

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STRESSORS AND PSYCHOSOMATIC CONDITIONS IN JAPANESE WIVES RESIDING IN BANGKOK

KIMIKO TAKEDA

103 Pages

AUGUST 1998

The purpose of the study was to find the relationship between stressors and psychosomatic conditions of Japanese wives who are temporarily living in Bangkok due to their husband's overseas assignment. The levels of wives' physical and mental conditions were observed in terms of existence of degree of stressful situations or events such as availability of a Thai maid, availability of a meeting held for wives whose husbands are working for the same company, existence of close Japanese friends, burden of child care, communication fluency in the Thai language, length of hours for a woman herself, satisfactory level of husband-wife relationship and length of stay in Thailand.

The respondents are 315 Japanese wives who are married to Japanese husbands and had at least one child aged 3 or less than 3 years old. The Cornell Medical Index (CMI) was utilized as an instrument to measure psychosomatic conditions.

The findings suggested that:

1. Existence of a maid had negative influence on physical health.
2. Existence of a close Japanese friend had positive influence on mental health.
3. The wives who experienced burden of child as "little" and "very much" had more