

Abstract

The thesis entitled "Reinforcement and Empowerment of Commercial Sex Workers : A case study of Women Seeking Support from the Fountain of Life Women's Centre, Pattaya, Chonburi." This study aims at investigating the process of reinforcement and empowerment of deprived women who earn their living in the tourist sex industry. The study covers 150 cases of women who attended the courses provided at the Fountain of Life Centre in Chonburi province. The data analysis by using the SPSS program, presented in the Percentage, Mean, Standard Deviation, F-test and the level of significance 0.05.

The results of the study are as follows: Most of women are between the ages of 31- 35, they had completed their primary education, had an income of 2,001 - 5,000 Baht monthly, and were living with their foreign partners. These women had been working in this occupation for more than 12 months. They joined in the courses at the Center on average of 1-3 months. Majority of them attended language classes for Thai, English and German. The analysis revealed that the women found that the courses and activities, such as languages, skill training, health education, counseling and living and working abroad skills, provided at the Center, highly supported them mentally and morally. They gained self-esteem and the ability to face problems. The process of reinforcement through activities for emotional support, information support and services support proved that there was a definite relationship with the empowerment at the statistical level of 0.001.

This study recommended that the Center should give support and provide counseling for women especially those who are below the age of 35 years. The provision of information and skill adjustment such as living and working abroad, cultural assimilation and information on all forms of discrimination, including women trafficking is very crucial. Awareness of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS should be a priority. Life skills such as saving attitude and preparing themselves for a proper profession should be emphasized to make sure that women will not turn to prostitution again when separated from their foreign partners.