

Abstract

This is a study on “Career Development of Thai Cuisine Cooks”. The objectives of the research were to study the career development of Thai cuisine cooks and compare personal factors attributing to the career development. The samples were 100 Thai cuisine cooks working in 3 different types of establishment, namely, hotel restaurants, regular restaurants and out door restaurants, The data were collected by using questionnaire and analysing the data with the statistics of percentages, mean and standard deviation.

The findings of the research were as follow:

Most of the samples had experiences as cooks for 5-10 years, specializing in Thai food. Almost half of them used to work as food vendors, The principal motivations for them to chose to work as cooks were good salary and their enjoyment in cooking. Relating to career development, it was found that the samples felt that they had high rate of career development, with the highest average in the area of job security. The factor which contributed most was the effort to develop their skills. Most of the samples thought that having career as cooks gave them the good future with good salary. In comparing the personal factors, namely, marital status, different educational levels contributed to the career development in the areas of job security, position advancement, skills and income indifferently. As for the factors relating to gender, age average income, the contributed to the career development in the areas of position advancement, skills and income indifferently but differently in the area of job security.

The researcher suggested that the government should set up Fund to support the entrepreneur and Thai cuisine cooks for career development for the cooks. Group formation should be supported to protect the rights and benefits of the members, The entrepreneur and the cooks themselves should give importance to a continuous and systematic skill development scheme, The cooks, especially, should strive to acquire knowledge, develop the skills and techniques from within their workplace as well as from other learning sources.