

Abstract

The study on “Job Security of Independent Guides during Economic Crisis” aims to study employment conditions of independent guides, work environment of independent guides, and job security of independent guides. The samples were 150 independent guides, comprising general guides (foreigner) with silver cards, and general guides (Thai) with gold cards, residing in Bangkok Metropolis. The statistics for data analysis included percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test and F-test. The study results are as follows.

The samples, equal numbers of male and female, aged between 26-30 years, were single, and had the bachelor's degree. They had general-guide cards (silver) with English language knowledge. Their service periods were 5-10 years; they working hours were less than 10 hours per day. They had day off and were paid about 3,100-4,000 baht / job and got commission from shops. Regarding work environment, it was found that most samples had domestic routes; transportation had no affect on their health and family members; there was no accident during working. During the raining season, weather was obstacle; vehicles were unsafe. They had no dispute with colleagues and had never been harassed by colleagues and tourists. Their overall opinion on job security of independent guides was at the high level. In term of economy, the samples agreed that they had saving from being independent guides at the highest level, followed by that they agreed at the moderate level.

The recommendations from this study are that independent guides should be encouraged to be members of Independent Guide Association so that the Association will protect their welfares efficiently. The public sector should play a role on controlling and determining independent guides' wages at the same standard to ensure properness and fairness, which will result in lower number of problems. In addition, Tourism Authority of Thailand should supervise independent guides' performance or leading tour companies' operation more closely. Tour companies should collaborate with each other to increase their bargaining power rather than emphasize on price war. This will enhance job security of independent guides in the future.