

Thesis Title

"Local Wisdom" : Study the survival condition of Herbal specialists in a community of the Northeastern Region

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research were to study the survival condition of Herbal specialists in a community of the Northeastern region. The methodology employed in this study was Qualitative research while temporal staying in the community for eight months. The data were collected by the mean of Indepth interview, observation and study from documents. The records of servation and interview, 3questionnaires, record tapes and camera were tools in this study.

The study revealed the survival condition of Herbal specialists as following :

1. The characteristics of herbal specialists included the following.

1.1 Being interested in seeking for Knowledge of herbs and being highly studious;

1.2 Having good Knowledge of and expertise in being an herbal specialist as well as abilities of folk-specialist in other aspects needed by the community;

1.3 Having high morality, mercy, sacrifice, generosity, and awareness of using knowledge and abilities for social benefits;

1.4 Having good human relationship and capabilities to adjust his roles and status for appropriate curing partients in

different places; and

1.5 Having abilities to develop cure services in accordance with the present social conditions by transforming herbal medicines for convenience in giving and using services as well as having capabilities of management by appointing distributors and agents for selling herbal medicines to patients

The characteristics mentioned were very important conditions which have made the herbal specialists survive up to today.

2. Recognition of patients was one of principal universal conditions directly resulting in roles and functions of herbal specialists. This was because patients and villagers in general had faith in herbal specialists' characteristics, had confidence in effectivenesses of healing, and held beliefs in healing illnesses with medicinal herbs. And therefore, these caused the herbal specialists to play their roles and perform their functions needed by the community.

3. The socio-cultural conditions in the community included the following.

3.1 The villagers' traditional beliefs about healing certain illnesses with herbs to which at present the villagers still give importance and practise in healing illnesses by relying on the herbal specialists in the community;

3.2 The influences of relationships among family system, relatives, and neighbors in the community caused relationships relying on aids given to one another as well as participation in expressing ideas, suggesting or choosing how to heal illnesses of the community members. Such influences have resulted in recognizing the treatments by herbal specialists up to present.

4. The effectivenesses of treatments were important

universal conditions. The results of treatments which created satisfaction for the patients and those involved caused faith and recognition of their abilities. In addition, the treatment results made the herbal specialists proud of special abilities of their own which was one of important motivations resulting in the survival of the roles in being herbal specialists.

5. The incomes earned by treating the patients were one of specifically important conditions in the case of herbal specialists as a supplementary occupation. The incomes mentioned could solve family financial problems at a certain level and could be used as rotating funds for continually implementing the activities concerning medicinal herbs.