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OPPORTUNITY

WANJIDA AREERATCHKUL: OPINIONS OF EDUCATIONAL ADMINISTRATORS, TEACHERS, PARENTS, AND STUDENTS IN NONTABURI PROVINCE ON THE EXPANSION OF BASIC EDUCATION AT SECONDARY SCHOOLS. THESIS ADVISORS: SIRICHAJ CHINATANGKUL, Ph.D., THAWATCHAI CHAJIRACHAYAKUL, Ph.D., CHALONG BOONYANANTA, Ph.D. 165 p. ISBN 974-662-746-5

The objectives of this study were to examine opinions of administrators, teachers, parents, and students about the problems and the implementation of expansion of basic education to the upper secondary level of secondary schools in Nontaburi Province. The respondents consisted of 80 administrators, 179 lower secondary teachers, 130 upper secondary teachers, 548 parents of lower secondary students, 244 parents of upper secondary student, 573 lower secondary and 273 upper secondary students from secondary schools of Nontaburi Province, in the academic year 1997.

The findings were as follow:

1. Most respondents perceived the value and the importance of education. They assumed that the basic education level for Thai people should be Bachelor Degree. The majority of lower secondary students wanted to study until graduation from the upper secondary education, although the government could not support them; parents agreed.

2. The majority of respondents thought that the greatest problem in the implementation was the increasing number of students. Generally, teachers were overloaded, while students had to attend schools far from their homes. There were not sufficient teachers, classrooms, materials and equipment. The variety of activities was limited and there were few elective subjects. Instructional process were irrelevant to curriculum.

3. Regarding opinions about alternative expansion approaches, most administrators and students' parents of the lower secondary group felt that the government should support everybody to study, but education should not be compulsory (as present), whereas teachers and students of the upper secondary group indicated that education should be compulsory to the upper secondary level.

4. Curricula should emphasize both general and vocational subjects. Respondents said that students should study in class all day as present or have a half day of class study and another half for career training. Most parents and students of both groups wanted to employ new instructional technology learning method but most administrators and teachers preferred employing in-services teachers and external lectures as co-teaching teams.

5. On school management, most of respondents believed that there should be collaboration with nearby schools and participation between the schools' committees and community.

6. Based on needs assessment, both groups wanted government support in the forms of tuition fee exemption and provision of jobs for earning-while-learning to complete secondary education.

The recommendation is that Thai schools should place more emphasis on "student-centered" rather than "teacher-centered" learning, as at present.