0	
<b>Income (baht/month)</b>					
No income	28.2	35.2	36.6	100.0	47.785
Less than 20,000	22.0	30.5	47.5	100.0	(.000)
20,001-40,000	17.6	48.6	33.8	100.0	
40,001-60,000	14.1	29.7	56.2	100.0	
60001-80,000	0.0	12.5	87.5	100.0	
Higher than 80,000	48.5	24.2	27.3	100.0	
<b>Education</b>					
No Education	25.0	0.0	75.0	100.0	7.755
Primary	26.8	34.8	38.4	100.0	(.257)
Junior Secondary – High School	23.0	34.4	42.6	100.0	
Diploma – Master’s Degree	19.5	29.9	50.6	100.0	
<b>Number of Children</b>					
0	14.7	34.5	50.8	100.0	22.820
1	36.5	31.3	32.2	100.0	(.001)
2	20.8	40.3	38.9	100.0	
3	25.0	25.0	50.0	100.0	

**Table 4.25** (Continued)

Variables	Number of Living Years with Foreign			Total	Chi Sq (Sig.)
	Husbands (years)				
	1-3	4-6	7 and above		
<b>Family's Violent Problems</b>					
Never	22.3	29.4	48.3	100.0	22.950
Encountered	26.1	55.1	18.8	100.0	(.000)
Total	23.0	33.8	43.2	100.0	

Regarding the relationship between number of children born with foreign husbands and number of living years, we find that family who does not have children has been living together longer than seven years is the biggest group. Family with two children has lived together longer than three years, and family with three children has mostly lived together longer than seven years. Taking into account the relationship between number of living years with foreign husbands and problems with Thai women's lifestyle, it is found that the longer they spend life together, the fewer problems they encounter. Those women who have encountered problems in their life are mostly those in the period of 4-6 years, which is the same as Thai women who experience family's violence. The longer they have lived together, the fewer the family's violence.

#### (6) The Relationship between Problems of Living Overseas and Other Variables in This Analysis

This research study reveals that Thai women who have encountered problems of living overseas, relative factors on ages, occupations, educational levels, and number of children show no significant difference (Table 4.26). The test to find the relationship between income per month and problems of living overseas has been revealed to have statistically significant relationship. Thai women earning higher income will encounter fewer problems when living overseas than those with lower income. That is Thai women who do not have income will face the most problems when living overseas, while those with income 20,000 baht till 80,000 baht per month face similar problems of living overseas.

Though income from working in Germany is higher than working in Thailand, which is a reason for many Thai women to decide to work here, cost of living is also relatively high. Many Thai women have encountered problems in their expenses to sustain their life. Therefore, a decision based on only income regardless of other aspects can affect their living condition in Germany. Moreover, resettlement and working in Germany with their husbands will enable them a better quality of life. However, most women still find it necessary to send money home. Thus, the expenditure for their own need will be minimized as well. Talking with these women, we can find their strong determination and intention to work overseas even they have to work hard. But, they are always happy as long as they can send home some money for their loved and respectable ones. When they learn that the money they send can bring some happiness to the family and get a better living condition, they get even more determined and happier to work. The relationship between number of living years with foreign husbands and problems of life overseas, we find that the more they spend their life together, the fewer the problems they encounter. That is Thai women who have lived with their husbands for a long time will face fewer problems to live overseas than those who have just started their couple life and those who are in their 4-6 years of living together.

**Table 4.26** The Problems of Living Overseas and Other Variables

Variables	Problems of Living Overseas		Total	Chi Sq. (Sig.)
	No Problems	Encountered Problems		
<b>Age (years)</b>				
Less than 30	70.8	29.2	100.0	4.924
31-40	60.0	40.0	100.0	(.177)
41-50	70.8	29.2	100.0	
51 and above	70.4	29.6	100.0	
<b>Occupation</b>				
No job	59.9	40.1	100.0	6.000
Assembly line staff	67.9	32.1	100.0	(.199)
Employee and Service attendants	69.2	30.8	100.0	
Private enterprises	57.9	42.1	100.0	
Others	80.2	19.8	100.0	
<b>Income (baht/month)</b>				
No income	54.2	45.8	100.0	4.974
Less than 20,000	72.9	27.1	100.0	(.019)
20,001-40,000	68.9	31.1	100.0	
40,001-60,000	67.2	32.8	100.0	
60001-80,000	62.5	37.5	100.0	
Higher than 80,000	81.8	18.2	100.0	
<b>Education</b>				
No Education	100.0	0.0	100.0	6.294
Primary	63.4	36.6	100.0	(.098)
Junior Secondary – High School	62.8	37.2	100.0	
Diploma – Master’s Degree	71.3	28.7	100.0	

**Table 4.26** (Continued)

Variables	Problems of Living Overseas		Total	Chi Sq. (Sig.)
	No Problems	Encountered Problems		
<b>Number of Living Years with Foreign Husbands (years)</b>				
1-3	62.7	37.4	100.0	9.206
4-6	56.0	44.0	100.0	(.010)
7 and above	72.5	27.5	100.0	
<b>Number of Children</b>				
0	58.8	41.2	100.0	4.974
1	70.4	29.6	100.0	(.174)
2	68.1	31.9	100.0	
3	68.8	31.3	100.0	
<b>Total</b>	64.6	35.4	100.0	

(7) The Relationship between Family's Violent Problems and  
Other Variables in This Analysis

When testing to find the relationship between family's violent problems and occupations of Thai women and number of children born with foreign husbands, it is found to have statistically significant relationship (Table 4.27). That is most Thai women who have married legally with foreigners will never find violent problems in the family. There are only a few numbers who experience violence in the family. Family with three children has encountered family's violent problems the most, following by family who does not have any child and family with only one child respectively. To sum up family with or without children face do not face family's violent problem equally. Regarding occupation, women working in assembly line, and employees and service attendants have encountered the most violent problems, following by those who do other jobs and those who do not work respectively. It is also found that there is no significant relationship between family's violent problems and ages of Thai women.

