

Abstract

Thai traditional attitude with regarding the female role is one of suppression. Thai women are raised to be a good wife. Unfortunately not everyone fulfil this expectation. There are some women who become 'minor wives', as labelled by Thai society. Even though there have been 'minor wives' throughout history they are still not accepted by society and frequently stigmatised. This research was conducted under the recognition that 'minor wives' are not a social problem, but they are victims of social prejudice and stigmatization.

The research aims to explore 1) push-factors during the decision-making process which leads females to become a minor wife; 2) to explore the quality of daily-life for 'minor wives' after being labelled by society; 3) to explore coping-strategies, social adjustments to stigmatization, and the self-perception of minor wives; and 4) to explore their design and procedure for themselves and their families future development. This research utilized qualitative methodology, consisting of interviewing six female participants in order to achieve detailed personal narratives.

This research has enhanced knowledge surrounding the decision-making process of females when becoming 'minor wives', but perhaps more importantly why 'minor wives' remain in their relationships even when stigmatised by society.