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NOPPAWONG APORN : KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICES OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY
LEADERS ON FOREST RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PROBLEM IN RANONG PROVINCE. THESIS
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The purposes of this research were to study the knowledge and practices of the local community leaders on the forest resources management problems in Ranong province, to compare the knowledge and practices of the local community leaders according to 9 selected variables and to examine the relationship between knowledge and practices of the local community leaders. This research was designed as a survey research. The tool for data collection was a questionnaire given to 337 local community leaders in Ranong province. The statistics employed were a statistical package for social science for windows (SPSS), t - test , One -- Way Analysis of Variance ,Least Significant Difference (LSD) and Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient.

The results of the study indicated that the local community leaders had a low level of knowledge on the forest resources management problems. The knowledge was significantly different at 0.05 level according to education, type of the leaders, income and information received, but not significantly different at the 0.05 level according to sex, leadership group, age, length of leadership and occupation. The local community leaders had a medium level of practices on the forest resources management problems. The practices were significantly different at 0.05 level according to the leadership group, occupation, income and information received, but not significantly different at the 0.05 level according to sex, age, education and length of leadership . The knowledge and practices on the forest resources management problems of the local community leaders in Ranong province had a significantly positive relationship but at a low level (Correlation = 0.142 , significance at the 0.05 level).

This research recommends that media campaigns address the forest resources problems through promotion and information transmission on a continuous basis. The television, newspaper and radio media should provide more frequent, better quality message transmission and information presentation. Also ,the local community leaders should be more aware of the forest resources problems and better management techniques. More over, the local community leaders should be encouraged to participate in environmental development programs.