**Table 4.27** Family's Violent Problems and Other Variables

Variables	Family's Violent Problems		Total	Chi Sq. (Sig.)
	Never	Encountered		
<b>Age (years)</b>				
Less than 30	88.9	11.1	100.0	5.634
31-40	82.2	17.8	100.0	(.131)
41-50	75.0	25.0	100.0	
51 and above	88.9	11.1	100.0	
<b>Occupation</b>				
No job	83.7	16.3	100.0	17.060
Assembly line staff	90.6	9.4	100.0	(.002)
Employee and Service attendants	69.2	30.8	100.0	
Private enterprises	92.1	7.9	100.0	
Others	80.2	19.8	100.0	
<b>Number of Children</b>				
0	79.1	20.9	100.0	21.439
1	84.3	15.7	100.0	(.000)
2	97.2	2.8	100.0	
3	62.5	37.5	100.0	
Total	82.6	17.4	100.0	

The relationship between family's violent problems and problems in living overseas are found not to have any significant relationship (Table 4.28).

**Table 4.28** Family's Violent Problems and Problems in Living Overseas

Family's Violent Problems	Problems in Living Overseas		Total	Chi Sq. (Sig.)
	No Problems	Encountered Problems		
Never have problems	66.7	33.3	100.0	3.351
Encountered problems	55.1	44.9	100.0	(.067)
<b>Total</b>	64.6	35.4	100.0	

### 3) The Result of Data to Compare the Attitude towards Marital Life of Thai Women

This research analysis has been completed by adopting Group Mean technique to compare means average of 8 variables, such as age, occupation, income, educational level, number of children born with foreign husband, number of years living with foreign husband, problems when living overseas, and family's violent problems. Statistic software programmed has been used and the analytical findings are as follows:

#### (1) Good Attitude towards Marital Life of Thai Women That Has Different Demographic Factors

Regarding a good attitude towards marital life of Thai women who are in different ages (Table 4.29), Thai women aged below 30 years old score higher in their good attitude towards marital life than women in the older age groups. Thai women aged 51 years old and above score the lowest. Taking into account the differences amongst the groups, Thai women aged between 41-50 years old are the most different, following by 51 years old and above, 31-40 years old, and under 30 years old respectively. Besides, Thai women who are different in their ages seem to score statistically significant differences.

Regarding a good attitude towards marital life of Thai women who have different occupations (Table 4.29), women who run their own enterprises score higher than women with other occupations, following by women who do not work. Women working in the assembly line score the lowest as their nature of work is repetitive. When taking into account the difference amongst the groups, Thai women

working as employees and service attendants, private enterprises, and other jobs are the most different, following by women who do not work. It is found that different occupation score differently in their good attitude towards marital life. The difference is statistically significant.

Regarding the good attitude towards marital life of Thai women with different income earning, Thai women who can make higher than 80,000 baht per month score higher than women who earn less than them. Thai women with income earning between 20,001-40,000 baht per month seems to score the lowest. Taking into account amongst the groups, Thai women earning below 20,000 baht per month are the most different, following by those earning between 40,001-60,000 baht per month, and those between 20,001-40,000 baht per month respectively. It is found that the different income makes the scores statistically significant.

Regarding factor of income, it is positively affects a good attitude towards marital life. Thai women are well looked after by their husbands and earn higher income. When Thai women earn more or the family earns more, quality of life in various aspects will be improved as well. Most important is that there is no more debt. Income is a factor to sustain a good living in Germany. The higher earning in a family means the more opportunity to cover all expenses to look after themselves. Higher income enables one's ability to spend on consumer products and handle changes more smoothly, including sufficient income for recreations with the family. Once economic status is better, life quality in various aspects can also be improved. Therefore, there will be satisfaction and happiness in marital life (Hawkins, 1968). All of these help support Thai women to adjust themselves more efficiently.

Regarding the test to find the relationship between a good attitude towards marital life of Thai women and educational levels, number of children, and the number of years living together, it is not found to have any statistically significant difference.

**Table 4.29** Comparison of Good Attitude towards Marital Life by Various Respondents Characteristic.

Variables	Mean	Standard Deviation	Test Statistic F, (Sig.)
<b>Age (years)</b>			
Less than 30	3.96	0.32	F=5.975
31-40	3.90	0.37	(.001)
41-50	3.79	0.45	
51 and above	3.62	0.51	
<b>Occupation</b>			
No job	3.94	0.35	F=10.625
Assembly line staff	3.65	0.27	(.000)
Employee and Service attendants	3.8	0.45	
Private enterprises	4.12	0.45	
Others	3.79	0.45	
<b>Income (baht/month)</b>			
No income	3.95	0.33	F=7.356
Less than 20,000	3.89	0.47	(.000)
20,001-40,000	3.69	0.39	
40,001-60,000	3.76	0.46	
60001-80,000	3.86	0.36	
Higher than 80,000	4.09	0.35	
<b>Education</b>			
No Education	4.02	0.31	F=1.907
Primary	3.89	0.39	(.128)
Junior Secondary –			
High School	3.91	0.38	
Diploma – Master’s Degree	3.8	0.43	
<b>Number of Children</b>			
0	3.86	0.36	F=0.578
1	3.87	0.37	(0.630)
2	3.92	0.55	
3	3.82	0.3	

**Table 4.29** (Continued)

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>Test Statistic F, (Sig.)</b>
<b>Number of Living Years with Foreign Husbands (years)</b>			
1-3	3.89	0.42	F=0.143
4-6	3.86	0.44	(.867)
7 and above	3.87	0.37	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.87</b>	<b>0.40</b>	

(2) A Good Attitude towards Marital Life of Thai Women and the  
Problems of Living Overseas

**Table 4.30** Good Attitude towards Marital Life of Thai Women and Their Problems  
in Living Overseas

<b>Problems in Living Overseas</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>Test Statistic F, (Sig.)</b>
No problems	3.85	0.37	F=7.914
Have problems	3.91	0.46	(.005)
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.87</b>	<b>0.40</b>	

Referring to the Table 4.30, it is shown that the mean scores are significant difference. Although Thai women have problems group has higher mean score, this means that the variation of good attitude towards marital life in this group is also high.

