

ABSTRACT

**The Production of the Secondary-level Manpower
to Meet the Economic Needs of Thailand**

This study indicates the manpower requirement problems as the fundamental factor for the success of the economic development plans. The requirement of any level of manpower depends on the economic structure which is always changing. The economy of Thailand, as it develops, is changing in composition. This change gives more prominence to those sectors of the labour force where a large proportion of those who have acquired skills from secondary schools or should be trainable on the job for such skills.

However, it will be noted in this study that the production of manpower at this level does not meet the economic needs of the country. The major problem is that the secondary education, as an institution responsible for the development of youth, does not function effectively. First of all, the present secondary curriculum does not encompass social and economic needs confronted. Also, instructional aids, audio-visual aids, reference books, supplementary readings, textbooks and laboratory equipment are generally inadequate. The percentage of unqualified teachers in secondary school is quite high, especially, in private schools. Teaching methods in most secondary schools seem to rely heavily on rote method of learning approach and mass recitation, because teachers have very little idea about new teaching methods.

Having studied the above problems, the author set up the hypotheses that the management of secondary education is not suitable to meet the needs of national economic development plan and will have to reorient itself to catch up with economic changes. The author has suggested some recommendations in order to develop the secondary-level manpower. What is suggested here is that the educational system must enroll considerably more students to meet the manpower needs and to encourage a reorganization of the present school curriculum to offer courses that are adequately geared to the students' aptitudes, interests, and abilities and which also enables students to take a greater number and variety of courses for exploratory purposes.

Apart from this, the author has made proposals about instructional aids, teaching methods, teacher preparation, examination system, guidance and the school structure. It is hoped that, on the basis of such recommendation, secondary education will be developed in such a way as to meet more effectively manpower requirements as well as the economic needs of the country in the long run.

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