

Thesis Title Factors Affecting the Decision-
 Making Ability of Chiefs of Health
 Center
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Abstract

The objectives of this research were to identify the levels of decision-making ability, and to study the relationships between personal factors, personality traits, and leadership styles, and decision-making ability of chiefs of health center. A total of 312 chiefs in twelve provinces were included randomly in the study by using self-administered questionnaire. There were 302 completed questionnaires, (82.5%) return for statistical analysis.

It was found from the study that the majority of chiefs of health center (61.3%) were very effective decision maker. There were highly confidence in themselves (86.7%), flexible (82.1%), creative (63.6%), well-judged (87.1%), reasonable (83.4%), and applying dictated style

of leadership in their working atmosphere (79.8%). Their confidence, flexibility, creativity, judgement, and reasoning were found to have significant relationships with their decision-making ability at $p < 0.05$. However, strong relationships were present for confidence and judgement which could be used to predict the levels of decision-making ability of chiefs of health center. There was no significant relationships found between their leadership styles, and personal factors and the ability to make decision of chiefs of health center.

It is, therefore, recommended that the Ministry of Public Health develop appropriate mechanism to provide an opportunity for chiefs of health center to participate more often in the decision-making process toward the enhancement of public health programs in their areas of responsibility. Specific on-the-job training on a problem-solving and decision-making process for chiefs of health center should be included in the health manpower development policy.

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