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MANAGEMENT OF HEADS OF HEALTH CENTERS IN SARABURI PROVINCE.

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The goal of health care services in Saraburi Province has not been achieved due to some administrative problems especially at the health center level. Therefore, the main objective of this survey research was to study the factors affecting health resource management of heads of health centers in Saraburi Province. A total of 125 heads of health centers were included in study using questionnaires and evaluation forms for collecting data during 1 – 30 June 1999. The data were analyzed in terms of mean, percentage, standard deviation, chi – square test, Pearson’s product moment correlation coefficient and stepwise multiple regression analysis.

It was found that the majority of the heads of health centers are females (52.8%), married (79.2%), 35 – 44 years old (44.8%), with public health diploma education (44.0%). The majority (53.6%) are engaging in higher level studies, with over 20 years of working experience (44.8%). 79.2% of the respondents had been heads of health districts for less than 10 years. About one-fourth (25.6%) had of basic management training along with basic research (38.45%). The knowledge about management of health resources was at low level. Subjects’ attitudes and opinions toward skills and situations in health resource management as well as their management performance were high. It was also found that training in basic management, basic research, knowledge of personnel management and situations in organization life cycle were significantly related to health center heads’ levels of performance ($p < 0.05$). Stepwise multiple regression analysis showed that the predictive variables of health resource management were knowledge about personnel management and situations in organization life cycle at 9.6 percent. It is suggested from the study that heads of health centers should receive more training in management. The District and Provincial authorities should facilitate successful operation through proper motivational approaches for heads of health centers.