

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

This chapter reviews the literature in six main areas along with a summary: (1) the overall parental influence on children, (2) parents' income, (3) parents' occupation, (4) parents' educational levels, (5) parents' expectations, and (6) parents academic support.

#### **2.1 THE OVERALL PARENTAL INFLUENCE ON STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL DECISIONS**

Parents have an important impact on their children's development from birth, and this influence continues well beyond the adolescent years (Judith L. Meece, 2002). Thus, it is obvious that the most influential people in one's life particularly one that is still be a student are parents. According to Amporn Wjitpan & Unchalee Kohkongkha (อัมพร วิจิตรพันธ์ และอัญชลี ค้อคงคาม, 2544 as quoted in สุกัญญา พูลประภา, 2547), students can get their educational motivations from their parents. Their parents may want them to be doctors and they want to hold that position in the future, for instance.

According to the research from the website of University of North Carolina conducted by J. Taylor, Harris, and S. Taylor (2004), parents' approval or support can help their children be more confident to follow their career decisions as parents play a profound role in career decisions of their children (<http://www.uncwil.edu/stuaff/career/documents/parentssay%5B1%5D.pdf>). Besides, Taylor et al. (2004) also stated that parents are viewed as significant influences on career decisions made by college students. Thus, to find out the parental influence on Mathayom6 students' decisions in choosing to enroll in the prospective faculties for Bachelor's Degree, some aspects involving parents such as parents' income, educational levels, occupation, expectations, and academic support should be discussed and considered.

## **2.2 THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTS' INCOME ON STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL DECISIONS**

Hiromi Yamaguchi (2004) in her research paper clearly states that some factors such as household economic levels, parents' opinions, and parents' preferences for children strongly affect students when they have to make their educational decisions. Besides, there is an amount of research showing that the conditions in the families especially parents' income influences the students' motivations and attitudes in studying (คัคนางค์ มณีศรี และสมหวัง พิธิยานุวัฒน์, 2541).

Pornthip Khamchai (พรทิพย์ คำชาย, 2543) in her thesis "Factors Related to Selecting a Study Program of Undergraduate Students in the Rajabhat Institute Rajanakarin" states that the parents' income is one factor determining how much students will be educated quantitatively and qualitatively. As the post-secondary students focus on the advanced professional education in specific fields, it is necessary to spend a lot of money particularly in some fields that require a large amount of money for students' practice and special educational tools each year. Thus, the parents' income may be one factor relating to the decisions students make in choosing to enroll in prospective faculties in Bachelor's Degree.

Juejun Jongsatityoo (เจื้อจันท์ จงสติดอยุ่, 2525 as cited in พรทิพย์ คำชาย, 2543) found out that students, whose parents have different income, will also have different opportunities to further their studies. Furthermore, Kridsana Wongsasun (กฤษณา วงษา สันต์, 2524) has studied some factors influencing high school students' decisions in choosing to enroll in academic programs, and found out that the economic status of parents has influence on students' decisions. Parents and students thus make decisions on next education considering household economic levels. In the low-middle income family, parents have strong authority for the educational decisions because parents have enough social experiences and information. The parents with low income sometimes even select only one child for the upper school enrollment. Parents, therefore, link the children's educational opportunities with the household income (Yamaguchi, 2004)

## **2.3 THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTS' OCCUPATION ON STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL DECISIONS**

The closeness between parents and students may cause students to try to follow their parents in many ways such as behaviors, characteristics, and preferences especially career preferences as they have seen their parents work and how they succeed in those kinds of careers since they were children. Therefore, it is possible that parents' occupation is one factor related to students' decisions in choosing to enroll in the prospective faculties for Bachelor's Degree, which leads to their future careers.

According to the study of Sopon Suepan (โสภณ เสือพันธ์, 2529 as quoted in พรทิพย์ คำชาย, 2543) about "Factors Influencing the University Students' Decisions in Choosing to Enroll in the Academic Programs in the Basic Vocational Levels", it is found that parents' occupation is one factor affecting the university students' decisions in choosing to enroll in those academic programs in the basic vocational levels.

Moreover, Teerasak Tathong (ธีรศักดิ์ ทาทอง, 2529 as cited in พรทิพย์ คำชาย, 2543) studying about some factors affecting high school students in choosing to study in agricultural academic programs indicates that students choosing to study in such kind of programs mainly have parents working in agricultural fields.

In addition, the study of Uraiwan Potiwedtewan (อุไรวรรณ โพธิเวชเทวัญ, 2539 อ้างอิงจากพรทิพย์ คำชาย, 2543) about "Factors Motivating University Students at Universities in Bangkok Areas in Choosing to Study in the Business Curriculums" gets one interesting result, that is, those students whose parents work in different fields will also have different motivations for choosing to study in those curriculums.

Furthermore, the study of Janssen (1983 as cited in จตุพร โดยศรีเอี่ยม, 2548) shows that their father's occupations are important to the educational expectations of sons while their mother's occupations are significant to the educational expectations of daughters.

