

7. Title A Study of the Normal American Family in Thailand

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PURPOSE

The purposes of this study are:

1. to describe the adaptive responses of normal American families living in Chiang Mai, Thailand;
2. to add to the information concerning the medical system of Chiang Mai town and examine its functional significance for American households;
3. to compare and contrast the history of the adaptation of normal families with historical material already collected from families with a clinically disturbed member.

METHOD

Semi-structured interviews using a series of six protocols with all of the residents within a household group who volunteered.

PROGRESS

All data from the Thai and American population of the 13 study households has been collected and all interviews translated into English, because of the individual household characteristics the amount of data was less than desired. This will be discussed more fully in a subsequent data paper. Because of the characteristics of the community the sample households represent relatively high status families and cannot be considered representative of the American population of Chiang Mai. Selected segments of this data will be reviewed for accuracy and interpretation with Colonel Supoch Khwanmitra, who is acting as a consultant to this study. Some work on transcribing tape recorded data from American members remains to be done. All mapping has been completed. Interpretation of this data will probably not be undertaken until after the principal investigator's return to the United States in September 1969.

Some on-the-spot observation at one nursery school/kindergarten remains to be done. This school is the only one that provides educational services to a primarily Thai population that is utilized by the American community as well. The owner of the school has been interviewed but teacher and student relationships at this school have not been observed. This will be done in June 1969.