

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

In Thai society, great value is placed in education. Chulalongkorn University is considered to be an elite university in Thailand for many reasons. The goal of many high school students is an opportunity to study at this top university of Thailand. Many parents also dream of having their children attend Chulalongkorn University. Because Chulalongkorn University is the top priority for students from all over Thailand, getting accepted to study there is a mountainous task. The entrance exam for Chulalongkorn University requires the highest mark compared to the other universities in Thailand. After the students achieved the status of being Chulalongkorn University students, the next difficult task is to maintain a certain level of grade point average to retain that status. Therefore, high competition exists among students in this leading university.

Once students are accepted to study at this prestigious university, the most important responsibility is to earn the highest possible grades. In order to receive good grades or retain the grades that the university requires, these first year students need to study efficiently. First year of the university is one of the most difficult times in a student's life. A lot of adjustment and discipline is needed. Many students leave home and stay alone in a dormitory for the first time. Instead of being able to ask their parents for advice, they now rely on their friends to help them out. Even though university students' main responsibility is to study hard, many distractions from their surroundings can mislead them. Students need to be self-disciplined to be able to achieve their goal, which is to graduate with the highest grade possible.

University studying is not easy because of many reasons. Other than the fact that students have to adjust to the new surroundings and new friends, they also have to develop good study habits that will be successful for them. University teachers are not

as attentive to individual students as they are in high school. The subjects are more difficult and there is more homework. Students are expected to show that they can think critically. The secret to surviving a university life is to have an effective study method. This is the reason this research is conducted, to find out what kinds of study habits are being adopted by the first year students at the Faculty of Arts, Chulalongkorn University and what are the problems these students are facing.

## **1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

### **1.2.1 MAIN QUESTION**

What are the study habits of the first year Chulalongkorn University students?

### **1.2.2 SUB-QUESTIONS**

(1) What is the attitude of the Chulalongkorn University first year students toward studying?

(2) What methods of study are being used by the first year students at Chulalongkorn University?

(3) What are the major adjustment problems and distractions faced by freshmen at Chulalongkorn University?

## **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

### **1.3.1 MAIN OBJECTIVE**

To find out the study habits of the first year Chulalongkorn University students.

### **1.3.2 SUB-QUESTIONS OBJECTIVES**

(1) To find out the attitude of students who are studying in their first year of university at Chulalongkorn.

(2) To find out what methods of studies are being used by the first year university students.

(3) To find the distractions and the adjustment problems that students face while trying to study in their first year at the university.

#### **1.4 DEFINITION OF TERMS**

1.5.1 Freshmen in this study refer to students that passed and satisfied all the requirements of Chulalongkorn University, and are currently enrolled in the first year of the university. They must have completed high school for not more than one year since becoming Chulalongkorn University students.

1.5.2 Study is the process by which we deliberately set out to extend our learning (Chibnall, 1987).

1.5.3 Study Habits are classified as time put into studies, method used in studying, and contents of studies.

1.5.4 Adjustment problems mean problems that freshmen encounter consciously. Adjustment problems can be divided into living conditions, finances, psychological problems, teaching procedure, and college work.

1.5.5 Distractions are any activities that prevent first year students from studying efficiently and sufficiently.

#### **1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

This study is an attempt to investigate the study habits of first year university students and what kinds of problems they face. The sample of this research is 120 first year full time Chulalongkorn University students studying at the Faculty of Arts. The selection of students was done by random sampling method. The tool used for this research was a questionnaire.

This study did not include first year students from other universities other than Chulalongkorn University and did not include students from other faculties of Chulalongkorn University. This study also did not include students who had been studying at Chulalongkorn University for more than one year.

The period of this study began in November 2008 and continued until the end of February 2009. During this period, the researcher revised literature, determined samples, designed questions, revised questions and completed post-test questions. The distributing of the questionnaires and collecting data was completed by the middle of January 2009. The analysis phase which included data verification and data processing and analysis was processed by February 2009. The last phase which is the report phase was done at the beginning of February 2009.

The framework of this study includes the following as the independent variables:

1. Time and place of studying
2. Method used in studying
3. Contents of studies
4. Distractions and adjustment problems students faced that created studying difficulties

The dependent variables are:

1. Domicile of students
2. High school majors of students

## **1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

The study of the study habits of first year university students will be beneficial to the following people:

- a. Students who are studying at the university level anywhere in Thailand or around the world can learn from this study.

- b. High school students who want to attend Chulalongkorn University or any other universities after they have completed their high schools.
- c. Parents who want their children to attend Chulalongkorn University or any other universities in the future.

## **1.7 ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY**

The study of study habits of first year university students in this paper is divided into chapters, as follows:

### **(1) CHAPTER ONE**

This chapter consists of background information, a statement of the problem, objectives of the study, definitions of terms, scope of study, and significance of this study.

### **(2) CHAPTER TWO**

This chapter is mainly about literature review. Theories, concepts, and research relevant to this study are included in this chapter.

### **(3) CHAPTER THREE**

This chapter consists of subjects, materials, procedures, and data analysis

### **(4) CHAPTER FOUR**

This chapter presents the study results by using the SPSS (Statistical Package for the Social Sciences) analysis tool.

### **(5) CHAPTER FIVE**

This chapter is the conclusion of the study. Summary of the study, summary of the findings, discussion, conclusions, and recommendation on further research are included in this chapter.