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**QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE YOUTH IN THE NORTHEAST OF  
THAILAND (A CASE STUDY OF THREE PROVINCES:  
BURI RAM, SURIN, SI SA KET)**

**Lalita Soonthornvipart**

**A Dissertation Submitted in Partial  
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy (Population and Development)  
School of Applied Statistics  
National Institute of Development Administration  
2007**

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The Examining Committee Approved This Dissertation Submitted in Partial  
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(Population and Development)

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## ABSTRACT

**Title of Dissertation** Quality of Life of the Youth in The Northeast  
of Thailand (A Case Study of Three Provinces: Buri Ram,  
Surin, Si Sa Ket)

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The objectives of this study were as follows: 1) To construct the quality of life indicators for youth in the northeast of Thailand 2) To do the comparative analytical study of the youth quality of life between the urban and rural areas of the three provinces in northeast of Thailand 3) To study any relevant factors affecting the youth quality of life both in the urban and the rural areas of three provinces in northeast region of Thailand.

The quantitative study was conducted and the sources of data came from primary and secondary data in the micro and macro level. The sample group consisted of the youths aged 15 to 24 living for more than 12 months in rural and urban areas of the three provinces in the northeast of Thailand, Buri Ram, Surin, Si Sa Ket. The samples in the study totalled 600 people and 572 people of sample's group provided information. Sampling techniques were multistage and simple random sampling. Questionnaires were used as instruments in collecting primary data.

The reliability of measurement was alpha .8814. Data analysis techniques were performed by percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test and Hierarchical Multiple Regression Analysis. The result of the study revealed that quality of life among youth in urban and rural areas found a difference at the level of statistical significant of .05 and the rural youth had better overall quality of life than the urban youth. When considered in dimensions, it was found that 3 dimensions of the youth life quality in both areas were statistically significant difference at .05 level. The rural

youth had better quality of life in the living environment, the information and skill development, and the social relationship.

In detail, rural youth had a higher perception in quality of life on air quality, house privacy, the outdoor entertainment i.e. listening to the radio, going to the movies, shopping in the market places, getting information from radio, talking to friends in the village, joining and performing village and community activities, joining the religious activities, joining and helping neighbors' ceremonies, and self-esteem. Urban youth had a higher perception in quality of life in recreation and hobbies. They had a higher quality of life than the rural group in night entertainment, sleeping and relaxing, reading books for entertainment, animal raising and planting, and making merit.

In the study of factors affecting the youth quality of life in urban area based on the conceptual framework and the additional founding indicated that 4 factors, namely, demographic, socio-economic, psychological, and supplementary factors predicted 66.3% of the quality of life; whereas the quality of life among youth in the rural area correlated with 4 factors, demographic, socio-economic, psychological, and supplementary factors, predicted 61.3% of the quality of life of the youth group.

In detail, age, sex, internet or playing computer games, negatively correlated with the quality of life of the youth in the urban area; whereas expectation, getting information from computer or internet and having friends in the village to talk or discuss any topics, positively correlated with the quality of life of the group. In the rural area, age negatively correlated with those youth's quality of life. The remaining variables, educational level, self-esteem, expectation, getting information from radio, getting information from computer or internet, talking and discussing any topics with friends, joining and performing activities for their villages or communities, positively correlated with the rural youth quality of life.

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