

Chapter 4

Finding and Analysis

In this study on Attitudes of Working Women in Chiang Mai towards Marriage: a Case Study in Mueang District.

The total of 180 questionnaires were distributed to 6 different working groups, 30 pieces for each but only 120 pieces of questionnaires were collected. The returned questionnaires can be classified into six occupation groups as follow:

Group 1 Specialists	22 samples
Group 2 Administrative and policy makers	14 samples
Group 3 Office and office workers	29 samples
Group 4 Businesses people	20 samples
Group 5 Service people	21 samples
Group 6 Unskilled workers	14 samples

The data has been analyzed using SPSS program.

4.1 Data Finding

The overall outcome report can be classified into 4 categories as follows:

4.1.1 Background information of target groups

4.1.2 Opinion of target group toward marriage

4.1.3 Influential factors over women's decision on late marriage or staying single

4.1.4 Opinion of target groups toward single women aged over 40

4.1.1 Background information of target groups

The background information of target groups has been analyzed on marriage status, age education, occupation and monthly income.

4.1.1.1 Background information of each group

Group 1 Specialists group

Table 4.1 Specialist group.

Marriage status	Number	Percent%
Single	13	59.1
Legally married	5	22.7
Not legally married	4	18.2
Total	22	100.0
Age		
22-25 Years old	4	18.2
26-30 Years old	4	18.2
31-35 Years old	8	36.4
36-40 Years old	2	9.1
Over 40 years old	4	18.2
Total	22	100.0
Education level		
Bachelor's degree	19	86.4
Master's degree	3	13.6
Total	22	100.0
Monthly income		
5,001-10,000 Baht	4	18.2
10,001-15,000 Baht	3	13.6
15,001-20,000Baht	8	36.4
More than 20,001 Baht	7	31.8
Total	22	100.0

More than half of the samples in this particular group are found to be single in all range of ages, especially 31 to 35 years of age. Most of them earned Bachelor degree and some with Master's. The monthly income rate is higher than any other group, ranging from 15,001 – 20,000 Baht and secondly at more than 20,001 Baht.

Group 2 Administrative and policy makers

Table 4.2 Administrative and policy maker group.

Marriage status	Number	Percent%
Single	4	28.6
Legally married	6	42.9
Not legally married	4	28.6
Total	14	100.0
Age		
22-25 Years old	-	-
26-30 Years old	1	7.1
31-35 Years old	5	35.7
36-40 Years old	3	21.4
Over 40 years old	5	35.7
Total	14	100.0
Education level		
Bachelor's Degree	11	78.6
Master's degree	3	21.4
Total	14	100.0
Monthly income		
5,001-10,000 Baht	2	14.3
10,001-15,000 Baht	6	42.9
15,001-20,000Baht	4	28.6
More than 20,001 Baht	2	14.3
Total	14	100.0

Most of the women in this group are legally married. In the meantime single ones and not legally married are in an equal proportion. The majority age is over 31 years old with Bachelor and Master's degree, mostly bachelors. Monthly incomes are considerably high from 10,001-15,000 Baht.

Group 3 Official and office workers

Table 4.3 Official and office worker group.

Marriage status	Number	Percent%
Single	14	48.3
Legally married	7	24.1
Not legally married	6	20.7
Divorced	1	3.4
Others	1	3.4
Total	29	100.0
Age		
22-25 Years old	3	10.3
26-30 Years old	5	17.2
31-35 Years old	10	34.5
36-40 Years old	3	10.3
Over 40 years old	8	27.6
Total	29	100.0
Education level		
Primary school	1	3.4
Secondary school	1	3.4
Diploma	5	17.2
Bachelor's Degree	22	75.9
Total	29	100.0

Monthly income	Number	Percent%
5,001-10,000 Baht	13	44.8
10,001-15,000 Baht	5	17.2
15,001-20,000Baht	5	17.2
More than 20,001 Baht	4	13.8
Total	29	100.0

Nearly half of the samples group stay single, and proportion of legally married and not legally married are equal. The range of age starts from 31-35 years old. Generally, most graduated in Bachelor's degree and lower and mostly earned their monthly rate of 5,001-10,000 Baht.

Group 4 Business

Table 4.4 Business Group.

