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CHANAWUT KLATPHAE : FACTORS RELATED TO THE PARENTS' READINESS IN PERMITTING THEIR STUDENTS TO CONTINUE LEARNING UP TO THE HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL : A CASE STUDY OF EDUCATION REGION I. THESIS ADVISOR : PRARHAPHAN UN-OB , Ed.D., SIRINA JITJARAS, Ph.D., 177 p. ISBN 974-664-807-1

This Research is aimed at studying the degrees of readiness of the parents in permitting their students to continue learning up to the high school level and the factors relating to the readiness, problems and obstacles, needs and recommendations of the parents in permitting their students to continue learning up to the high school level. The sample group used in this Research is the parents of M.3 students (Grade 9) in schools under the educational opportunity promotion program of the Provincial Primary Education Office of the Education Region 1 which is comprised of 5 provinces including Nakhon Phathom, Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani, Samut Prakarn, and Samut Sakorn, totally 695 persons. This research is based on the simple random sampling method. The research tools are questionnaires. According to the results of this research, it was found that, in general, the parents had a relatively high degree of such readiness, had obtained a moderate level of education, and had a highly positive environment and attitudes towards education. There were 2 factors relating to the readiness of the parents including the expectations of the parents in their children's careers and their demands for highest levels of education of their children. These 2 factors can jointly explain the variance of readiness scores by 3.5%. With respect to the problems, obstacles, needs, and recommendations, it was found that the largest problem and obstacle of the parents is the expense burden and most of them need the government's support on educational expenses. The most frequently cited expense was for educational materials and equipment.

According to this research, it is recommended that organizations involved in education at all levels use their best efforts to launch all kinds of campaigns in order to promote the parents' better understanding of the essence of the National Education Act 1999 and to facilitate positive attitudes of the parents towards education. This will provide equal educational opportunities for all children to continue learning up to the high school level and to find measures to support their educational expenses. Meanwhile, schools have to develop themselves to meet the required educational standards.