

Thesis Title     Factors Affecting Levels of Community Leader's Participation  
                         in Community Hospital Activities in Ayuthaya Province

Name             Decha   Lurswilai

Degree            Master of Science( Public Health )  
                         major in Hospital Administration

Thesis Supervisory Committee

Thonglaw Dejthai, D.H.Sc.

Tawekiat Boonyapaisarncharoern, M.D., Board of Preventive Medecine.

Surachart Nanongkhai, LL.B., M.A.(Social Development).

Peera Krugkrunit, M.Sc.(Bios)

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## ABSTRACT

Community hospital is the second level of health service organizations within the national referral system next to local community. The performance of community hospitals has been unsatisfactory due to various kinds of factors, especially community participation. The main objective of this study was to identify factors affecting levels of community leader's participation in community hospital activities in Ayuthaya province. A total of 165 community leaders were included in the study for interview. The data was analyzed by SPSS/PC<sup>+</sup>.

It was found that the majority of community leaders were male ( 70.30% ) age between 40-59 years old (73.30%), married (82.40%), primary school education (58.20%). Most of them were farmers and labour (61.80%), land owner (72.60%). They had average family size of 3-4 persons (42.40%), with an average monthly income of 11,769 baht. They have lived in present location about 38 years (72.10%), and 3 kilometers away from hospitals.

The overall level of community leader's participation in hospital activities was at medium level ( $\bar{X}$ =2.489), in attending the meeting ( $\bar{X}$ =2.739), financial contribution ( $\bar{X}$ =2.382), employees ( $\bar{X}$ =2.442), customers ( $\bar{X}$ =2.881) and material contribution ( $\bar{X}$ =2.433). The level of their involvement in community hospital activities was average in most aspects, but low in entrepreneurs ( $\bar{X}$ =2.115).

The result of multiple regression analysis showed significant relationship (  $p < 0.0001$  ) between the level of community leader's participation and their age (  $x_5$  ), incomes (  $x_6$  ), land owners (  $x_4$  ), committee member (  $x_1$  ), attitudes (  $x_3$  ), satisfactions (  $x_2$  ) and convenience (  $x_7$  ). All these factors were found to have significantly affect their expectations with a prediction capacity of 36.49 percent. The regression equation was established as community's participation = - 0.683347 (constant) + 0.022281 (  $x_1$  ) + 0.325381 (  $x_2$  ) + 0.386265 (  $x_3$  ) + 0.381196 (  $x_4$  ) + 0.014268 (  $x_5$  ) - 0.00008 (  $x_6$  ) + 0.253079 (  $x_7$  ).

Major problems and obstacles for community participation in community hospital activities were centered around an unawareness and openness of hospital officers and administrators in allowing for community leader's involvement. It is suggested from the study that community hospitals officers and administrators create an appropriate climate for community leaders to participate in the implementation of community hospitals.