Marriage status	Number	Percent%
Single	8	40.0
Legally married	3	15.0
Not legally married	7	35.0
Divorced	2	10.0
Others	20	100.0
Total	8	40.0
Age		
22-25 Years old	1	5.0
26-30 Years old	7	35.0
31-35 Years old	5	25.0
36-40 Years old	3	15.0
Over 40 years old	4	20.0
Total	20	100.0

Education level	Number	Percent %
Primary school	3	15.0
Secondary school	6	30.0
Diploma	4	20.0
Bachelor's degree	6	30.0
Master's degree	1	5.0
Total	20	100.0
Monthly income		
2,000-5,000 Baht	2	10.0
5,001-10,000 Baht	10	50.0
10,001-15,000 Baht	4	20.0
15,001-20,000Baht	1	5.0
More than 20,001 Baht	3	15.0
Total	20	100.0

Most of the women in this group are single, some are legally married and the smallest group is the legally married one. Twenty-three to thirty years of age are the majority of the samples. Their education background shows a wide range from primary school up to Master's degree, mostly earned Bachelor's. However, only one respondent holds a Master's degree is very limited. Half of this group earns monthly incomes of 5,001 – 10,000 Baht. Another half is ranging from 10,001-15,000 and 20,001 up.

Group 5 Service

Table 4.5 Service group.

Marriage status	Number	Percent%
Legally married	17	81.0
Not legally married	4	19.0
Total	21	100.0

Age	Number	Percent%
22-25 Years old	2	9.5
26-30 Years old	16	76.2
31-35 Years old	3	14.3
Total	21	100.0
Education level		
Secondary school	6	28.6
Bachelor's degree	15	71.4
Total	21	100.0
Monthly income		
2,000-5,000 Baht	5	23.8
5,001-10,000 Baht	12	57.1
10,001-15,000 Baht	3	14.3
15,001-20,000Baht	1	4.8
Total	21	100.0

The majority of women in this group are single in their 26-30 years of age. A large number got Bachelor's degree and more than half earns 5,001-10,000 Baht per month.

Group 6 Unskilled Workers

Table 4.6 Unskilled worker group.

Marriage status	Number	Percent%
Single	5	35.7
Legally married	2	14.3
Not legally married	7	50.0
Total	14	100.0
Age		
22-25 Years old	4	28.6
26-30 Years old	4	28.6

31-35 Years old	4	28.6
36-40 Years old	1	7.1
Over 40 years old	1	7.1
Total	14	100.0
Education level		
Under Primary school	1	7.1
Primary school	10	71.4
Secondary school	3	21.4
Total	14	100.0
Monthly income		
2,000-5,000 Baht	13	92.9
5,001-10,000 Baht	1	7.1
Total	14	100.0

Half of this particular group is not legally married and the other half stay single. Nearly all receive primary school education and most of them earn 2,000-5,000 Baht per month.

4.1.1.2 Background information of all groups

a) Marriage status

Table 4.7 The marriage status of the target groups.

occupation \ Status	Specialists	Admin	Officials	Businesses	Services	Unskilled workers	Total
Single	59.1%	28.6%	48.3%	40.0%	81.0%	35.7%	50.8%
Legally married	22.7%	42.9%	24.1%	15.0%	-	14.3%	19.2%
Not legally married	18.2%	28.6%	20.7%	35.0%	19.0%	50.0%	26.7%
Divorced	-	-	3.4%	10.0%	-	-	2.5%
Others	-	-	3.4%	-	-	-	0.8%

Half of the respondents (50.8%) of samples are single, 26.7 % are not legally married, 19.2% are legally married, 2.5% divorced and others at 0.8%. The finding from different groups of occupation show that almost all groups are single, except group 2 (administrative and policy makers) who are mostly legally married, and most of group 6 (unskilled worker) are not legally married.

b) Age

Table 4.8 The age of the sampling group.

occupation \ Age	Specialists	Admin	Officials	Businesses	Services	Unskilled workers	Total
22-25 years old	18.2%	-	10.3%	5.0%	9.5%	28.6%	11.7%
26-30 years old	18.2%	7.1%	17.2%	35.0%	76.2%	28.6%	30.8%
31-35 years old	36.4%	35.7%	34.5%	25.0%	14.3%	28.6%	29.2%
36-40 years old	9.1%	21.4%	10.3%	15.0%	-	7.1%	10.0%
Over 41 years old	18.2%	35.7%	27.6%	20.0%	-	7.1%	18.3%

