

Disabilities Support Services for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing in Thailand

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Introduction

- ❑ The Education Act for Persons with Disabilities : Persons with disabilities have the right to education supported by Government from Kindergarten to Bachelor's degree

- ❑ There are 51 Special Education Schools in Thailand
 - School for physical disabilities : 3 schools
 - School for the Blind/Multiple Disabilities in Visual Impaired : 8 schools
 - School for the Deaf : 21 schools
 - School for intellectual disabilities : 19 schools

Office of the Higher Education Commission

- ❑ Provided training on disability support services for related faculty and staff
- ❑ Provided a budget for the universities that have at least 3 students with disabilities
- ❑ Hold a seminar on services for DSS staff of the universities every year
- ❑ Thailand has 170 higher education institutions but only 31 universities that provide disabilities support services

Types of Universities

- ❑ General Universities
- ❑ Open Universities
- ❑ Rajabhat Universities
- ❑ Rajamangala Universities of Technology
- ❑ Private Universities

General Universities

- ❑ Traditional institutes and first established to provide individual working in the public sectors.
- ❑ The entrance examination is in the national level and very competitive.

Open Universities

- ❑ Established to provide opportunities to students who did not have access or could not enter General Universities by changing the admission requirements.

- ❑ There are two types of Open Universities:
 - One provides teaching and learning systems, both on campus and via distance learning.
 - The other uses distance learning systems to provide life-long learning skills for all individuals and to strengthen communities.

Rajabhat Universities

- ❑ Developed from “Teacher College” which were established in the central and other areas around Thailand.
- ❑ These universities now provide degrees in many fields, from bachelor to Doctoral programs.
- ❑ Institutions for local development

Rajamangala Universities of Technology

- ❑ Established by merging Technological and Vocational Education College around Thailand
- ❑ Encourage high academic and professional practice
- ❑ Technical services in the areas of science and technology

Private Universities

❑ General Universities/Institutions

- Business Administration
- Art and Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Engineering
- Medical Sciences
- Nursing
- Technology

❑ Professional College

- Home/ Food Science
- Nursing

❑ Community College

Objective

- ❑ To explore the services for students who are Deaf or hard of hearing receive in universities supported by Office of the Higher Education Commission.

Method

- ❑ Participants: 25 Institutions which provide DSS for students who are deaf or hard of hearing
 - 13 Administrators
 - 7 Faculties and 28 Services Providers
 - 53 students with hearing disabilities (41 deaf and 12 hard of hearing)
- ❑ Interviews
- ❑ Questionnaires
- ❑ Documents such as regulation and yearly report

Results

- ❑ Number of Students with Hearing Disabilities and Interpreter
- ❑ The services providing from DSS unit
- ❑ DSS management
- ❑ Satisfaction to the services
- ❑ Needs of the services

Staff and Students with Disabilities in 31 Universities providing DSS

Institutions	Number of Institutions	Services Providers	Number of Students with Disabilities				
			Visual	Hearing	Physical	Others	Total
General Universities	10	37	74 (13)	134 (26)	47 (7)	24	325
Open Universities*	2	8	152	64	437	37	690
Rajabhat Universities	17	51	91 (26)	241 (17)	151 (5)	62	593
Rajamangala Universities	2	3	(1)	8 (8)	18 (5)	0	40
Total	31	99	357	498	670	123	1,648

*Could not identify low vision, hard of hearing and wheelchair used

Number of Students with Hearing Disabilities and Interpreter



Institution	Number	Deaf	Hard of Hearing	Interpreter
General Universities	9	134	26	15
Open Universities*	2	64		1
Rajabhat Universities	12	241	17	20
Rajamangala Universities of Technology	2	8	8	1
Total	25	383	51	37

*Could not identify deaf or hard of hearing

Services for Students with Hearing Loss by Institution



Services	General Univ.	Open Univ.	Rajabhat Univ.	Rajamangala Univ. of Tech.
Interpreter	100% (22.22%)	50% (50%)	77.78% (55.55%)	100% (50%)
Tutorial	-	-	55.55% (33.33%)	-
Note taking	50% (22.22%)	-	22.22% (22.22%)	-
Time expansion	50% (22.22%)	-	-	-
Renting devices	100% (22.22%)	-	-	-
Counseling	50% (-)	50% (50%)	-	-

(-): services for hard of hearing students

DSS Management

- ❑ Structure of Administration
 - Independent Disabilities Support Services Center
 - Unit of section under Student Affairs Division
 - Center or services in the Special Education Center under responsibility of faculty of Education
- ❑ Employed freelance interpreter
- ❑ Volunteer system
- ❑ Training sign language for general student and related staff

Services Satisfaction of Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing



Deaf Students

Scholarship (4.41)

Interpreter (4.15)

Knowledge and skill of staff (4.05)

Counseling/General Advice (4.00)

Assistive Technology (2.73)

Tutorial (2.82)

Note taking (2.85)

Support for study abroad (2.97)

Hard of Hearing Students

Knowledge and skill of staff (4.33)

Scholarship (4.09)

Coordination of other services (4.08)

Education information (4.00)

Interpreter (2.09)

Support for study abroad (2.25)

Communication skill training (2.80)

Skill training on equipment/software (2.91)

() : Mean, scale 0-5

Needs of Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing



Deaf Students

DSS guide participation (4.51)

Interpreter (4.49)

Activities to promote learning skills (4.32)

Access to education information (4.28)

Service information (4.26)

Counseling (4.23)

Communication skill training (4.16)

Scholarship (4.13)

Hard of Hearing Students

Support to study abroad (4.91)

DSS guide participation (4.50)

Resource room (4.42)

Counseling (4.42)

Scholarship (4.40)

Communication skill training (4.27)

Tutorial (4.27)

Coordination with instructor (4.25)

() : Mean, scale 0-5

Conclusion

- ❑ Most of institutions provide interpreters for students who are deaf but it is not enough. Some institutions hire a freelance interpreters.
- ❑ There are some institutions that provide tutor and note taking services using a volunteer system. Students are not satisfied with assistive technology/devices, tutorial, note taking services.
- ❑ Students would like to participate in a procedure of DSS guide book and train for communication skill including counseling.
- ❑ The services for students who are deaf are provided but it seems that services providers are not concern about services for students who are hard of hearing.



THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION