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KEY WORDS : VOLUNTARY NEWS REPORTER IN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY/ ENVIRONMENTAL MANUAL/ HEALTH VOLUNTEERS

AUNNOP SONTICHA: THE POSSIBILITY STUDY OF THE TRAINING COURSE FOR VOLUNTARY NEWS REPORTER IN ENVIRONMENTAL COMMUNITY : A CASE BY AN ACHIEVEMENT EVALUATION FROM HEALTH VOLUNTEERS, LAOKHWAN DISTRICT, KANCHANABURI PROVINCE.THESIS ADVISORS : SUCHART NAWAGAWONG M.Sc., Lt.Col. PINAI VITHEESAWAT M.Sc., MANEE PANITCHAGAN M.Sc., 182 P ISBN 974-662-379-6

The objectives of this study are to develop a manual for teaching news reporting technique relevant to reporting environmental news in communities and to assess the possibility of attracting people to become volunteer environmental news reporters. The study subjects were health volunteers in Laokhwan district, Kanchanaburi province. Preliminary data about volunteer's characteristics and opinions was gathered from the district's 640 health volunteers and used in the development of the training manual. Seventy health volunteers were then selected by multi stage sampling to participate in the experimental stage of the study. The 70 subjects were divided into an experimental group of 35 persons and a control group of 35 persons, by matching similar subjects and placing one in each group. The experimental group received the manual and training about environmental news reporting over a period of two days (26 – 27 January 1999), while the control group only received the manual. The knowledge of both groups about environment and news reporting was tested by pretest posttest method. It was found, by analysis of covariance that the knowledge of both the experimental and the control group increased over the experimental. There was no significant difference ($p < 0.05$) in the levels of knowledge between the two groups. Education, age and occupation were found, by stepwise regression analysis, to affect the possibility of a person becoming a volunteer environmental news reporter.