

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Summary

The purpose of this study was to compare different classes of children of the same and different sexes in children's perceptions of maternal behavior. The scope of the problem was limited to Thai children of grades nine and ten (age 13 to 16). Subjects were 120 children 30 in each group equally divided according to class and sex, 41 middle class mothers. Data was gathered by the "children's Report of Parental Behavior Inventory" consisting of 78 items. Questionnaires were administered to the subjects and the mothers of subjects and the data was statistically analyzed by the t-test method.

It was hypothesized that significant differences in perceptions of maternal behavior would occur as a result of variations in the social class and sex of subjects. The findings resulted in acceptance of the hypothesis.

The major findings included the following:

- (1) middle class mothers and fathers, both from the reports of children and from mothers themselves, were significantly more positive than the lower class parents
- (2) lower class mothers and fathers showed significantly more negative behavior towards their children than did middle class parents.
- (3) in general, fathers, even though of different class, seemed to be more positive with daughters than with sons, the latter of which gained more punitive and more negative evaluation.
- (4) on the other hand, boys gained more positive evaluation i.e.

love and appreciation from mothers.

(5) girls were shown significantly more possessiveness, protection, intrusiveness, nagging and irritability from mothers.

(6) children of same sex and same class perceived maternal and paternal behavior differently and

(7) maternal behavior from perception of children and from reports of mothers were similar.

Recommendations

As the results clearly indicated, some scales produced significant differences in perceptions of maternal or paternal behavior within different classes. Therefore, the author would first recommend selection of those scales which can discriminate between social classes, when age and grade are controlled, and the incorporation of them into a shorter questionnaire for use with Thai children. Secondly, these results can be used as a guide to help teachers in dealing with children having these characteristics and in providing counseling service. In addition, they may help parents to better understand their children and the ways in which their behavior is seen by them. Thirdly, the author would advise a follow up study with these subjects to see whether maternal behavior of both classes produced differences in children's personality, behavior, adjustment and achievement. In doing such a study, one would have to control such variables as number of siblings, status of a child in his home and birth order.

Finally, the author would suggest the development of further research on perception towards maternal behavior within the upper, middle and lower classes in Thailand for the purpose of constructing more refined measuring instruments.