

Thesis Title	Factors Influencing the Effectiveness of Cataract Surgical Services in Hospitals under the Jurisdiction of the Ministry of Public Health
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ABSTRACT

Blindness and visual impairment are among the causes of disability in the general population. The impact of this problem is felt in terms of decreased quality of life, deterioration of family well-being and increased socio-economic burden.

The aim of this analytical survey research was to study the factors influencing the effectiveness of cataract surgical service in hospitals under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Public Health, with specific emphasis on demographic, administrative, work experience and motivation factors. Ninety - nine ophthalmologists working as chiefs of departments of ophthalmology were included in this study. Mailed questionnaires were used for data collection. Seventy - seven completed questionnaires were returned for analysis (79.38 percent). The descriptive statistical techniques used in this study were frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, maximum and minimum. The analytical statistical techniques used were t-test and discriminant analysis.

The results revealed that most chiefs of the departments of ophthalmology were married males, 41.56 years of age in average, with board certified degree in ophthalmology. Comparisons were made based on demographic factors such as sex, age, status, education and income between an effective group and an ineffective group of cataract surgical service. Only sex factor was significantly different ($p=0.038$). When considering the administrative factors including human resources, monetary resources, physical resources, information resources and management process, most factors were significantly different ($p<0.001$) except physical resources. The work experience factor and motivation factor were not significantly different. Furthermore, an analysis based on discriminant technique showed that three factors including human resources, monetary resources and information resources could be used to separate an effective group from an ineffective group with a predictive value of 93.15 percent.

It is suggested from the study that the administrators concentrate on increasing and developing human resources, especially ophthalmologists and ophthalmic nurse practitioners so as to be suitable for the current situation of blindness and visual impairment. Besides, the information resources should be shared between provincial hospitals and the Office of the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Public Health to bring about effective utilization of information resources and efficiently reach the goal.