



foreigners memorandum, reports and notes from those who were working in connection with nursing education, and from secondary sources which include articles, some historical books, biography and some thesis.

2. Interviewing those nurses who had retired from and senior nurses who still working in nursing institution for data that could not found in any written forms.

Major findings :

Prior to the establishment of nursing school in Thailand, it was believed that those who performed the functions of nursing had been trained by their ancestors or from the Buddhist monks no less than from their self studies. As a result, important nursing institutes then were the temples and the families. Both places had been playing very important roles until B.E. 2439 when the first nursing school was established at Siriraj Hospital.

Thailand's nursing's education during B.E. 2439 - 2468, which was the starting point, was managed without formal regulations or formal systems. The school locations were not available, they were to be with or under the roof of some hospitals. In addition, basic knowledge and the length of time of study were not restricted. Subjects which had to be studied also depended on necessity and requirements then.

During the year B.E. 2469 - 2488 the nursing education was improved to many extents. Although there were no formal nursing schools being set up, a lot of improvements with foreign assistance

could be significantly observed. From such assistance, the syllabus could be developed more systematically. Besides; basic qualification of students and length of studies were formally proposed. However, all these were obstructed by The Second World War.

Nursing education in many aspects were remedied when The Second World War was over. As international communication could be made again and as there were shortage of nurses, another 7 nursing schools were established during B.E. 2489 - 2504. One improvement which could be noted is the governments recognition and upgrading nursing's syllabus to a Bachelor Degree and other basic syllabus to international standard.

However, during B.E. 2504 - 2524 the nursing education was changed substantially and comprehensively when the government in accordance to The National Economic and Social Development Board's Plan had recognized the problem of the nurse shortage. Therefore another 15 nursing schools were established, these schools offer Certificate, Diploma, Baccalaureate and Master degree in nursing. Syllabus and educational systems of each are very much alike because each institute shared the experience and accept the syllabus of the previously recognized as a criteria.

The research result shows that nursing education has been developing ever since its beginning, and the development emphasized mainly on health needs of the population at large. Therefore, the management of the nursing education in the future, particularly the nursing curriculum and teaching should correspond to the national health policy of the country. In addition the development of leadership training and research competence of nursing personnel should be emphasized more attentively.