

SOUTHERN REGION

THAGOON KARIKANCHANA: CONCEPTS AND PRACTICES CONCERNING THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN THE SOUTHERN REGION.

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The purposes of this research were to investigate and compare teachers' concepts and practices regarding the environment on natural conservation and their affects on human health. The questionnaires were sent to 420 primary school teachers in Southern Thailand, of which 400 questionnaires, or 95.24 percent, were returned. The data were analyzed to obtain percentages means and standard deviations. A t-test method was also applied to determine the statistically significant differences at .05 level.

The results revealed as the following :

1. Concepts concerning the environment of the primary school teachers as a whole, ranged from level 2.50-3.49 (good), while their conception concerning the forest and water pollution ranged from level 3.50-4.00 (very good). Their concepts about energy conservation, and noise pollution ranged from level 2.50-3.49 (good).

2. Practices concerning the environment, especially in garbage management, ranged from level 2.50-3.49 (good). The respondents scored low in law enforcement.

3. There were no statistically significant differences at .05 level regarding environmental concepts and practices between male and female teachers.

4. No significant differences were found regarding concepts and practices between rural and city teachers on the environment as a whole.