The range of age for the sampling group is: 30.8% from all samples are 26-30 years old, 29.2% are 31-35, 18.3% aged over 41, 11.7% are 22-25 years old and 10.0% are 36-40 years of age. Group 1, 2, 3 (specialists, administrative and policy makers, official workers) are mostly over 31 years old. Group 4 (business) are mostly 26 years and more. For Group 5 and 6 (service and unskilled worker) they are mostly within 35 years of age as shown in Table 4.2.

c) Education level

Table 4.9 The education level of the sampling group.

occupation \ education	Specialists	Admin	Officials	Businesses	Services	Unskilled workers	Total
Under Primary school	-	-	-	-	-	7.1%	0.8%
Secondary school	-	-	3.4%	15.0%	-	71.4%	11.7%
High school	-	-	3.4%	30.0%	28.6%	21.4%	13.3%
Specialists certificate & Diploma	-	-	17.2%	20.0%	-	-	7.5%
Bachelor's degree	86.4%	78.6%	75.9%	30.0%	71.4%	-	60.8%
Master's degree	13.6%	21.4%	-	5.0%	-	-	5.8%

More than half of the respondents(60.8%) received Bachelor's degree, 13.3% with high school education , secondary school at 11.7%, Specialists certificate and diploma at 7.5%, Master's degree at 5.8% and primary school at 0.8%.

The study showed that all samples in Group 1 (specialists) and Group 2 (administrative and policy makers) earned at least Bachelor's degree, Group 3 (official workers) and Group 5 (service) are mostly earned Bachelor's degree, Group 4 (business) mostly educated from high school up to Bachelor's degree, most of the samples in Group 6(unskilled workers) finished high school or lower.

d) Occupation

Table 4.10 The number of respondents in each sampling group.

	Occupation	Number	Percent %
Group 1	Specialists	22	18.3
Group 2	Administrative and policy makers	14	11.7
Group 3	Officials and office workers	29	24.2
Group 4	Businesses	20	16.7
Group 5	Services	21	17.5
Group 6	Unskilled workers	14	11.7
	Total	120	100.0

The sampling groups used in this particular study are divided in 6 different occupation groups those are specialists, administrative and policy makers, officials and office workers, businesses, services, and unskilled worker. The total number of samples surveyed is 120 working women; 22 women in group 1, 14 women in group 2, 29 women in group3, 20 women in group 4, 21 women in group 5 and 14 women in group 6.

e) Income

Table 4.11 The monthly income of sampling group.

occupation income	Specialists	Admin	Officials	Businesses	Services	Unskilled workers	Total
2,001-5,000 Baht	-	-	6.9%	10.0%	23.8%	92.9%	18.3%
5,001-10,000 Baht	18.2%	14.3%	44.8%	50.0%	57.1%	7.1%	35.0%
10,001-15,000 Baht	13.6%	42.9%	17.2%	20.0%	14.3%	-	17.5%
15,001-20,000 Baht	36.4%	28.6%	17.2%	5.0%	4.8%	-	15.8%
Over 20,001 Baht	31.8%	14.3%	13.8%	15.0%	-	-	13.3%

The study showed that 35.0% of the sampling groups earned 5,001-10,000 Baht, 18.3 % earned 2,001-5,000 Baht, 17.5% earned 10,001-15,000 Baht, 15.8% earned 15,001-20,000 Baht and 13.3% earned more than 20,001 Baht. When each occupation group was specifically analyzed, it was found that the group of specialists and administrative earned higher monthly income than any other groups. For the official workers, business and service group mostly earned 5,001-10,000 Baht per month. The lowest monthly income of 2001-5000 Baht go to unskilled worker group.

4.1.2 Opinion of target group toward marriage

The outcome of the respondents' attitude toward marriage is divided into 2 main points. Those are general attitude in changing of women's role in marriage and the factors that influence women's decision toward marriage. The result has shown both general view and specific ones of the group as follows:

4.1.2.1 General attitude and changes of women's role in marriage

Table 4.12 The sampling group's opinion on general attitudes on marriage and changing role of women.

