

Abstract

This is a study on “Factors Affecting the Types of Social Work Engaged by Elderly Social Development and Human Security Volunteers in Bangkok”. The objective of the research was to study the nature of social work, relationship between personal factors and social work, and types of social work engaged by the elderly. The methodology involved examination of the documents and fieldtrips. Data was collected by using a questionnaire on a sample of 62 elderly social development and human security volunteers in Bangkok.

The results showed that the majority of the samples were male, with an average age of 66 years, with a primary or lower education level, earning no income. The most common type of social work done by the elderly was organizing community activities, followed by educating the community, child and elderly cares in the community respectively. Those with a higher level of education tended to offer more educational service to the community than those with lower education. People with low-level education did more organizing of activities than did those with higher education. The attitude of most elderly workers toward social work was at a high level. The pull factor was the value of social work attached by the elderly while the push factor was a desire to make social contributions whereas the support factor was access to information. The majority of the samples received information about social work from television, followed by radio, newspapers, community news, government publicity and friends respectively. Personal belief about the ability to contribute affected the attitude toward social work of the elderly, while social support had no such effect.

The researcher suggested that there should be more publicity about social work engaged by the elderly. The government sector should encourage elderly people with higher education to do more social work. The elderly should have more access to information about benefits derived from doing social work.