

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : On Being and Accepting of Traditional Medicine Persons : A Study of

Ubon Ratchathani province.

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This research aims at studying the acquired quality of being traditional medicine person, their perception toward Thai traditional medicine including their roles in knowledge dissemination; the study was done in Ubonratchathani province.

The method of study is a qualitative one by using the in-depth interview technique on 15 key-informants coupled with observation and documentary study. Data analysis is done with logical context description and descriptive statistics.

Results of the study show that most of the informants are male; their acquired quality started with kins who had been practicing the art before; this method embraces more than one-half of the key-informants, followed by being interested in the art while in monkhood, and in small percentage, learned to be one after have been cured by the native medicine successfully.

Their major role in spreading the art of native medicine is by accepting pupils who may be their close kins or even outsiders, However, the practice of herbal medicine is decline while the art of massage is gaining more popularity both among customers and learners.

Important problems facing native medical performers are no new knowledge discovered and transmitted; they want the government to organize a seminar among the traditional medicine persons in order to exchanging experience and knowledge.

Recommendations emerged form this study, among others, are there should be training in this matter for younger generation to keep the tradition going on, having research and knowledge distribution for alternative services.