

C360215 : MAJOR ECONOMICS

KEY WORD: ANALYSIS/DEMAND/SUPPLY/HEALTH MANPOWER

SRISURANG DOUNGPRASERT : AN ANALYSIS OF DEMAND FOR AND SUPPLY OF HEALTH MANPOWER IN THAILAND. THESIS ADVISOR : ASS.PROF. TEERANA PONGMAKAPAT, Ph.D. 77pp. ISBN 974-583-044-5

The objective of the study is to analyze and forecast the demand for and supply of health manpower, particularly physician, in the case of Thailand. In the study, we build an econometric model of physician demand, and compute the number of physician being supplied according to prospective changes in its components.

The study found that the demand for physician was significantly determined by economic factors, including gross national products per capita, health expenditure, and the number of population. The estimated linear regression of demand for physician was used to forecast the number of physician to be demanded during 1991 to 2000. Assuming that the base year was 1990, the study found that by the year 2000, the number of physician demanded was forecast to reach 29,308 persons.

On the supply side, assuming that the base year was 1990, the number of physicians was calculated by adding the inflow of medical graduates, domestically and abroad; in subsequent years. The net inflow was computed by substantially the inflow of medical graduates by the outflow of physicians who retired (or died), inactive due to license withdrawal, or might drop out during education. By the year 2000, 21,237 physicians was forecast to be available.

The forecast number of physicians from the demand and supply sides indicates a fair amount of shortages to meet the prospective demand for physician, it is produce more medical students, both in private and public schools. The ministry for University affairs is planning to raise medical students by 340 per year during 1993 to 2001. Therefore, by the year 2000, physicians supplied will be raised to 21,917 persons. Nevertheless, according to the study finding, the government should plan to produce more physicians in order to solve the problem of physician shortages consistently to changing economic conditions during this coming decade.