

Abstract

The study on “Facilities Needs of Disabled Persons to Access Social Services : A Case Study of Kathu District, Phuket Province”, aims to study service access for disabled persons from several places in Phuket Province; study problems and obstacles of disabled persons on service access in Phuket Province; and study facilities needs of disabled persons in Phuket Province. As the survey (descriptive) research, the data was collected by fieldwork and questionnaire. The samples were 127 physically and visually disabled persons residing in Kathu District, Phuket Province. The SPSS was applied in data processing and data analysis; statistics included percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test, F-test and relationship comparison at the significant level of 0.05. The study results are summarized as follows.

Most samples were female, aged 31-40 years, disabled after birth, and had elementary education. Most of them were workers with average salary 2,001-4,000 baht per month. Regarding their facilities access, most samples used public services at hospitals and used private services at parks. The most accessible service of disabled persons was toilet. Problems and obstacles of facility access of disabled persons were divided into 3 aspects, namely, access, sufficiency and standard; overall problems of all aspects were at the high level. Facilities needs of disabled persons were classified into 3 aspects i.e. building, place and sign; overall needs of all aspects were at the high level. The problem related to building was at the highest level, including non-slip surface and smooth slope. The problem related to sign was at the highest level. In terms of the problem related to place, facilities for disabled persons should be provided and signs of disabled types eligible for service should be installed as well.

The recommendations of this study are that the Government should establish policies and use its best effort to support service access for disabled persons. Public and private organizations should provide facilities for disabled persons so that they are able to live their lives equally with normal people in the society.