(3) A Good Attitude towards Marital Life of Thai Women and Family's Violent Problems

Regarding research study shown in Table 4.31, the difference between Thai women who have encountered family's violent problems and those who do not have is revealed not to have statistically significant difference.

**Table 4.31** Good Attitude towards Marital Life of Thai Women with Family's Violent Problems

<b>Family's Violent Problems</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	<b>Test Statistic F, (Sig.)</b>
Never	3.91	0.39	F=0.325
Encountered	3.66	0.40	(.569)
<b>Total</b>	3.87	0.40	

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **CONCLUSION AND RECOMENDATION**

#### **5.1 Conclusion of the Research**

The research on the marriage of Thai women to the foreigners from Germany is aimed at studying the factors leading to marriage, fertility, quality of life in Germany, the problems facing them with regard to economy, society, and health, as well as studying and analyzing the positive and the negative impact from their attempt at getting acclimatized to the new cultures and environment on their own lives and on their families. The researcher employed both the qualitative and the quantitative methods in conducting his study. The qualitative method was marked by the employment of in-depth interview to elicit the information on the lives of 10 Thai women residing in Germany and 12 Thai women who migrated back to Thailand, while the quantitative one was characterized by the distribution of 39 questionnaires. The other methods of study included the collection of data on Thai women in Germany and the field study conducted by the researcher in Germany and in the Northeasters region of Thailand.

From the study, the researchers found that of most of the Thai women residing in Germany came from the middle-sized families. Impoverished, they had never been to colleges. The reason for their marriage to foreigners was the improvement of their quality of lives. The lowly educated and the educated ones took so much time to learn German with difficulty.

The German Embassy required that those eligible for the visas for married couple be able to communicate in simple German. Education was important because it helped ones enjoyed decent living in Germany, providing ones with the opportunity to be employed or to be offered the robs requiring educational qualification most of the Thai women were Buddhists. However, they rarely visited Thai temples because they found that Thais did not love their compatriots. To them, Thais tended to envied

one another, competed with one another, exploited one another, and showed off their wealth and possessions to impress one another.

The demographic factors associated with the sampled group included their average age of 37.10 years their low fertility, and their reliance on contraceptive pills as the mean of contraception. The researcher also found that nearly 50% of them bore no child. The ones with higher monthly incomes had less children than the ones with lower monthly incomes they were healthy. Their families were of the single type. Rarely interacted with their compatriots, they worked hard outside the homes as it was necessitated by the situation. Thus, they were not too interested in looking for information moreover the representative, of the Thai authority in Germany also looked enthusiasm to distribute information they were also unimpressed by the service provided to them by the Thai Embassy as the official there condescended to them.

As for the way they earned their living, most of them were housewives. Those working outside the houses wanted to make use of their knowledge or talent or to have the chance meet their compatriots at the workplaces to ease their homesickness. But the important factor that made it necessary for the Thai women to work outside the houses was their husbands' disagreement on the transfer of money back to help support their families in Thailand. They thus had to take jobs as hired hands or the service jobs to earn extra money to be transferred back to help support their families in Thailand. Some of them even gained their incomes from being lawfully registered prostitutes while spending their lives with their husbands. They could do such jobs they used to do in Thailand as massaging according to the art and science of Thai massage and serving food at the tables in a restaurant. Thai women with high incomes were self-employed. The longer they spent their lives with their husbands, the more monthly incomes they gained. Most of them were positive about and satisfied with their jobs. Those aged between 31-40 years earned more incomes than those of other ages. Their average monthly incomes were between 20,000-40,000 bahts.

As for their way of life, they gathered at Thai restaurants to meet their compatriots once in a week. Their indulgence in gambling led to money lending and then quarrelling. Some of them were even engaged in serial relations with Thai men. They also frequently condescended to one another. Other Thais were negative about

them, viewing them as prostitutes or, at least, former prostitutes. And although they enjoyed the decent condition of their habitations, they had to endure the weather condition vastly different from that in Thailand. As a result, they suffered from allergy and develop the symptom of “Seasonal Affective Disorder”

Their marriage to foreign husbands helped improve their quality of life immediately. Most of them got acclimatized to new culture and environment with ease, accounting for 59.1%, while the remaining 40.1% of them managed to get acclimatized to new culture and environment with some difficulties. Those with high incomes faced fewer problems, than the ones with low incomes. The ones with no income faced the worst of the problems. Some of them were obliged to bring up children, becoming bored and in despair and feeling that they lost the chance to make progress. These women suffered from stress. The study also revealed the correlation of education and income and the positive attitude to marriage life. These aged below 30 years were more positive about marriage life than the older ones. Those whose line of work involved manufacturing hardly developed positive attitude towards marriage life. At the early stage of marriage life, their husbands arranged for everything, and they sometimes were oblivious of the way they husband handle the affairs, becoming prove to cheat and deception. Generally, Thai women believed that foreign husbands contributed to more smooth relationship, viewing Westerners as more responsible to their families than Thais. Infect, foreign husbands were serious about the matters relevant to has bands were serious about the matters relevant to their families. Allowed to make decision on family affairs, foreign husbands were responsible for their families, taking the good care of their families. Thai women even enjoyed good relation with their husbands’ parents and conscious. The most important factor giving rise to the family problem was communication. Those working as hired hands or taking the service robs were prove to experiencing violence within families. They got aids from the government units and the emergency shelters in facilitating their meeting with medical doctors and police officers. Intermarriage was becoming more acceptable in Thai society and the good conducts of the women married to Westerners would help improve their image. Most Thai women was opposed to the idea of getting married to Westerners to get rich. In fact, many Thai women were cheated, so

