

Abstract

Working Less: a Trend of Working among the Thai Elderly

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Ageing society is not far in our coming future. The study about event in later life could yield advantage to produce the suitable welfare policy. Pooled Logistic Cross-Sectional data analysis was used with data from the Labor Force Survey of Thailand, Round 3, of 1990, 1994, 1997, 1998 and 2000, collated by the National Statistical Office.

Results revealed a slightly larger proportion of working than non-working male elderly, while two-thirds of the female elderly were non-working. Similarly, among married elderly, there was a higher proportion of workers. Three-quarter of the widowed, divorced or separated elderly were non-working. All of those who were working regarded themselves as being in good health. Only one-quarter of the uneducated elderly were working while the proportion was higher among those with primary and upper level of education. There was only a small proportion of the total sample with income above the poverty line; all of these people were working. Only 30 percent of the elderly who were not heads of households were working.

It was found that during 1990-2000, proportion of working Thai elderly has declined. Important factor affecting significantly on the decline in working status of the elderly are: 80 years of age and over; perceived poor health; female, and widowed, divorced or separated marital status.