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SARAWOOT WARUNCHAPRUK : A POTENTIAL OF THE VILLAGE HEALTH VOLUNTEERS (VHVs) IN THE COMMUNITY HEALTH PLANNING IN UDON THANI PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISORS : PIYAKARN TEARTISUP, M.Sc., PRAKAIRAT SUKHUMALACHART, M.Sc., 207P. ISBN 974-664-163-8

The purpose of this research was to study the potential and factors affecting potential of the village health volunteers (VHVs) in development and public health and problem solving in community in Udon Thani Province. This study was a survey research as cross-section study. The sample was 385 village health volunteers working in community basic health center. Multiple sampling questionnaires were used in data collection in May 1999. The data was analysed by percentage, means, standard deviation and multiple regression.

The study revealed that volunteers had a high-level potential in health planning and public health problem solving. The most important factor affecting potential of the village health volunteers in health development planning and community public health problem solving was motivation in public health planning. The second factor was awareness of role in public health planning. The third factor was age. The fourth factor was occupation and the fifth factor was level of education at statistic significant level of 0.001, 0.001, 0.01, 0.05, and 0.05 respectively, where as factors concerning gender, marital status, income, duration of being of public health volunteers, experience in public health planning and support from the government did not affect potential of the village health volunteers in community health development planning and public health problem solving at the statistic significant level of 0.05.

The suggestion of this study is the training and workshop of community public health planning should be conducted on current public health problem in the village of the health volunteers. If done village health volunteers will be able to learn the procedure of public health planning. Moreover, they will be able to get advice and guidelines in problem solving from their real experience. Moreover, The government should encourage the village health volunteers to conduct health planning, and propose to community leaders and sub-district administrative organization respectively. This will encourage community leaders and local people to foresee more problems of public health, so that they contribute to develop and public health problem solving in community. The sub-district administrative organization will support the planning, follow up and evaluate the outcome beyond government authorities.