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ADESORN CHAROENYONGYOO: FACTORS RELATED TO PURSUING EDUCATION OF RURAL THAI YOUTH. THESIS ADVISOR: KUSOL SOONTHORNDHADA, Ph.D., CHANYA SETHAPUT, Ph.D. 109 P. ISBN 974-664-773-3

The objectives of the study are to study individual factors, household factors and community factors related to youths pursuing education in rural areas. Pursuing education factors were analyzed in secondary level and university level by using secondary data from the 1998 Survey of Thai Youth by Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University and the 1999 Basic Village Data collected by the Ministry of the Interior. Studied samples were 1,240 rural Thai youth aged 15-24 years old from 100 villages 78 districts 5 provinces in Thailand. Statistic used in this study were percentage and logistic regression analysis.

The findings revealed that the chances of rural Thai youth in pursuing secondary level and university level education were 68 percent and 42 percent, respectively. While those aged 15-17 years, 18-21 years and 22-24 years had no chance in pursuing secondary level education were 19 percent, 33 percent and 61 percent, respectively. The percentages of rural Thai youth aged 18-21 years and 22-24 years who had no chance to pursue university level education were 50 percent and 75 percent. Factors related to pursuing education of rural Thai youth in secondary level were youth's educational expectations, occupational expectation, awareness of time and life spent, birth order, suffering in study, and family responsibility. For university level, factors related to pursuing education of youth were educational expectations, occupational expectation, awareness of time and life spent, suffered in study, and family responsibilities.