those wishing to get married to Westerners were advised to examine every detail before making their decision. Married Thai women were constantly in contact with their families in Thailand. They regularly supported their families financially. Such support reflected the uncut ties between Thais and their homeland. However, their families' incurring debts to construction big and luxurious houses in order to impress others in the communities put pressure on them. They had to work harder to free their families from debt burden. Also, Thai women helped provide financial support to community development beneficial to economic development as a whole.

## **5.2 The Suggestions as Regards the Approach to the Alleviation of the Problems Faced by the Thai women Married to Foreigners.**

### **5.2.1 The Suggestion as to what the Thai Women should do when they have to Migrate to Germany after Marriage.**

1) Thai women should develop their fluency in German. According to the study, the problems of various natures they faced while in Germany arose from their ignorance of German. Their inability to communicate in German led to their lack of understanding of German cultures. Formerly, the German authority required those desiring to settle in Germany to complete their study of German language and cultures within the first two years of their being in Germany. They were then subject to the test of their language skill, required to take both oral and written examination. Those managed to pass the test would be given the documents signifying their being the permanent residents of Germany. The German authority currently enforces the law on migration based on the regulation of EU on migration and seeking asylum effective since August 28, 2007. Currently, those seeking the visas to spend their married lives with their German spouses in Germany are required to be able to communicate in basic German. They are required to show the certificate testifying to their mastering of basic German to convince the German authority of their ability to communicate in German in their daily life that will facilitate their participation in social activities from the start of their being resident in Germany. Those who cannot

show the certificates, due to their being disable, or physical or mental illness, or mental retardation, are exempt from the requirement to show the certificates.

Basic German corresponds to the A1 level of language skill set by the EU. Thai women are required to be able to communicate in the simple words used in daily life they must also be able to introduce themselves to others, to must questions and to answer the questions about habitations and the persons they know, as well as to make request and to express gratefulness in daily life, on condition that their conversational partners are helpful and speak with clear pronunciation. In short, Thai women must be able to converse about basic things and matters to fulfill their basic needs in daily life they should matters have at least master the basic level of written German so that they can fill in the forms provided to them by hotels as regards their names, domiciles, and nationality.

Moreover, the Thai women in Germany wishing to further develop their language skill outside the institution approved by the German authority should have completed at least the primary education. According to the study, the women with no experience of schooling faced the worst of difficulty in learning though they got instructed the language instructors who were Thais. Thai women should dedicate themselves to learning German, as the researcher found that their tendency to form groups for chaffing with one another in Thai made it very difficult for them to learn German.

2) Thai women should keep themselves healthy. According to the study, the vast difference in weather condition caused Thai women to get acclimatized to new environment with difficulty. They thus became allergic to pollen and then suffered from depression during winter, showing the symptom of “Seasonal Affective Disorder”. Therefore, they should keep themselves strong physically and mentally to get acclimatized to new environment with ease.

3) Thai women should develop their expertise for performance in particular jobs in case they had to none outside houses. According to the study, Thai women, due to their being less educated, worked hard as laborers and received low incomes when taking the cost of living in Germany into account. It is thus evident that higher level quality of life in Germany as it help ones find good jobs. Thai

women, therefore, should develop their talent in nursing, computer application or operation, Thai massage, Thai music, and hotel works.

4) Thai women should be diligent, responsible to duties and possessive of endurance. As they spend most of their time attending to their husband and children, they are prone to boredom from lack of social life. They thus has to be responsible to wives' duties, resolved to be household choirs with diligence, they should also develop tolerance. Such qualities of good wives will certainly bring about happiness in families.

5) Thai women should strive to achieve the good performance in attending to their husbands. They should also behave themselves and develop the skill in managing the affairs of the households as well as the Western cooking. According to the study, what appealed most to Western men were the good conduct of Thai women which they believed would bring about happiness in families. The expectation of Western men as regards the quality of their Thai wives should be taken into account by the country girls who wish to get married to Western men some days.

The eagerness of Thai teenagers to adopt Western lifestyle is not the reason Westerners choose Thais as their spouses. The way the Thai women behave in Western may even cause problems in marriage life as their husbands do not expect them to adopt Western conduct.

6) Thai women must hold the marriage certificates and the resident visas. The study suggests that the registration of marriage should be taken place in Thailand to prevent Thai women from being cheated, as Thai law requires the foreigners wishing to have their marriage registered in Thailand to show the evidence of their being single. The registration of marriage in Thailand is done in accordance with Thai law. Thai law features the rule one prohibiting having two nationalities, but this rule is not enforced. Those wishing to regain Thai nationality can produce the evidence and petition the Thai Consul in the countries in which they reside, or if they are in the provinces of Thailand, they can petition provincial authority.

7) Thai women should be knowledgeable about basic German law. According to the study Thai women's ignorance of German led to their ignorance of the rules and regulations on their right featured in German law. They thus have to be

knowledgeable about the law that will affect their lives in Germany. They should seek to obtain the information on the German law regarding Thais from the Ministry of foreign Affairs or from the Office of the attorneys in charge of protecting the Rights of Thais in foreign countries affiliated to the office of the Attorney General in case they face legal problems. The aids provided by the office also cover those foreigners whose wives are Thais.

