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Abstract

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Teachers' and Parents' Opinions about Extending

Compulsory Education to 9 Years in Si Sa Ket

This study investigated teachers' and parents' opinions about extending compulsory education to 9 years. The population and sample under study consisted of 193 teachers and 148 randomly selected parents of Mathayom Suksa 1 students from 27 primary schools participating in the program on extending opportunity for fundamental education under the Office of Si Sa Ket Provincial Primary Education respectively. The instruments used in this study were rating scale type questionnaires. Whereupon, the collected data were analyzed through the applications of percentage, mean and standard deviation.

The findings could be summarized as follows:

Concerning teachers' opinions, it was found that most teachers agreed at the uncertain level with respect to school readiness on instructional management but found to be strongly agreed on additional

training in instructional management process for teachers who would teach in the extended level. Moreover, the Office of National Primary Education Commission should be the only organization responsible for extending education to 3 more years and be in the form of compulsory education. They also revealed their opinions at the strongly agreed level on given opportunity to students in selecting their vocational subjects with regard to aptitude and interest. However, they disagreed that the General Education Department or the Nonformal Education Department should be the only organization responsible for extending compulsory education for 3 more years. In addition, they agreed with the corresponding of vocational instruction and community. Also resources and school readiness should be highly brought into consideration. However, they expressed their opinions on vocational instruction as needed by parents at the uncertain level.

With regard to parents' opinions, it was found that most parents agreed on patterns and methods in extending compulsory education to 9 years. They strongly agreed on that the government should provide students with textbooks, school lunch program, encourage students to work and earn money while in school, and provide health service and health insurance for students. The Office of National Primary Education Commission should be the only organization responsible for extending education to 3 more years and be in the form of compulsory education. But they disagreed that the General Education Department or the Nonformal Education Department should be the only organization responsible for extending compulsory education for 3 more

According to parents' need for 9 years of compulsory education, years. it was found that parents agreed on this issue and strongly agreed on the need for students to study near their homes. They also agreed with the corresponding vocational instruction and community. Also, students should be taught the subjects that they could use to earn some while in school. However, they expressed their disagreement on vocational

instruction as required by parents.