

Sahattaya Bunyakiat 2010 The Relationship between Educational and Income Inequality and Economic Growth in Thailand. Master of Economics, Major Field: Economics, Department of Economics. Thesis Advisor: Associate Professor Sumalee Santipollavut, Ph.D. 135 pages.

The objectives of this research are to develop the educational index and analyze the effects of educational and income inequality on economic growth in Thailand through the concepts of the education, factors determining educational indices, index calculations, income inequality, economic growth and the relationships between income inequality and economic growth. Data during 1988-2007 were employed for the index development and multiple regression analysis.

The input, access, output, outcome and overall educational index revealed a continuing increasing trend and had shown that the educational development improved while educational equality in each indicator had been slightly increased before the base year of 2002 and then decreased after. The analysis result had shown that the input inequality, all inequality indicators and income inequality have negative effect on economic growth, statistically significant. Meanwhile, the access inequality and output inequality indicators have positive effect on economic growth, statistically significant. However the outcome inequality indicator has no effect on economic growth. Therefore, education indicators development comprehensive in all aspect of education: input, access, output and outcome equally, including decreasing equality in income would eventually effect economic growth in Thailand.

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Thesis Advisor's signature