8) German law does not prohibit Thai women with the children from their previous marriage to bring those children to Germany with them. However, they are advised to be through in rearing their children in Germany so that their children get acclimatized to new culture with ease, as according to the study, the children aged below 7-8 had no trouble in getting acclimatized to new culture. While the ones ages over 15 could hardly get acclimatized to new culture, not to mention that they were ignorant of German. They formed their own gangs in Germany, tarnishing the image of Thai people in Germany. As to the children born in the wedlock with German husbands, they will be granted the Thai nationality when the Thai Embassy in Germany get informed by Thai mothers. They also have the right to be granted the nationality of their fathers. But when they are 20 they will have to choose either Thai or German nationality.

9) Thai women should not focus on economic gains and life of confers derived from getting married when they are resolved to get married, they should examine every detail; and their marriage should be based on love. Most of the Thai women driven to get married by the expectation of economic gains were not successful in their marriage life.

### **5.2.2 The Practical Guideline for the Families in Thailand of the Thai Women Married to Foreigners.**

1) The family members should change their attitude towards marriage to foreigners. Formerly, the marriage taking place in the Northeast was arranged. Recently, the purpose of getting into married has evolved into the one of guaranteeing economic security. Thus, parents should shift their priority from money, persuading their daughter not to enter into marriage just for the sake of wealth in order to gain

acceptance from others in their communities. Moreover, Thai men should houses their wives, refraining from condescending to their wives, not to mention that they should be more responsible to their families, or Thai women, disapproved of Thai men's Conduct, will take foreigners as their husbands, risking getting besieged by the problems a associated with getting married to foreigners.

2) As the improved quality of life becomes evident after ones' marriage to foreigners, taking foreigners as husbands or travelling abroad in search of foreign husbands has recently become established value in the rural communities in the Northeast. Teenage girls in the communities dream of spending their lives abroad with their foreign husbands unwilling to do something beneficial to their lives in the long run like educating one selves or honing particular skills but awaiting foreigners to whom they will get married Parents would rather have daughters than have sons Even grandparents, who are expected to preserve cutlers and traditions, also promote the idea of their grandchildren's getting married to foreigner as they will become free from the burden of rearing children expected to be born in foreign countries, or in case they are financial support for the costs of hiring babysitters. As marriage is complex matter involving many factors and problems, ones should take into account such factors or problems, ones should take into account such factors or problem in their decision to get married. Being preoccupied with the betterment of ones' quality of lives as the only motive to get married will lead to the wrong decision. Even one couple has their own unique factors and problem peculiar to their relationship. Thus, considering only the improvement of the quality of life is inadequate when it comes to decision making, for ones have to examine every detail. And, of course, the value of getting married to foreigner just for the economic benefits must be disposed of.

3) Family members of Thai women should attend to and rear the children burn during the prison marriage to Thai men with love an care, especially the teenage boys and girls developing uncase upon hearing of their mothers marriage to foreigner. Those children need so much love and attention.

As for the children born to the foreign husbands living in Thailand, they should pay attention to the children's blood types; and if they find that the children blood types; and if they find that the children blood types are classified as RH negative, they have

to provide the information useful to the creation of the data base for the local blood banks founded by the National Institute of Health Assurance.

4) Families' ties should be kept strong so that family members have the opportunity to take with one another on regular basis. As a result, those about to get married to foreigners will regularly get consulted, even when they house moved to live with their spouses in Germany. Generally, the Thai women married to foreigners maintained their strong ties with their families and their hometowns, but when their marriage failed, they were ashamed. So, family members should be helpful, giving them advice and boosting their morale.

5) Thai women married to Westerners should help preserve Thai cultures as to prevent Thai cultures from getting extinct and supplanted by Western cultures. Thai women married to Westerners and migrated back with their husbands to live in Thailand hardly interacted with others in the communities, due to language and cultural barrier. Moreover, Thai women tended to become westernized themselves, instead of urging their husbands to get acclimatized to Thai cultures. As others in their families got influenced by Western cultures and values, Western cultures and value might eventually prevail over Thai cultures which value the welfare of communities over personal interests.

### **5.3 The Suggestion for Diminishing the Problems Faced by the Thai Women Married to Westerners.**

As the government realizes the importance of the marriage of Thai women to foreigners in terms of economy as it helps the country obtain foreign exchanges contributive to economic growth and regional economic development, the government should help Thai women get prepared to live their happy life abroad in the following ways:

1) The government should provide training necessary for the making of decision to the Thai women wishing to get married to foreigners. The curriculum should be formulated and included in the colleges in the Northeast to help Thai women get prepared to enter into marriage to foreigners.

2) The government should provide the language course and the information on the German law involving Thais. The lectures may be from the Immigration Office and from the emergency shelters in Germany. Moreover, it should also set up its regional units responsible for providing information, aids, and consultation to the Thai women married to foreigners in the provinces and in foreign commies.

3) The government should provide the information on the procedure for getting married to foreigners

(1) Procedures for travelling abroad

(2) Procedures for marriage to foreigner

4) The government should encourage the Thai women married to foreigners to form groups comprising the members residing in the communities willing to help one another in many ways including organizing the programs for job training in Thailand and in foreign countries. The groups are to be linked and in foreign as network.

5) The government should undertake the inspection of and regulate the firms set up to procure foreign spouses for Thai women to prevent Thai women from being cheated by these firms. Many Thai women were subjected to trickery by these firms and they were ashamed. Besides, some of them were even forced into prostitution through relying on the services of those firms.

6) The campaign against violence in families should be launched. Violence in families has been a problem of every society for such a long time, and we have to address it no matter how frequent is its occurrence. Thai and German authority should co-operate to prevent it from occurring as well as to help its victims.

7) The government should supervise the operation of its units in foreign countries. According to the study, Thai women were dissatisfied with the conduct of the official at the Thai Embassy in Germany who condescends to them, viewing them as prostitutes. The government should correct those officials' behaviors so that they can provide good service to Thai women without hurting their clients.

