

14: WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG? A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO OVERCOME THE DELAYED CHILDBEARING IN THAILAND.

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Objective

To survey the reasons for delayed childbearing and related factors among women aged at least 35 years seeking fertility treatment

Design

A cross-sectional study conducted in women aged at least 35 years attending infertility clinic in university hospital

Material and Methods

A self-administered questionnaire-based survey was conducted. The questionnaire consisted of background information and three domains: (1) reasons for delayed childbearing, (2) required social policy and, (3) acceptability to infertility treatment modalities.

Results

59 women (median age 38.0 years) were recruited. 86.4% of them held at least bachelor degree and 93.2% had higher income than Thailand's GDP per capita. They thought that the most appropriate age to have the first child was 28.7±2.9 years with the majority responded as 30 and 25 years (35.5% and 20.3%, respectively). The top three reasons for delayed childbearing were "more financial security", "no spouse", and "progress on my career". The participants thought that "paid paternity leave", "increase the period of paid maternity leave", and "good quality childcare" were essential for them to make an earlier decision. The most acceptable infertility treatments were intrauterine insemination, in vitro fertilization/intracytoplasmic sperm injection, and social oocyte banking while oocyte donation, and sperm donation were the least acceptable choices.

Conclusions

The women who delayed childbearing focus on progression in their career and economic security before family completion. However, they concern about family welfare over money when it comes to family affair. The social policy and the related fertility treatment should adapt to serve the need of the people and promote national fertility rate.

Support

None