

EFFICIENCY AND ROLE-ACCEPTANCE READINESS OF SUB-DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUPPORTING ELDERLY CARE
AND SERVICES IN RURAL THAILAND

By

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ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation : Efficiency and Role-Acceptance
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Supporting Elderly Care and
Services in Rural Thailand

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The purposes of this study are to assess the efficiency of care and services provided for elderly citizens which sub-district administrative organizations (SAOs) have currently achieved, and to evaluate the readiness of SAOs to assume a role as supporters in providing care and services for elderly citizens. The study also analyzes factors that affect the efficiency and role-acceptance readiness of the SAOs to support the care and services provided for elderly citizens.

The study finds that at present most of the SAOs exhibit low or moderate efficiency in supporting elderly care and services. Location of the SAOs makes no difference in their efficiency, but size makes such difference. The large SAOs show high or very high efficiency in supporting elderly care and services, while the majority of medium and small SAOs show moderate efficiency and some of them show low efficiency.

Also, the SAOs have low or very low readiness to accept a role as supporters of elderly care and services. Location makes no difference on this issue. Different sizes of SAOs, however, influence their readiness. The

large and medium SAOs have low readiness in accepting a role as supporters of elderly care and services. Meanwhile, the small SAOs have very low readiness to accept this role.

Currently, the SAOs in various regions of Thailand are very similar in terms of both the present role and the role-acceptance readiness to support elderly care and services. In the statistical analysis, therefore, the researcher takes these two factors as co-dependent variables with eight independent variables. Following this, it results that the variation of each independent variable has no effect on the distribution of the aforementioned dependent variables. However, a joint-distribution of the present role and role-acceptance readiness of the SAOs to support elderly care and services is influenced by the interaction among the following four independent variables:

- 1) The comprehension of SAOs' personnel of the concept of protecting and caring for children and the adolescents living in the sub-district.

- 2) The comprehension of SAOs' personnel of the concept of protecting and caring for women living in the sub-district.

- 3) The intention of SAOs' personnel in promoting SAOs to assume a major role as supporters of elderly care and services.

- 4) The expectations of SAOs' personnel and the people and elderly citizens regarding the role of SAOs in supporting elderly care and services.

To develop the efficiency and role-acceptance readiness of the SAOs for supporting elderly care and services, it is suggested that developers be aware of and promote the above four independent variables.

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Prasarn Boonsobhak

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