8) The government should set up its unit responsible for facilitating the co-ordination of those agencies involved in protecting the right and interests of Thai

women married to foreigners so that their operation is directed in the same direction, resulting in efficiency and close co-operation.

9) The government should set up the unit responsible for providing Thai women living with their husbands in Germany the information on the places from which they can seek help such as hospitals, police stations, emergency shelters, Thai temples, and groups of volunteering Thais.

10) The government should provide foreigners the information on the relation within the circles of relatives in Thai society, Thai cultures and traditions, especially on the children's duty to show their gratefulness to their parents in the form of financial support in case they do not live with their parents. The foreign husbands' understanding of such duty will cause them to raise no objection to their wives' sending money to Thailand.

11) The government should help foreign husbands realize that violence, no matter where it occurs—in the houses among family members or outside the houses with strangers, is of the same nature. Those who start violence are guilty, regardless of the degree of one's intimacy with them. That we get caught in a relationship with one another as husbands and wives and parents and children does not mean that one is allowed to use violence.

12) The agencies responsible for economic development should train Thai women the know-how for promoting the OTOP products so that such products become well known to foreigners and that Thai women will have the chance to participate in national economic development.

13) The government should encourage Thai women and Thai youngsters in Germany to preserve Thai cultures and traditions so that they are willing to maintain their ties with Thailand as well as to contribute to the perpetuation of Thai cultures.

14) The government should support the demographic research conducted by the state agencies on the value of getting married to foreigners adopted by the Thai women in rural areas that is becoming more prevalent. As the prevalence of such value is one of the characteristics of "the second demographic conditions, the research on such subject facilitates our Riding on Wave" to obtain maximum benefits from the Thai women's marriage to foreigners.

#### **5.4 Suggestion for Further Research**

The larger part of the research is on the marriage, way of life and quality of life of those Thai women spending their lives with their husbands in Germany, with the smaller portion of it features the information on the life of Thai women who used to reside in Germany and then migrate back with their husbands to Thailand just for the comparison. From the depth interview with the 12 Thai women migrating back to settle in the Northeast, the researcher found that all of them brought their ageing Europeans, and this will certainly produce short term and long term effect on Thai cultures, economy and politics. Thus, future research should focus on the migration of ageing Europeans to Thailand and to other Asian countries in order to effectively cope with the influx of ageing Europeans and to promote the constructive role of Thai women regarding this matter.

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## **APPENDICES**

## **Appendix A**

### **The Framework of in-depth Interview of the 11 Thai Women Married to Foreigners and Resided in Germany**

Each of them was interviewed for the duration of 1 hour

The questionnaires are designed to encompass 4 matters divided into 9 main parts as follows

#### **1) The Information on Married Women**

Their background as personal data (domiciles in Thailand carriers before marriage, education siblings. Life profiles (Children, work experiences, quality of life before migration, responsibility to families, first migration)

#### **2) Information on Marriage**

Demographic Factors as Age, age when getting married for the first time .the number of previous marriage, age when getting married to foreign husband, marriage status, approach to marriage, reason/condition of marriage, turning point of life, current marriage life, contraception, children from previous marriage, children born to foreign husband, husband's age, husband's career, husband social status.

#### **3) Information on Living Condition and Adjustment in Germany**

(1) Adjustment to the physical condition values to such factors as health, family, access to information, opportunity for expansion of knowledge, receptivity to aids and support.

(2) Adjustment to the economic condition relates to such factors on work and current incomes.

(3) Adjustment to social and cultural condition relate to such factors as social welfare and participation in social activities.

(4) Adjustment to environmental condition relates to such factor as weather, habitation, food, safety, a short trip within the community. The information impacts the married women and their families.

(5) The impact on them as attitude towards marriage .Thai women’s perception of the attitude towards them as adopted by their husband’s relatives. Learning German career training and the opportunity to start their own business. Transfer of money and assets to Thailand. Debt burden, Health problem, .expectation for the future.

(6) The impact on their families in foreign countries, the role in handling familial affairs, the legal right of their children savings and consumption.

(7) The impact on their families in Thailand

Current status, debt burden, approval if their relatives in Thailand, approval of Thai society, participation in community development.

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IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW FORM

Interviewer.....Date.....

Interviewee.....

Address

Germany.....

.....Tel.....

Thailand.....

.....Tel.....

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## **Appendix B**

### **Guideline for In-Depth Interview to be used in Germany**

#### **1) The Information on the Married Women.**

##### **Part 1 Background**

- (1) Personal profile
- (2) Domiciles in Thailand
- (3) Life history, Interviewer let the interviewee narrate the story of her life since her children. The interviewee must describe her habit and her way of life since childhood
- (4) Career in Thailand, Career before migration and work experience.
- (5) Financial status. Monthly income before migration
- (6) Education Educational level before migration
- (7) Siblings. The number of siblings.
- (8) Responsibility to family before migration she had to take for her family before migration, such as household chores, financial support for parents and rearing her own children.
- (9) Experience in migration. Her age when she made her first migration. The countries to which she used to migrate. The number of times she travelled abroad

#### **2) The Information on Marriage**

##### **Part 2 Demographic Factors**

- (1) Age The current age of interviewee which being interviewed
- (2) Age when getting into marriage relationship for the first time means her age when she was married for the first time
- (3) The number of previous marriages (in case she used to get married before) This kind of information also includes the duration of the previous marriage relationship and the reason of divorce.

(4) Age when married to foreigners is an age when she entered into relationship as husband and wife her present foreign husband.

(5) Marital status before marriage, marriage registration agreement between married partners before marriage, relying on the service of the firm in charge of procuring spouses.