General attitudes and changing role of women toward marriage	Opinion	Specialist	Admin	Office	Business	Service	Unskilled	Total
1. Is marriage important in one's life?	yes	50%	42.9%	31%	65%	33.3%	78.6%	57.5%
	no	50%	42.9%	65.5%	30%	42.9%	14.3%	44.2%
	uncertain	-	14.3%	3.4%	5%	23.8%	7.1%	8.3%
2. Do country women get married earlier than those in the city?	yes	100%	42.9%	72.4%	60%	57.1%	42.9%	65.8%
	no	-	7.1%	10.3%	-	-	7.1%	4.2%
	uncertain	-	50.0%	17.2%	40%	42.9%	50%	30%
3. Should all house chores be held responsibilities only for women?	yes	40.9%	21.4%	20.7%	10%	-	7.1%	17.5%
	no	59.1%	78.6%	79.3%	80%	90.5%	50%	74.2%
	uncertain	-	-	-	10%	9.5%	42.9%	8.3%
4. Do women who are financial independent consider staying single?	yes	86.4%	71.4%	69%	70%	61.9%	21.4%	65.8%
	no	4.5%	14.3%	27.6%	20%	14.3%	28.6%	18.3%
	uncertain	9.1%	14.3%	3.4%	10%	23.8%	50%	15.8%
5. Do women who are self-dependent consider staying single?	yes	63.3%	85.7%	69.0%	65%	57.1%	21.4%	61.7%
	no	9.1%	7.1%	24.1%	15%	9.5%	21.4%	15%
	uncertain	27.3%	7.1%	6.9%	20%	33.3%	57.1%	23.3%

In general, almost half of the respondents (47.5%) feel that marriage is important for their life while the majority of the respondents in unskilled worker group (78.6%) and business group (65.0%) recognizes the importance of marriage. It is interesting to find out that in the specialist group, there is a split opinion on the importance of marriage: 50% think that it is important while 50% think it is not.

On the question if the country women get married earlier than those in the city, most respondents (65.8%) tend to think that women in the country get married earlier than those who live in the city, especially all respondents in the specialist group but half of the respondents in the administrative group and unskilled worker group feel uncertain to answer this question.

When asked if the house chores should be held responsible only for women, most respondents (74.2%) feel that the house chores should not be only women's care. The majority of the respondents in the service group (90.5%), business group (80.0%) office worker group (79.3%), administrative group (78.6%) and more than half of the respondents in specialist group (59.1%) think that house chores should not be for only women. However, almost half of the respondents in the unskilled worker group (42.9%) feel reluctant to decide if house chores should be held responsible only for women.

Most respondents (65.8%) feel that women today have more responsibilities than men. The majority of the respondents in specialist group (86.4%), administrative group (71.4%), office worker group (69.0%), business group (70.0%), and service group (61.9%) agree but half of the respondents in the unskilled worker group cannot answer this question.

More than half of the respondents (61.7%) state that women who are independent, stable in occupation and income will stay single. Only in the administrative group, it is found that the majority thinks that financially independent women may consider staying single. Again, more than half of the respondents in unskilled worker group (57.1%) feel uncertain of their opinion.

It is shown that the specialist group mostly shares opinions with the majority on most questions while the unskilled group feels uncertain in answering and only a small number gives the same opinion as other groups as shown in Table 4.12.

4.1.2.2 The factors influencing women's marriage decision

Table 4.13 The opinion concerning the influential factors towards women's decision in marriage.

The influential factors towards women's decision in marriage	Opinion	Specialist	Admin	Office	Business	Service	Unskilled	Total
6. Do the women stay unmarried because they are unable to find the right mate	Yes	39.4%	7.1%	48.3%	35%	23.8%	21.4%	31.7%
	No	9.1%	7.1%	17.2%	5%	-	7.1%	8.3%
	Uncertain	54.4%	85.7%	34.5%	60%	76.2%	71.4%	60%
7. Will the highly qualified women have problem to find the right mate?	Yes	36.4%	50%	27.6%	15%	23.8%	21.4%	28.3%
	No	36.4%	21.4%	24.1%	15%	4.8%	7.1%	19.2%
	Uncertain	27.3%	28.6%	48.3%	70%	71.4%	17.4%	52.5%
8. Does the education level have influence on women's decision toward marriage?	Yes	95.5%	100%	72.4%	55%	57.1%	28.6%	69.2%
	No	-	-	10%	5%	9.5%	35.7%	9.2%
	Uncertain	4.5%	-	17.2%	40%	33.3%	35.7%	21.7%
9. Do women today get married late because they spend a lot of time on education?	Yes	95.5%	100%	75.9%	80%	100%	92.9%	89.2%
	No	-	-	20.7%	5%	-	-	5.8%
	Uncertain	4.5%	-	3.4%	15%	-	7.1%	5%
10. Do financial problems have any influence over women to get married earlier?	Yes	77.7%	100%	65.5%	85%	95.2%	78.6%	81.7%
	No	13.6%	-	31%	15%	41.8%	7.1%	14.2%
	Uncertain	9.1%	-	3.4%	-	-	14.3%	4.2%

