

International Conference on
Population and Development in Asia: Critical Issues for a Sustainable Future
20 – 22 March 2006, Phuket, Thailand

Abstract

Promotion of Male Responsibility on Protection of Domestic Violence against Women and Children

Montri PEKANAN
Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand (PPAT), Thailand

Domestic violence has been a silent problem in the Thai society. People do not usually tell others when such problem occur in their families. On the other hand, the outsider dare not step in because they think that the problem could be solved among family members. Most of the people affected by domestic violence are children and women. Incidences on domestic violence are mostly sexual harassment and violation. The evidences are under reported. People do not report to the police unless the problem is very critical.

During 2002-2003, the Planned Parenthood Association of Thailand with support from UNICEF launched a project on the promotion of male responsibility as the leader for prevention of domestic violence against children and women in 2 main cities of Thailand, Bangkok Metropolitan and two Municipality areas in Khon Kaen province namely Khon Kaen Municipality and Chonabot Municipality. The evidences of domestic violence in those areas seemed to be high according to reports from police and social welfare officers. Main strategies applied for the project are 1) addressing men as the leaders for protecting children and women from violence; 2) strengthening community network for protection of women and children; 3) addressing the needs of women and children and building their capacities on the protection; 4) promote cooperation of men and women in the protection and care services on reproductive health, morale and financial supports, legal services with assistance from multi-disciplinary agencies including police, social welfare, public health, lawyer and NGOs. Lessons learned from the project on promoting male responsibility on SRH and HIV prevention have been replicated to other projects throughout the country.