(6) Turning point in life involves the change as a result of marriage such as the change in habit and the opportunity to travel abroad for the first time

(7) The number of children from previous marriage means the number of children before entering into current marriage relationship to those children

(8) Current marriage involves the current marriage life and problems.

(9) The number of children born to foreign husbands involves their age ,sex ,the way they were brought up, and responsibility to them

(10) The information on the current foreign husband involves his age, race, nationality, social status (his rank among his co-workers) financial status, and incomes.

### **3) Information on the Life in Germany**

The interviewer will question them about the preparation for traveling to Germany, The number of times of traveling per year. Detail on traveling, convenience and difficulty in traveling, adjustment to life in Germany

#### **Part 3 Physical Adjustment**

(1) Health, physical change as a result of health condition, chronic disease, taking care of one's health include taking exercise and annual medical check-up

(2) Family. Availability of appliances, life in family (kind of family, division of duties) marriage and family (importance of family, stages, life and family, conflict within family)

(3) In charge of decision making and planning the future of family. Access to information and the opportunity to expand her knowledge, Sources of knowledge and information, participation in recreational and religion activities Receptivity to help and support involves the experiences in being helped by the agencies in Germany.

#### **Part 4 Adjustment to Economic Conditions**

The kind of social welfare received or used to be received by her Participation in the activities initiated by the community, Membership of clubs and associations

#### **Part 5 Social and Cultural Factor**

The kind of social welfare received or used to be received by her participation in the activities initiated by the community, membership of clubs and associations

#### **Part 6 Environmental Factors**

(1) The weathers condition of the neighborhood in Germany. Physical adjustment to weather. The change in living condition according to the seasonal change of weather.

(2) The condition of habitation and neighborhoods , Ownership of buildings and rooms, Managing the environment of common space

(3) Safety, security if her life and her possessions. Prevention of security problems.

(4) Short trip with the locally, mass transit system providing convenience in travelling within the locality. The amount of time taken to travel to workplace and to the place of recreation.

#### **4) The Information on the Impact on her and her Family**

##### **Part 7 The Impact on her**

(1) Attitude towards marriage. Her positive and negative opinion regarding marriage to foreigners. Her ability to cope with change after marriage .Her husband's responsibility to family.

(2) Her opinion about approval of Thai society the prevalence of the value of marring foreigners.

(3) Among teenage girls in the northeastern region

(4) Her perception of the attitude of her husband' relatives towards her. The approval of her husband's friends and relatives. The way they deal with the disapproval of her husband's friends and relatives Learning German,

(5) Her opinion about the importance of the natives tongue , and the level of language skill of which she develop(speaking, reading , writing)

(6) Career training and the opportunity to start her own businesses

(7) Current financial status. Debt burden including monthly installments

(8) The transfer of money, possessions, and asset to Thailand

This topic is relevant to the amount of money sent to Thailand of times the transfer were undertaken. Reason for sending the money back home.

(9) problem after migration .Medical treatment she underwent. Method of treatment .The

(10) Frequency of visiting medical doctors. and relying on medication. Visiting medical doctors. Simultaneous with reliance on medication.

### **Part 8 The Impact on her Family in German**

(1)the number of family members. The role in handling familial affairs the division of duties . The one in charge of decision making and planning the future of family

(2) Legal right of the children. Legal right according to German law as accorded to her children. The difference between the legal right accorded to the children born to the foreign husband and the one from her previous marriage (in case she brought her children from previous marriage with her to Germany)

(3) Saving and consumption .The opinion about the importance of saving. Monthly allocation of incomes. Monthly expenditures.

### **Part 9 The Impact of her Family in Thailand**

(1) Current economic condition. Current economic condition of her family in Thailand. Current monthly incomes of her family in Thailand

(2) Debt burden of her family in Thailand.

(3) Approval and disapproval of her relatives in Thailand .Whether of not her marriage to foreigners subjected her to disparagement, or it (The marriage) become an exemplar.

(4) of Thai society .Her feeling towards the treatment from others, such as the government official with whom she contacted , venders in the market, her

compatriots marrying foreigners who wanted to contend with her in showing off their wealth.

(5) Participation in community development involves the nature of her contribution to the development of the community to which she is native

## **Appendix C**

### **Questionnaire**

#### **The Intermarriage of Thai Women in Germany**

Dear the respondents to the questionnaires

The questionnaires were create to facilitate the study of interchange of Thai women in Germany to formulate the policy and measure to alleviate the acuteness of the problems besieging the Thai women married to foreigners, and to prevent those problems from occurring. The study is expected to serve as the guidance for good living, in addition to its being part of the Ph.D. Dissertation in the field of population and Development submitted to the faculty of Applied statistics of the National Institute of Development Administration.

The researchers plead for your cooperation in replying to every question with facts and frankness. Your replies to the queries will be kept secret, producing no affect on your family and your job, because the researchers serve the purpose of the study.

As the completion of the study will never be achieved without your cooperation, the researchers would like to express his gratitude for your cooperation

With best regards.

Mr.Vilas Duangkumnerd

Note. The Questionnaire contain four parts

Part 1 The Information on marriage

Part 2 The Information on living condition in Germany

Part 3 The Information on the impact on the married women and their families

Part 4 The Information on persons

No.....

Interviewer.....

Date.....

States:

.....Berlin	.....Munich	.....Frankfurt	.....Dusseldorf	.....Hamburg
-------------	-------------	----------------	-----------------	--------------

**Instruction: Please fill the information or  $\checkmark$  in the answer that can most truly reflect the truth.**

### **Part 1 The Information on marriage**

1. The age when you got married for the first year.....  
 Is the current marriage your first one  
 Yes if yes, skip the question 2  
 No
2. How many times did you marry.....  
 Years being with your Thai husband.....  
 Years being with your foreign husband.....  
 Other specify.....
3. Number of children.....  
 The number of children born to Thai husband.....  
 The number of children born to foreign husband....  
 The number of children from previous marriage, or  
 The number of adopted children.....  
 They current reside in.....
4. Current marital status.....  
 Registration of marriage to foreigners.....  
 Living together with foreign husband with no registration of marriage  
 Others.....