The influential factors towards women's decision in marriage	Opinion	Specialist	Admin	Office	Business	Service	Unskilled	Total
11. Do women want to stay single because they want to spend their time on working?	Yes	68.2%	100%	62.1%	45%	85.7%	71.4%	70%
	No	18.2%	-	31%	20%	9.5%	7.1%	16.7%
	Uncertain	13.6%	-	6.9%	35%	4.8%	21.4%	13.3%
12. Is work more important that marriage to the women nowadays?	Yes	63.6%	14.3%	34.5%	15%	23.8%	28.6%	31.7%
	No	22.7%	7.1%	44.8%	25%	23.8%	14.3%	25.8%
	Uncertain	13.6%	78.6%	20.7%	60%	52.4%	57.1%	43.5%
13. Do the women aged over 40 years old still want to marry in the later age?	Yes	4.5%	-	17.2%	15%	4.8%	7.1%	9.2%
	No	28.3%	14.3%	27.6%	20%	9.5%	14.3%	20%
	Uncertain	68.2%	85.7%	55.2%	65%	85.7%	78.6%	70.8%

More than half of the respondents (60.0%) feel uncertain that women stay single because they cannot find the right mate.

On the question if the highly qualified women will have the problem to find the right mate, more than half of the respondents feel uncertain of the answers. With half of the respondents in the administrative group think that finding the right mate can be a problem for highly qualified women.

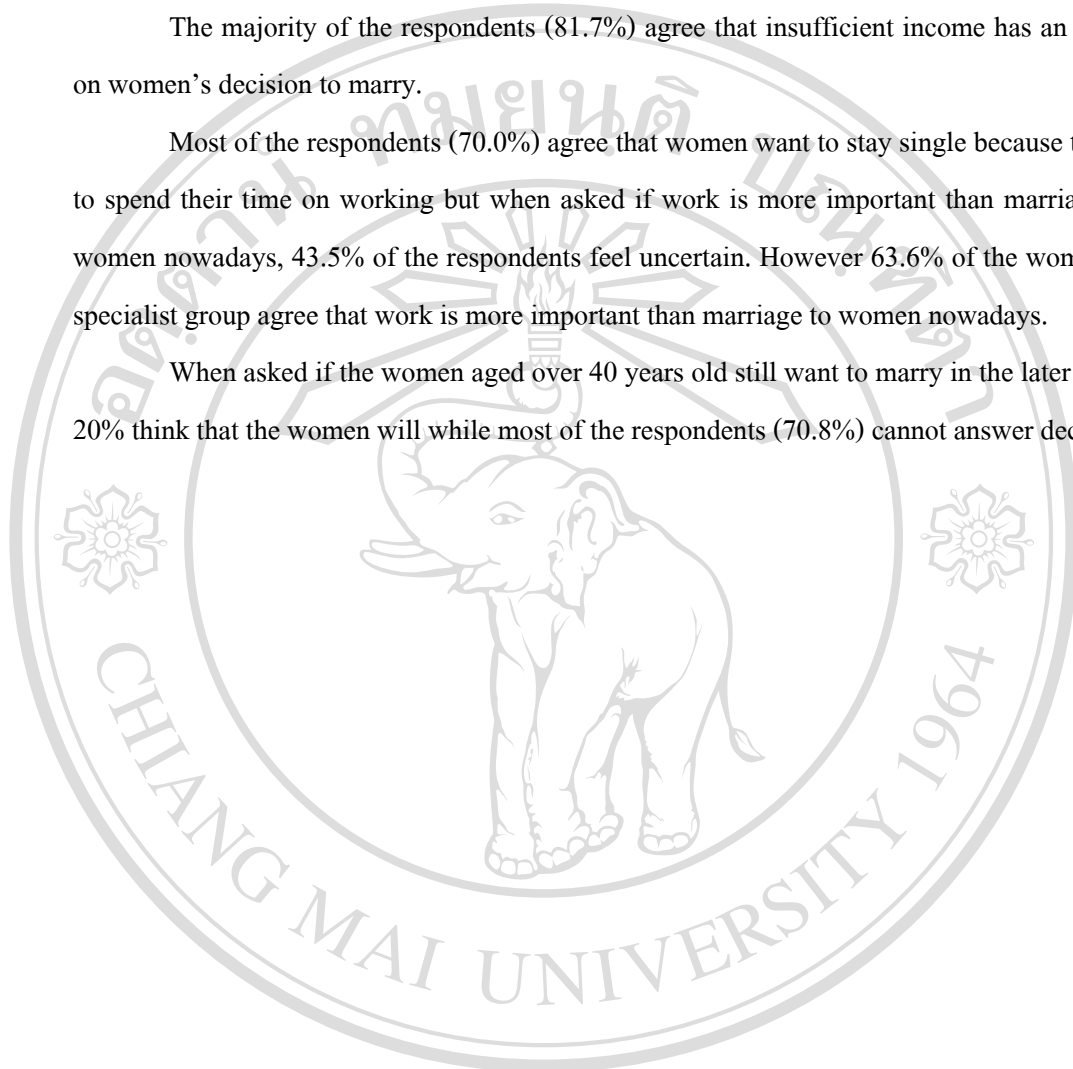
Most respondents (69.2%) agree that education level has influence over marriage decision, also it is the reason of women's late marriage. More than half of the respondents in 5 occupation groups (specialist group, administrative group, office worker group, business group and service group) agree while only 28.6% of the respondents in unskilled worker group share the

