

Abstract

This study is entitled "Women's non – formal education to improve the quality of their lives from a gender equality perspective." The purpose of this study was to examine 3 issues: gender inequality causing women to quit formal education ; reasons for women's decision to study in the non – formal education system ; and women's expectation to improve the quality of life after their completion of non – formal education. This qualitative study involved focused interviews, observations and documentary research.

This study found that gender inequality was one of causes forcing a certain number of women to quit school before they completed their education as required. Gender inequality in society came partly from concept transmission and up-bringing which reinforced the idea that women had a lower status than men ; as a result, women were treated unfairly as objects by their superiors. In addition, poverty, family problems, and social change exacerbated women's situation with regard to gender inequality. Leaving school with little educational qualification forced women to face a lot of problems; they could not find a job which would give them enough income to look after themselves and their families happily. Their quality of life was at a low level . Therefore, these women chose to return to the educational system again through non – formal education because such a system allowed them to work . Obtaining a higher qualification, women expected to improve the quality of life in terms of progress, security, and increased income so as to fulfill their four basic life necessities, which could positively impact their physical and mental health.

My recommendations are as follows: women's families, officials, and the government must regard women's education as being important , value educated women, sincerely work to eradicate gender inequality from society by giving both women and men equal educational opportunity so that they can develop their individual potential, encourage women to earn some income while going to school ,and help develop existing careers and jobs in local areas so that women can live a secure and sustainable life.