

## ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : Ministry of Public Health Officials' Opinion on the  
Decentralization of Public Health Work to Local  
Administrative Organization.

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Degree : Master of Arts (Social Development)

Year : 2001

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The objectives of this research are to study the Ministry of Public Health Officials' awareness, opinion and acceptance of the decentralization of public health work including their opinion on appropriate local organization's structure for such a decentralization.

Data collecting methods are from documents as well as from the in-depth interview of key - informants ;18 public health officials in Yala province, who are directly involved in the transforming of power to the local agencies. Data collected are analyzed with logical context and descriptive statistics.

Important findings are as follows :

1. The majority of key - informants gain knowledge of the public health work being transferred to local organization from the Ministry's seminars with aware content of transforming power within 2-4 years.

2. The majority of key - informants think that the decentralization is good and will benefit the nation as a whole.

3. Most of the key - informants are interested in seeking more knowledge and information about the decentralization with appreciation and prepare themselves well for such a move. However, many of them feel unsatisfied with the decentralization process.

4. The majority of key - informants prefer the 4<sup>th</sup> type of local organization with all levels of public health institution being public organization working as health network with local committee as service buyers.

Important recommendations emerged from this research are, among others, 1. seek common understanding among concerned organizations, improving information exchange techniques, 2. improve local organizations to be really strong, 3. establish local health committee with concerned personnel from the Ministry of Public Health as well as local, occupational and other groups' representatives.