

THESIS TITLE INDIVIDUAL CHARACTERISTICS AND EXTERNAL
CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY
WORK ABILITIES OF DENTAL NURSES
IN NORTHEAST REGION.

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this research is to study individual characteristics and external conditions which contribute to the community work abilities of dental nurses in the northeast region of Thailand.

This survey research study involved observing and interviewing target groups as well as collecting data through detailed questionnaires. The target groups comprised 159 dental nurses who graduated from the Northeastern Regional College of Public Health during 1980-1989. They are now working at district hospitals.

The data are analyzed using Percentages, Chi-Square statistics and Stepwise multiple regression analysis.

The findings are as following :

1. Individual characteristics such as family background, economic status, length of working time, and attitudes toward primary dental health care aren't significantly related to dental nurses' community work abilities.
2. External conditions such as encouragement and acceptance by superiors, attitudinal modernity of community leaders, in-service training, and support and help from government offices and private organizations are significantly related to dental nurses' community work abilities.
3. Some individual characteristics and external conditions that affect dental nurses' community work abilities are in-service training, encouragement and acceptance by superiors, support and help and economic status. These factors explain over 35.32% of variance in dental nurses' community work abilities. ($P < .05$, $R = 0.5943$, $R^2 = 0.3532$)