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KEY WORD : READINESS /HEALTH PLANNING

UNCHALEE MULADA : THE READINESS IN HEALTH PLANNING OF THE CHIEF AND PLANNING STAFF OF HEALTH PLANNING SECTION, PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE. THESIS ADVISOR : PIYATHIDA TRIDECH, M.P.H., Dr.P.H., PEERA KRUEGKRUENJIT, B.S., M.Sc., SONGPHAN SINGKAEW, EDU.B.S., M.A., Dr.P.H., CHAINAT JITWATNA, B.Sc. , MPH.M. 119 p. ISBN 974-589-472-9

The purpose of this research was to study the readiness in health planning of chief and staff of Health Planning Section in Provincial Public Health Offices. A total of 150 health planners and staff in 75 provinces were included and subjected to self-administered questionnaires. There were 136 complete questionnaires returned for analysis in both descriptives and statistical analysis including Chi-square, t-test and Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficients.

The result of the study showed that the chief of Provincial Health Planning Section had a middle scale and the planning staff had a low scale in health planning readiness. The finding from correlation analysis between the health planning readiness and demographic factors, education and some factors related to health planning showed that age and length of working period were statistically significant correlated to the health planning readiness (p-value=0.011 and 0.049 respectively). However, there was no statistically significant difference between health planning readiness of the chief of Provincial Health Planning Section and the planning staff. The problems found in health planning capability were lack of knowledge and technical support on planning, evaluation skill and working facilities from the Ministry of Public Health. It is suggested from this research that the training support in planning and evaluation for both chief of Provincial Health Planning Section and the planning staff be provided with specific focus on the health planning staff. Moreover, age and length of working period are considered as critical factors for appointing health planning section staff.