

Thesis Title Environmental Health Perception and Health Behaviors of the Local Inhabitants Toward Air Pollution : A Case Study of Power Plant at, Amphure Mae Hoh, Lampang Province

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ABSTRACT

This research attempted to study the environmental Perceptions and the health-related behaviors of the local people toward air pollution problems of Mae Moh lignite mining and electric generating plant. The study designed primarily to examine whether the selected variable : age, gender, education occupation, income, and information aquisition were associated to the people's perception and behaviors or not.

The target population involved were all the heads of the rural households who earned their living within 7 Km, or nearly Mae Moh lignite mine and the power plant. A structured questionnaire was developed for interviewing, and a systematic random sampling was employed to obtain the sample the total number of respondents

interviewed was 330, from 7 villages. All data were coded and analysed by the computer package of SPSS/PC chi-square and one way ANOVA were used to analyse the variables studied.

Analysis of data indicated that majority of the respondents perceived that Mae Moh mining and the power plants was the main source of some noxious air pollutants in the area. The emissions and the dispersions of the dust sulfur dioxide, and the particulates from the plants were suspected to cause health-risk environment to the people. Data showed that the variables studied : age, gender, income, and occupation were not associated with the people's perception. The only factors associated was the information acquisition. Well-informed respondents tended to acquire higher environmental perception scores than those who less-informed.

Survey of the environmental health behaviors further revealed that the household water supply system was mostly contaminated by the air pollutants from the power plant.

The above findings indicated the need of the concerned agencies to urgently provide precautionary measures to get rid of the health risk from such air environment. In order to prevent undesirable circumstances, it is recommended that frequent and continuing monitoring of SO_2 and dust should be carried out and reported the results to the public concerned.