

ABSTRACT

This is a research study with the purpose of investigating parental influence such as parents' income, occupation, educational levels, expectations, and academic support on decisions made by Matthayom6 students studying in Bangkok areas in choosing to enroll in the prospective faculties for Bachelor's degree. Moreover, the study also aims to explore how much freedom the students have in making their own educational decisions and expressing their opinions about furthering their education and how often their parents participate in helping the students make those decisions.

To collect the information, two hundred Matthayom6 students studying at St. Francis Xavier Convent School, Streewitthaya School, and Wat Bowonniwet School, with disparity of parents' income, occupation, educational levels, expectations, and academic support, were asked to fill in the questionnaires consisting of eight parts. The data was analyzed by using SPSS program for windows 13.0. The statistical analysis used in this study included frequencies, percentage points, mean, and standard deviation (S.D.).

The major findings show that the students' parents play critical roles in helping the respondents make decisions in choosing to enroll in the prospective faculties for Bachelor's degree as they think that their parents are the most significant educational consultants for them, and usually believe view their parents' advice as reasonable and reliable information. However, although it is not obvious that occupations of the students' parents influence the students' decisions, their parents' income affects some students' decisions. Moreover, the students are not interested in studying in the same fields as their parents did as the students' parents do not encourage the students to choose to enroll in the faculties they had studied before. Furthermore, the parents have expectations of the students' decisions in choosing to enroll in the faculties they like, but most of them do not force the students to follow their expectations. In addition, the students regularly have chances to express opinions about choosing to enroll in the faculties they like, and their parents also regularly participate in helping them make those decisions.