

## METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes (1) the subjects, (2) the instrumentation, (3) the procedures used in the collection and analysis of the data, and (4) the data analysis

The period of this study began in November 2008 and lasted until the end of February 2009

<b>Month</b>	<b>November</b>				<b>December</b>				<b>January</b>				<b>February</b>			
<b>Week</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>																
<b>A. Planning phase</b>																
- Determine sample																
- Design questions																
- Pre-test questions																
- Revising questions																
- Post-test questions																
<b>B. Implementation phase</b>																
- Conduct survey																
- Data collection																
<b>C. Analysis phase</b>																
- Data verification																
- Data processing & Analysis																
<b>D. Reporting phase</b>																
- Reporting writing																
- Reporting printing																
- Reporting dissemination																

### 3.1 SUBJECTS

The population of this survey is the denturists who work on the side walk of streets around Bangkok Metropolitan area. The samples were selected based on specific characteristics of street dentists only, so purposive sample technique was determined. They perform an outlaw job and naturally do not participate with any strangers, except clients and familiar persons. In addition, the samples were reluctant, concealed, and scattered over wide areas in Bangkok and the nearby towns. Therefore, the snowball or chain sample technique was added to identify next informants by the previous ones. In other words, other members of their group, next participants, were determined by the informant who had finished answering the questionnaire. Collecting data started from Thaprachan, an area most crowded with street dentists. This continued until the data collection accomplished the target number.

The sample size was expected to be 100 street dentists in Bangkok. Most of them had worked in the areas of Thaprachan, Bangkhae, Siriraj hospital and nearby, Wongweinyai, Chareonkrung, etc. Every participant was a street dentist who was willing to take part in this research for benefits of our society.

### 3.2 MATERIALS

This study used Thai-version, self-administered questionnaires to approach the samples' primary data at the site they worked. The questionnaire consisted of 30 questions divided into five parts. The first part asked about personal information such as age, sex, income, education, and occupational history. The second part was knowledge of street dentists about how to make decent dentures. The third part related to knowledge about hygienic working. The next part involved their work problems. Then, the last part was the help needed from the associated authorities.

The questionnaire was composed of closed-ended and open-ended questions. The closed-ended questions were answered by choosing correct answers or writing some of their own answers. The open-ended questions were used to give them freedom to express factual information and what they needed to improve their work. The questions designed were correct at relevance, wording, order, and related to the variables defined. Besides, their tone did not make informants feel humiliated about the level of their knowledge. In addition, the researcher set a benchmark of the

acceptable level of knowledge of both denture making and hygienic technique at 80% of all knowledge questions; the passed street dentists had to get 12-15 points.

The questionnaire for distribution was pre-tested by a few non-sample street dentists to evaluate its effectiveness. Then a modification was performed according to their feedback about the questionnaire. Every question was extremely important and pertinent to this research's target. The questionnaires assured respondents of anonymity and confidentiality and that their information was used only to achieve the objectives of this research.

### **3.3 PROCEDURES**

#### **3.3.1 Research Design**

This research study was a survey study or cross-sectional design conducted single shot to investigate the level of knowledge about dentistry of street dentists in Bangkok.

#### **3.3.2 Data Collection**

Since this data collection was framed by limited time and scattered samples, this stage was operated by a few collectors. Consequently, the researcher planned to train potential assistants about how to derive effective data. Separately answering in 15 minutes, each informant returned the completed questionnaire to the waiting data collector. This was designed to get individual information and to avoid findings' errors from informants' discussion. Both the researcher and the assistants performed this data collection on behalf of students of Thammasat University, a neutral organization. Collecting the data began and ended in December 2008.

### **3.4 DATA ANALYSIS**

The researcher used the Statistic Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) program, version 14.0 for the analysis of the data to answer the research questions. For open-ended questions, the researcher gathered all answers, quantified them and use descriptive statistics such as frequency, percentage, mean, and median to analyze the data.