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Abstract

This research survey was aimed at the people who live in the high-risk landmine area along Thai-Burmese border in Tak Province. The objectives of this research were: 1) to study the personal behavior of the people who are at risk to landmine accidents, 2) to study the knowledge concerning landmine accidents and 3) to study the factors affecting the risk behavior of people to landmine accidents.

The study sample consisted of 240 people who live along Thai-Burmese border less than 1 kilometer in Pob Pra District and Tha Song Yang District at Tak Province.

The samples were chosen by 20% of population ratio and 95% of the reliability and used the stratified random sampling method. The data were collected by using interview schedules. The data obtained were statistically analyzed by using SPSS for Windows programme for the frequency, percentage, means, standard deviation. Chi-square were used to analyze the relation. T-test were used to analyze the different of means of risk behavior score. The results of the research were as follows:

1) The study samples consisted of people from many ethnic communities: Thai, Mong and Karen, had the average age of 21-40 years old. 44.2% mostly uneducated, main occupation was agriculture, the average annual income 10,000-15,000 Baht, 44.9% had debt less than 5,000 Baht, 50% had been in the landmine area because of the need for food and collecting of other forest crops.

2) Concerning knowledge on minefields, 55% had low knowledge, 37% had fair knowledge and 8.3% had good knowledge about mines.

3) Risk behavior to the landmine accidents, 46.3% had fair and 38.3% had low risk behavior.

4) The factors effecting of risk behavior to landmine accident at the significant level 0.05 were: sex, age, marital status, number of family members, ethnic, education, family income, family expense and family debts.

5) The comparison of risk behavior to the landmine accident to the people who live in the risk area at the significant level 0.05 were: woman had lower risk than man, married had lower risk than single, uneducated people had higher risk than educated ones. Thai people had lower risk than Karen and Mong. Agricultural groups had higher risk than other occupations. The family members who had an experience with landmines had higher risk than that of a family who had no experience, and the one who had been to the landmine area had higher risk than the one who had never been to.