

VICHYA NAKARUGSA : ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF THE ABILITY LEVEL OF
COMPETITIVE BADMINTON PLAYERS IN THAILAND. THESIS ADVISOR : SUGANYA
HUTASARANI, PH.D. 121 PP.

The purpose of this study is to examine the determinants of the ability level of competitive badminton players in Thailand using the theory of the "Allocation of Time," which is a microeconomic theory. Primary data were collected from a survey, consisting of 111 badminton players who competed in the Gosen Thailand Badminton Championships in 1987. The statistical tool employed in this study is a multinomial logit model (MNL) based on maximum likelihood estimates (MLE). The ability level of competitive badminton players is then measured by the probabilities that the players become previous or current national players relative to non-national players.

The set of exogeneous variables in the model includes education, time spent on alternative activities, time for rest (sleeping time), time worked in labour markets, sex, sponsorship, and family income, almost all of which are found to exert important influences on the probabilities of becoming previous or current national players. For instance, sponsorship and being females appear to have positive impact on the probabilities of becoming current national players, while time spent on alternative activities and time worked in labour markets have negative influences. At the same time, education and time worked in labour markets yield negative effects on the probabilities of becoming previous national players.

The empirical findings outlined above are expected to have important implications for policy purposes. That is, sponsorship needs to be channeled to the players as fundamental support. The government may take part in promoting private sponsorship if the ability level of the players were to be improved significantly. Intensive practices should also be encouraged because greater time spent on alternative activities are found to reduce the ability of the players.