

Thesis Title	Students' Selection on Home – Economics Program in Northern Vocational Education Colleges
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### ABSTRACT

The research aimed to investigate the reasons of continuing studies in home – economics area of the certificate level students in Vocational Colleges, northern region. It involved the aspects of self- actualization, the knowledge about career, and the information about the selected college. The comparisons of the reasons were classified into three branches as food and nutrition, clothes and dressmaking, and general home –economics. The sampling subjects were 302 certificate level students of the first year from 8 vocational colleges. The self – made questionnaires were mailed to the subjects after the test of reliability by the Cronbach alpha at resulted at the level of 0.90. The employed statistics were frequency, percentage, arithmetic mean ( $\bar{X}$ ) and Standard Deviation (S.D.). The F – test was used in the comparison study. The SPSS/PC+ program was applied.

The research results revealed as follow:

1. The majority of students who chose to continue their studies in home- economics area had their grade point average (GPA) at moderate level. The first area they chose was food and nutrition and followed by general home economics and clothes and dressmaking respectively.

2. As for self – actualization aspect, the students agreed on the reason of having good health suited to their study as their priority. It was followed by having their own decision for the career, having the purpose of earn their living in this career in the future, and having the suited wisdom and capacities. They also answered that the selected career was suited for them. However, they did not agree on the reasons of having not-passed the entrance exams for other institutions and having cousins and siblings in the career for career selection. The students cited that they were not sure neither for reasons of following parents suggestion, nor the least of expenses as the advice of the guidance teachers.

3. In accordance with the knowledge about the home - economics career, students agreed the entrepreneurship was independent career. They could establish their own business in the first place. Then followed by the reasons that it is a career that can be dealt with at home. It was the career that need least investing budget, it could be fun to get involved with beautiful things. However, the students were not sure that it was a popular career in a comfortable place.

4. For the knowledge concerning colleges, students agreed that the knowledge could be applied as a supportive career in the first place. It involved colleges' expertise teachers which were accepted by people. Then colleges could provide the training place in accord with the curriculum. However, the students were not sure neither for the arranging of the repeating exams in other areas nor the short distance between the house and the college.

When classified according with areas and compared the answers, it was found that there was a statistically significant difference at the level of 0.01 between answers of students from food and nutrition and general home - economics. The research result was concurred with the setting hypotheses. However investigated in details of items, there was no statistically significant difference.