same opinion with other groups. Moreover, 89.2% of the respondents agree that women today get married late because they spend a lot of time on education.

The majority of the respondents (81.7%) agree that insufficient income has an influence on women's decision to marry.

Most of the respondents (70.0%) agree that women want to stay single because they want to spend their time on working but when asked if work is more important than marriage to the women nowadays, 43.5% of the respondents feel uncertain. However 63.6% of the women in the specialist group agree that work is more important than marriage to women nowadays.

When asked if the women aged over 40 years old still want to marry in the later age, only 20% think that the women will while most of the respondents (70.8%) cannot answer decisively.



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4.1.3 Influential factors over women's decision on late marriage or stay single

Table 4.14 The influential factors over women's decision toward late marriage or staying single.

Influential factor	Spec	Admin	Off	Bus	Serv	unskilled worker	Total
Spend more time on education	/	/	/		/		/
Spend more time on working	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Unable to finding the right mate		/	/	/	/	/	/
Look after parent						/	
Not wanting to be responsible for both household chores and job				/			
Desire to be self dependent	/						
Negative opinion toward marriage							

The study has shown 3 main factors that adequately influence women's decision on late marriage or stay single. The 3 main factors are education, work, be unable to select the right mate.

4.1.4 Opinion of target groups toward single women of 40 years old or older

Table 4.15 The opinion of the target groups toward single women aged over 40.

Attitude	Number	Percent%
Admire	72	60
Doubt that women may have some flaws	48	40
Total	120	100

This survey has shown that 60% of respondents admire the single women in 40 years of age or more because they are smart and be able to stand by themselves. On the contrary, 40% of respondents doubt that this group of women has some imperfection.

4.2 Analysis of data

4.2.1 The influence of education over women's decision to marry

Education is one of the factors affecting women's decision to marry. Most of women nowadays either stay single or marry late. They spend most of their time studying in the highest level they can. From this survey, most respondents feel that education is important for women. This confirms the study of Somswasdi and Nicholas (2000) that nowadays women spend most of their time studying and trying to get as high level of education as they can. This finding corresponds to the study of Bavornsiri (1982), which found that since 1980, the number of Thai citizen (both men and women) who entered university has been almost equal. Many women believe that education can improve their life and change the attitude toward marriage. According to this study, the respondents in 5 occupation groups (specialist group, administrative group, office worker group, business group and service group) agree that education has influence over marriage decision; on the contrary, women in the unskilled worker group disagree. After looking at the background of each group, it is found that women in the unskilled worker group have lowest educational level so they may have different ideas from other groups and give more importance to marriage than to education. Women with higher education may not value marriage as much as women with lower schooling do. The reason women with low education (unskilled workers used as an example here) give the importance to marriage may be that they still adhere with the gender socialization in Thai society as found in the study of Fongkeaw (1997). This becomes the notion that controls gender's role in each society, especially Thailand where women are expected to be a good wife and mother taking good care of the house and children. This does not mean that women with higher education do not follow the gender's characteristic of the society, but their views have been changed because of education they have.

