

Thesis Title	A Comparative Study on Socio – Economic Status and need Assessment for Vocational Improvement between Farmer's and Gem cutter in Bophloi District, Kanchanaburi Province
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ABSTRACT

The objectives of this study are as follows : 1) To investigate the socio-economic status of following sub-district : Bophloi, Chongdan, and Nongkum, Bophloi district, Kanchanaburi. 2) To investigate the socio-economic status of both the farmers and gemcutters in Bophloi district, 3) To conduct needs assessment on career development of the two groups. 4) To compare the socio-economic status of the two groups. 5) To conduct a comparative study of the career development needs of the farmers and the gemcutters.

Data Collection was done through structured questionnaires on 80 farmers and 40 gemcutters, living in the following villages : Bophloi, Bung huawan, Chongdan and Nongkatum in Bophloi, Chong dan and Nongkum Sub-district. The questionnaire was divided in to four parts: personal data, economic status, social status, and career and need for career development. The data was analyzed by using the means, standard deviation, frequency and percentile quantitative methods. Chi – square was employed to test whether significant differences exist. The results of the study are as follows : out of the four villages only one was located inside the area governed by the sub-district committee. The villages are situated on a great plain surrounded by small hills. Most of the land is used to grow cash crops. The male population is slightly greater than the female population. Most of the people are aged between 15 and 29 years finished four years of primary school study, and the illiteracy rate is low. Most

people are engaged in either trading (merchants), agriculture, or other non-specific low skilled employment. For each village the existing infrastructure includes electricity, public phones and a public access water well. In addition, the accession to the District office is all year round. Every household has a manual flush toilet, and health problems are minimal as health and sanitation in the villages is of a satisfactory level.

The subjects of the study were predominantly male. The age of the farmers is generally higher than the gem cutters. However, the level of education of the farmer is lower than that of the gemcutters. The average family size for both groups is four to five and they are generally healthy. When they are sick they are taken to the hospital for treatment. None of them have ever had an annual physical check up. When the two groups were compared, it was found that the income of the gemcutters was significantly ($P < 0.05$) higher than that of the farmers. They were also able to save more money. The farmers had more debt and work-related expenses than the gemcutters. It was also found that the gemcutters had better social status in terms of social recognition, group membership and activity participation. In relation to career development needs, both groups required fundamental knowledge (general education), general knowledge (basic health hygiene education), and job related skills (increasing yields, making ornaments). In terms of education, both groups expressed the need for self study. Materials related specifically to their work, as well as some form of vocational field trip, to compare the methods of other farmers and gemcutters in different areas. However, differences were found in general knowledge (conservation), additional vocational knowledge, and the types of educational activities required.