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NUTSANUN PAYAWAT : THE EVALUATION OF HEALTH EDUCATION PERFORMANCE OF HEALTH OFFICERS AT HEALTH CENTERS IN NAKHORN SAWAN PROVINCE : THESIS ADVISORS : SURAPHOL SRIVITHAYA DOCTEUR D'ETAT EN DROIT (MENTION TRES HONORABLE), NIRAT IMAMFE M.P.H., Ph.D, PEERA KRUGKRUN M.Sc. (Bios), DUSIT RUJIRARUT M.Sc. (Bios), 127 p. ISBN 974-663-685-5

The objective of this descriptive research was to evaluate the health education performance of health officers at health centers in Nakhonsawan province. The population studied included 183 health officers. The data was collected using questionnaires from 20th September to 20th October 1999. Self-administered questionnaires previously tested for reliability were used. 151 completed questionnaires were returned. Descriptive statistic analysis by number, percentage, mean, standard deviation, Pearson's Product Moment Correlation and Chi-square test with a 95 percent confident interval were used to test the research hypothesis. Independent variables in the research consisted of individual characteristics of health officers which were gender, age, working duration, educational level, position, work experience and training in health education, health education supervision factors and the knowledge of health education job factors. Managerial health education factors studied were planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling.

It was found that most of the samples were male (51.0%), aged between 21-30 years (57.0%) with an average age of 31.7. 45 % of the health officers have been working for 0-5 years and the average was 10 years. About 60% of them were community health officers. More than half of the sample were responsible for health education (66.2%) and supervision in health education (54.3%). Only 12.6% were trained for a health education job. Their knowledge about health education was at a low level (65.6%) and management was at a middle level (74.2%). The following job performances were also at the middle level :- the item and total score of health education performance (62.9%), the managerial item score and the managerial total score (74.2%). There was a significant relationship between health education supervision and health education performance ($p=0.05$). A significant correlation between the management, both total and individual items, and health education performance was found ($p=0.001$).

It is suggested from this research that provincial and district health officers should cooperate more in supervising health education at the health centers. The health center officers should be trained for skill management in planning, organizing, staffing, directing and controlling the individual health officers.