5. Do you adopt one or another from of contraception.....

Method of contraception

- Sterilization
- Prophylactic
- Contraceptive pill
- Other

6. The nationality of your husband.....his age.....years

7. How did you meet your husband.....

What is your husband's career.....

- Employee of private firm, approximate income.....baht/month
- Businessman, approximate income.....baht/month
- State Official, approximate income.....baht/month
- Engineer/Technician, approximate income.....baht/month
- Farmer, approximate income.....baht/month
- Worker, approximate income.....baht/month
- Retiree, approximate income.....baht/month
- Teaching profession, approximate income.....baht/month
- Medical doctor/Nurse, approximate income.....baht/month
- Other specify, approximate income.....baht/month

9. Marital Status of your husband before married

- Single
- Widower
- Divorce
- Others.....

10. Your husband education.....

- High School
- College
- Bachelor's Degree
- Higher Education

11. How long did it take to decide to spend your life with your current husband  
.....year.....month.

12. What the reasons for your decision to marry to foreign husband?

.....  
.....  
.....



10. How impress you are with the Thai embassy services in Germany?

.....

11. Do you have any problem with the environmental factors overseas on life sustainability in Germany?

- No Problem
- Weather Influence, because.....
- Accommodation, because.....
- Food, because.....
- Safety, because.....
- Travel, because.....
- Others.....

12. How you solve this problem and also what you prefer find help and support from Thai government through Thai embassy in Germany?

.....

.....

### Part 3 The Information on the Impact on the Married Women and their Families

#### 1. Attitude towards marital life of Thai women and family

Subjects	Level of opinion				
	Disagree Overwhel- mingly	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Agree Overwhel- mingly
1	Marriage with foreign husband makes living condition better				
2	Able to adjust to changes of environment				
3	Able to handle other changes				
4	Having foreign husband makes life smoother than Thai husband				
5	Marriage with foreigner is common to be accepted in Thai society				
6	Nowadays, marriage with foreigner is social value for Thai women				
7	Young rural girls' dream to have foreign husband				
8	Knowledge, ability and skill to use local dialect is necessary				
9	Must possess reading and writing skill in local dialect				
10	Must possess listening and speaking skill in local dialect				
11	Burden of household expense is husband's role.				
12	It is necessary to help increase family income				
13	It is responsibility to send money home				
14	Building a big house to prove to their wealth to people in the village				
15	Should support local area development in Thailand				

2. Have you get any problems of family violence?
  - Yes
  - No, how you solve the problem?  
.....
3. Have you get any problems about local dialect?
  - Yes
  - No
4. Have you get more career training in Germany? Which one?
  - Yes.....in local dialect for.....years.....month
  - Yes.....in cooking course for.....years.....month
  - Yes.....in.....for.....years.....month
  - No
5. Do you have responsibility to send money home in Thailand?
  - Yes, How much?.....per year
  - No
6. Do you have some debt?
  - Owing some debts caused by.....
  - Without debts
7. How is your health data?
  - Healthy and no congenital diseases
  - Suffering from congenital diseases .....  
Causes of effects.....
8. How many times to visit the doctor per year?
  - Never see doctors
  - Once a year for physical check up
  - More than once for physical check up
  - More than once for curing congenital diseases
9. How adjusting you to fit life overseas are affects your health?
  - Have some effects
  - Have no effects
  - Do not know
10. Who is in charge with all decision makings and household expenses?
  - You
  - Your husband
  - You & your husband

- 11. Are you well accepted by husband's parents and relative?  
 Yes                       No
- 12. Do you have significant problems with the relatives of your husband?  
 Having problem: please describe.....  
.....  
 Having no problem
- 13. Do your family face problem in legal rights?  
 Have a problems, please describe.....  
 Have no problems
- 14. Do you plan for savings and consumption?  
 Yes, keep the saving by.....  
 No planning
- 15. After marriage, how is the financial status of your family in Thailand?  
.....  
.....

**Part 4 The Information on persons**

- 1. Your age.....years.....months
- 2. Address in Germany.....
- 3. Address in Thailand.....
- 4. Religion       Buddhism       Islam       Christianity
- 5. Your educational level.....
- 6. Your previous occupation before marry with foreign men.....  
Income.....baht/month
- 7. Your parents occupation.....
- 8. Number of your relatives from the same parents.....
- 9. Who is in charge with all decision makings and household expenses in your family in Thailand before you marry with foreign men?  
 You                       You & your relatives  
 Your parents           Others.....

10. Please show your ideas and suggestion about the intermarriage of Thai women

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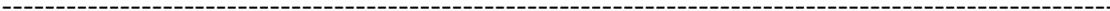
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## **BIOGRAPHY**

<b>NAME</b>	Vilas Duangkumnerd
<b>ACADEMIC BACKGROUND</b>	2002, M.M. (Human Resources Management) Mahidol University, Bangkok. 1984, B.Sc. (Geography) Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai.
<b>PRESENT POSITION</b>	In-flight Manager Thai Airways International PCL. In-flight Services Department (DQ) TG Operation Center, Suvarnabhumi Airport
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<b>Training</b>	2006, Instructor Development Coaching You Coaching Me Cabin Crew Training Department Thai Airways International PCL 2001, Certificate of Training Innovative Training: Preparation for Better Trainer Kasetsart University
<b>Research</b>	2002, The Need of Cabin Crew to Transfer to Other Positions within Thai Airways International PCL, M.M. Mahidol University