## **2.4 THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTS' EDUCATIONAL LEVELS ON STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL DECISIONS**

The study undertaken by Yamaguchi (2004) about parents' educational levels affecting educational investment indicates that in Thailand parents in older generations from the former educational system regarded compulsory education enough for children. Thus, at that time there were not many educational opportunities for children, and the society did not require many educated people like nowadays. However, among parents who were less than 60, the number of those being more educated increased due to the changed educational system and society started requiring a lot more educated people in the labor market. Since parents have more educational opportunities almost like the current students, the enrollment in the upper levels of education is higher. According to Eugenia Hepworth Berger (2004), parents having not had educational opportunities are often very supportive of students' education and encourage students to be educated. Also, Yamaguchi (2004) in his research paper found out that parents with low educational levels would like their children to take high educational degrees and would like to provide as many educational opportunities as possible for them. It, hence, would be possible that current students might be encouraged by their parents to be educated and to take higher educational degrees.

## **2.5 THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTS' EXPECTATIONS ON STUDENTS' EDUCATIONAL DECISIONS**

Apart from parents' income, educational levels, and occupations, another issue which should be considered is parental expectations. Jatuporn Doe-sri-eam (จตุพร โดยศรีเอี่ยม, 2548) in her research paper "Factors Related to the Students Studying in the Faculty of Engineering at Bangkok University in Choosing to Further their Studies" defines expectations as the needs of people to do something according to their desires by using expectations as the guided methods to define behaviors of the expected person. Besides, she also defines parental expectations as the parental desires towards students in order to make them compliant with their wishes such as educational, behavioral, and occupational wishes.

Moreover, Munliga Nittayaporn (มัลลิกา นิตยาพร, 2533 as quoted in จตุพร โดยศรีเยี่ยม, 2548) has studied “Factors Influencing Students’ Studies or Occupational Selections after Completing Compulsory Education”. The result shows that one factor influencing the students’ studies is their parental expectations in the students’ highest educational levels and occupations.

In addition, Pensri Jindasak (เพ็ญศรี จินดาศักดิ์, 2535 as cited in จตุพร โดยศรีเยี่ยม, 2548) in her study “Factors Related to Occupational Selections of Students in Chonburi” found out that students’ occupational selections were strongly related to their parental expectations.

Furthermore, Prawmad Nontayatorn (พรวมาศ นนทยาธร, 2520 as quoted in จตุพร โดยศรีเยี่ยม, 2548) has studied high school students’ expectations in furthering their studies. The result showed that the students with high educational expectations have parents expecting them to study in Bachelor’s degree and usually giving them educational advice while those with low educational expectations have parents not expecting them to further their studies, and sometimes or even never giving them educational advice.

From those studies, therefore, Jatuporn Doe-sri-eam (จตุพร โดยศรีเยี่ยม, 2548) briefly concludes in her research paper that parental expectations have strong influence on students’ educational thinking and behaviors. This conclusion is in line with the study of Parsons (1982 as cited in คัดนางค์ มณีศรีและสมหวัง พิธิยานุวัฒน์, 2541), which found out that the influence of parental expectations affects students’ educational expectations or educational purposes.

## **2.6 THE INFLUENCE OF PARENTS’ ACADEMIC SUPPORT ON STUDENTS’ EDUCATIONAL DECISIONS**

Parents influence their children’s academic environments in many ways. Among those ways, one way that can influence children’s education is through the academic support they provide for their children (Matute-Bianchi, 1991; Plunkett & Bamaca-Gomez, 2003; Wentzel, 1998 as cited in Edna C. Alfaro, Adriana J. Umana-

Taylor, and Mayra Y. Bamaca, 2006). Parental academic support has been linked to academic outcomes particularly academic motivations of children (Plunkett&Bamaca-Gomez as cited in Edna C. Alfaro et al, 2006). Hence, the academic support and advice of parents can strongly influence the students' occupational selections or the students' selections of their academic plans. Sirirat Udcha (ศิริรัตน์ อึ้งพะ, 2517 as cited in พรทิพย์ คำชาย, 2543) states in her research paper that parents of family members have influence on how students choose their careers. Parents may have acquired some skills and have wanted students to imitate them, so they give students support and advice related to those skills. Indeed, an amount of research indicates that parents' academic support is related to how students study or work in some fields. For example, the study of Sopon Serpan (โสภณ เสือพันธ์, 2529 as quoted in พรทิพย์ คำชาย, 2543) shows that the parents' academic support and advice influence university students' decisions in choosing to enroll in academic programs.

From the aspects above, there is no one having conducted the research about the influence of parents on Mathayom6 students' decisions in choosing to enroll in prospective faculties for Bachelor's Degree. Therefore, this research will be done to examine that by analyzing it from the following aspects:

- Parents' income
- Parents' occupations
- Parents' educational levels
- Parents' expectations
- Parents' academic support

As these aspects could be factors affecting Mathayom6 students' decisions in choosing to enroll in prospective faculties for Bachelor's Degree, Mathayom6 students' should be aware of them so that they can effectively balance their parental influence and their own attitudes or preferences in choosing to enroll in the prospective faculties for Bachelor's Degree. Consequently, they are able to make better decisions for their future life.