It is also found that most women in the rural area marry earlier than women in the urban area. Moreover, the respondents (especially women in the specialist group who are city women) tend to feel that women in the rural area still cling to the old life style marrying in the early age

after graduating from secondary school or high school because the women in rural area may not see an importance in higher education like women in the city. This confirms by the study of Limanonda (1991) that rural women continue to marry earlier than urban women. The singulate mean age of marriage was 21.4 for rural women and 24.7 for urban women in 1970; by 1980 this figure had risen to 22.0 and 25.5 respectively. Moreover, from the 2000 population and housing census of Chiang Mai which also shows the singulate mean age at first marriage of women in Mueang District and women in rural area in Chiang Mai, it was found that women in rural area marry younger than women in Mueang District.

Some women believe that their social and economic status can be elevated by education which is a main drive that makes them pursue higher level of education. Thus, women nowadays pay more attention to education because they believe that study in higher level will provide them good job and income.

4.2.2 The influence of occupation and income on women's decision to marry

It can be concluded from the background information of each occupation group that occupation and economic status are related. Women with good occupation will get higher income. From the survey, the unskilled worker group is the only group who feels that marriage is important for their life. After looking at the background information of this group, it is found that they have the lowest income, so it could be noticed that women in the unskilled worker group decide to marry because they need someone to help support them. This confirms the study of Rabibhadana (1984) which stated that Thai women repay gratitude to their parents by marrying wealthy man who can help them and their family. On the contrary, most respondents who have stable occupation and income decide to stay single and want to spend most of their time working for a higher salary. Therefore, women with high income and good job pay less attention to getting married because they have no need for any supporters.

Most respondents especially the high percentage of the respondents in the specialist group think that women want to stay single because they want to spend their time on working get for good income. Economic development and education have affected the role of gender (Thornton and Fricke (1987); Domingo and King (1992)). Thus, these factors increase the number of single women nowadays. According to the 2000 Population and Housing Census of Chiang

Mai, it shows that the number of single women is higher than that of single men in the municipal area; 2,635 for women and 2,555 for men aged 40-44.

Responsibility at work affect on women's decision to get married. Some study on the advantages and disadvantages of marriage found that men get more benefit from marriage than women in both physical and mental condition. Moreover, the employment would be harder for women with babies, because employers expect that their working efficiency will decrease (Jong-Gierveld, 1986). This relates with the studies of Kerry Richter (1990), Attavawutichai (1992), Thong-uthai (1992) which state that there are many jobs available for women because of industrialization and the expansion of the service industry. But, those jobs preferable open for young unmarried women because of their flexibility in working. That makes lots of female workers conceal their marital status to keep their job. The result of surveying shows high percentage of unregistered marriage of unskilled workers group because women fear to lose their job. Ratimanonda (1992) indicated that women are satisfied to live with their partners without any legalization. This is the course of changing family structure.

In these days, there is new family structure called "single parent family" a family which has only mother or father instead of having the two (Louisyapong, (1991)). The single parent family is increasing because change in women's attitude toward their duties, role and marriage in modern family. From the result of the survey, most respondents reveal that women can live independently because many women now can earn as much money to support their family as men do. So, when serious troubles occur in family, modern women will easily give up their marriage and solve problems by divorce, which is now noticeable among modern society. The percentage of divorce has increased when compared with previous years; 27.87% in year 1994, 35.29% in year 1995, 33.57% in year 1996, 35.29% in year 1997 (www.dhm.go.th/report/status/status1.asp).

In addition, the survey of 100 women populations reveals that 24% of women in Bangkok have divorced while 10% of women who live outside Bangkok have divorce (www.Thaitfitway.com/education/rdata/r1db/question.asp?QID=15).

Limanonda from Demography Institute of Chulalongkorn University has predicted that women's role as a single parent family will be increasing and women will be the leader of the family (www.Thaitfitway.com/education/rdata/r1db/question.asp?QID=15). Several researchers have discussed about changes of women's duties and role in each modern family and it is stated

that some women are the cause of family problem. They believed that women cause problems in family and the single parent family is one that has problems. Because in a family that has single mother, the mother has to play the role of a father at the same time. Moreover, going out to work would have effects on the family system.

Comparing between women in the past and present, it is found that women in the past have less responsibility than women in the present. Rabibhadana (1984) stated that women in the past stayed home and did domestic chores but nowadays, women are also concerned with decision making in family economic matter (Xuto, 1984). The survey found that most respondents do not want to get married because they are afraid of too many responsibilities both at work and at home. Attawawutichai (1992); Somswasdi and Nicholas (2000) stated that nowadays some women do not want to get married because they seem to have plentiful duties both outside and domestic chores.

Although things have changed a lot as said above, women are still being the center of the family. Potter (1977) who presented the theory of women-centered system claimed that women should realize their duties after marriage and get married only when they are certain that they can handle them. On the other hand, if they do not want to adopt extra duties from marriage, they would stay single. Keawthep (1991) stated that housework is a hard duty in modern women's opinion, especially, one who has to work outside. So, women who get married are the one who accept the extra duties. From the survey, most respondents agree that in the present, women assume more responsibilities than men so the household chores should not belong to women only, men should not hesitate to help at home. However women in the unskilled worker group feel uncertain if house chores should belong to only women or not because some of the respondents still adhere with their traditional role that is house chores should be the duty of women not men's (Rabibhadana (1984), Yoddumnern (1985)).

4.2.3 The problem in not finding the right mate

In an additional study on the attitudes of women toward marriage; "What are factors that effects woman's decision in delaying marriage and staying single nowadays", three important factors have been mentioned such as education, work and not finding the right mate. The two

factors have already been reported above, now the last factor will be discussed not finding the right mate.

Twenty-eight percent agree that highly qualified women will have the problem to find the right mate. On Thai concept of “perfect mate” between a man and women, traditionally, men are expected to be the leader of the family, so they must have better qualification than women; in education, income, occupation, etc. A dowry in Thai culture used as an example in this case. A dowry has meaningful in Thai marriage process. It represents the financial status of man and also to show the respect of the future husband to the bride’s parents. Then the parents will accept the man to the union (Rabibhadana (1984), Yoddumnern (1985)). However more than half of the respondents cannot decide if highly qualified women with high education, good occupation and high income will have problem finding an appropriate mate and this will stay single or delay marriage.

According to the changes of woman’s roles and attitudes toward marriage, the number of single women nowadays is steadily increasing. From the survey on single working women in their 40’s, it shows that most respondents appreciate this group of single women and thought that they are smart and can live independently without support from any men. On the other hand, some respondents think that 40 year old women who stay single may have some flaws. The perspective survey result of single women in their 40’s corresponds with the article in “Sunday Bangkok” 1st Jan 2000 which states that most single women do not feel biased toward social aspects whereas some of them are disappointed with sarcastic phrases from a small group of people who think that being single is “abnormal”.

According to the result of the follow up interview made among some single women age over 40 in 6 occupation groups, it was found that they feel satisfied with their status. The interviewees believe that staying single is not a problem and the women who can live independently are smart. Moreover, single women do not think they have any flaws and seem to be appreciative of their status. This finding corresponds to the study of Somswasdi and Nicholas (2002) which showed that women interviewed appreciate their unmarried status by giving several reasons which are: to be single has more freedom, married life is associated with many problems; being controlled and sense of burden. So they choose to stay single.

In addition, interviewees said that they do not want to marry because they are aged and do not want to take care of a husband and children. Moreover some of them confirm that they love their life style and their work. In “Sunday Bangkok” on 5470(359), 22nd June 2003, it states that nowadays women change their attitude toward staying single. Some single women feel proud with their status and their life. This shows that women’s attitude toward staying single is changed. In the past, the word “old maid” is a sarcastic phrase for single women because in Thai culture, it was believed that women’s life will be completed with marriage. But nowadays, it seem that this belief is changed and staying single tend to become normal and more accepted (www.elib-online.com/doctors). Apart from this, the women interviewed in the study of Somswasdi and Nicholas (2002) said that being single is fine. Their immediate social network accepted their being unmarried. Sometimes this acceptance reflected the changing social norms regarding unmarried women.

Furthermore, most interviewees said that they love freedom and prefer living alone. They do not fear to live alone when they are old as stated in an article in “Bangkok Business Newspaper” Wednesday 30th, 1999, which gives the conclusion of single women’s opinion in 2000 that is (1) women do not feel biased by the social aspects of being single, (2) they don’t deny marriage when the right mate was found, (3) living as a single has taught that freedom and living independently can exist and (4) single women are not afraid to live alone when they are old.

On the contrary, there is an occupation group that gives different attitudes from other which is unskilled worker group. Women in this group reveal that they want to live with men married or unregistered who can help and support their financial matter .It can show that financial matter seems to have an influence on these women’s decision to marry.