

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The alcohol consumption rate among Thai population has been rapidly increasing. Annual per capita consumption in 1989 was 20.2 litres. By 2003 per capita consumption had risen to 58.0 litres. And be the fifth highest rate of alcohol consumption in the world.(WHO,2004) For the critical from alcohol consumption ,it's a leading cause of death, injury and disease in Thailand. Alcohol-related diseases are the third most important risk factor behind unsafe sex and tobacco consumption. Abuse of alcohol reduces productivity, consumes health service resources, increases crime, violence and increase the risk to the traffic accident problem. Nowadays traffic accidents in Thailand can find more often and become more critical issue in nowadays life. The injuries and death by these accidents are found that 60 percent cause by the level of Alcohol in their blood that over 50 milligram percent (a common illegal limit in Thailand is BAC over than 50 mg %).As blood-alcohol concentration (BAC) increases, risk of crash involvement rises dramatically too.

There're many studies about alcohol and traffic accident that can explain the critical of alcohol abuses, Assunta M.(2002) surveyed in 2004 found that 62% of traffic accident victims had a positive blood alcohol concentration. An estimated 45% of deaths from traffic accidents in Thailand are due to alcohol consumption. While Health System Research Institute.(1995) found a substantial proportion (44%) of traffic injury cases seeking emergency services in public hospitals had a blood alcohol concentration of 0.1% or more. While Suriyawongpaisal P, Plitapolkarnpim A and Tawonwanchai.(2002).found the result that one third of road traffic accident patients were under the influence of alcohol,Likewise Bohning D, Na-Ayuthaya R.(1997) found consumption of alcohol one hour before driving was associated with a threefold increased risk of being involved in a traffic accident.

According to statistic data and surveys in Thailand ,Royal Thai police office reported the statistic from traffic accident during 2002-2005 that found the number of injuries was increasing year by year from 69,313(in 2002) to 94,364(in 2005) or 36.1% for increasing rate of injuries from traffic accident. For number of the death from traffic accident was increasing from 13,116(2002) to 14,012(2003) but it decreased after 2004 until 2005 the number of death is 12,858.Eventhough the death rate decrease but the number of both injuries and death are still in crisis level, Kittiporn(2008) every 1 hour 2 of Thai people death and 140 injured by traffic accident.In the same way, the economic lost due to traffic accident are equivalent to 3-4% of national GDP or 100,000 million baht per year specially during the important festivals that have a long weekend like New Year or Thai's New Year (Songkran Festivals) reported by Central Information Technology Center;The National Police Office(2004),

Many previous studies found that there're significant results for the number of fatality and injuries are more increase during that time or someone said the New Year and Thai's New year in Thailand are the "festival of loss" because of the trend of casualty and injury is increasing year by year and there're a lot of number of deaths and injuries that have the cause from drinking and driving. For the significant from the drunk driver Kittinan Anakkamane M.D.(2008) the Asst. Director of Health Systems Research Institute (HSRI) reported about the statistic in traffic accident that nowadays in Thailand has 300 traffic accidents per day and have 350 injuries, about 10% from those are becoming to disabilities by 35 people per day. That's sound a serious problem about the traffic accident among Thai society that harmful to the economic and cause social problem because it effect to almost every sectors with negative externalities. But the critical of this issue is when the people consume the alcohol and get drunk they have a chance to have a traffic accident or a chance to make themselves or other people in the traffic injure or die. But some people who don't die and have the serious injure could become to the disability after that so it may cause a lot of problem for them to survive with the harmful pain.

Total the number of the disability in Thailand is 1.9 Million by survey in 2007(Thailand National statistical office, 2008). The disabilities have to face with many problems .Most of them lost the opportunity to have job because they're disability. The number of the unemployed in disability people is 1.2 million people(64.8%) or in the other hand just only 600,000 people are employed. from the survey by Asst.prof. Terdchai Chiwagate,M.D.(2008) found 97.9 % of disability have health problem while 21% have a problem about taking care themselves. In the same study reported number of prosthesis in Thailand. Found 34,684 people who are prosthesis. Moreover in 2008 Thailand has the number of prosthesis are now increase over 50,000 cases already. About 45% caused from traffic accident.

The victims who suffer from the disability caused by drunk driver have many problems in their life after they had an accident. The most important problem is about the financial problem ,because the patients who're disability must have the treatment for all of year life and there're quite expensive. Some of them have to quit the job due to they cannot work anymore by disable physical, some lost the family relatives who used to support the financial for them by accident, or may have to pay for the additional expenditures about drugs, medical equipment, transportation, other living cost which can be direct and indirect cost for their living costs. Other problem can be the psychological problem because some of victims might have sadness, hopeless, depressed and stress which caused by the disability, so the mental treatments are also included in the treatment for this kind of patients too.

The main problem of the disability victims from alcohol drunk driving is the high treatment cost. The traffic accident cost in Thailand by Department of Highways. final report phase 1(2006) using Human Capital Method estimated the cost of disability from Traffic Accident Costs in Thailand year 2004 is 4,503,478 Baht per 1 person ,these number show amount of money that's not too much interesting but if we consider at the whole country disability, it may show the high cost

(40,882.582million Baht).and if the number of the disability increase every year the cost might be higher.

From the cost in the previous paragraph. It's including the cost of the disability victims by alcohol drunk driving. After getting the accident, it may affect them a lot about the cost for the treatment after the traffic accident. So this research will focus on specific details e.g. cost of treatment , living cost ,the loss of the income of both patients and the relatives .It all can be used to calculate the total cost of disability victims by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident .Because nowadays, drunk driving is the most important factor for all traffic accidents in Thailand.

If the government doesn't have an effective and seriously intervention or policy to solve the problem about the disability victims by alcohol drunk driving ,The problem will not be eliminated and it will be continuously increasing more seriously year after year.

From the above significances and the problems, they make researcher interested in the cost of disability victims by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident and would like to recommend the result to the government to find out the solutions or any policies that can help this disability victims in Thailand such as about increasing the alcohol tax to collect the money for supports the fund for those disability victims by drunk driving etc. .Because of the limit of time constraints the researcher would like to choose Bangkok area to be the case study area for the necessary to collect the data during research process and study and would like to study only cost in first year after accident which is the most expensive year among patient's treatment periods.

So it become to the purpose for this thesis which I would like to study in deep details in term of Cost analysis of the disability victims by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident: A case study in Bangkok.

Research Questions

Primary question

What is the total cost which affect to the household costs of disability victims and their relatives by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident in Bangkok in 1st year after accident (in term of patient's and their relatives point of view).

Secondary Question

1. What are the cost components which affect to the household of the disability victims by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident in Bangkok (in term of patient's point of view)? And by how much?
2. What are the cost components which affect to the household costs of the disability victims's relatives by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident in Bangkok (in term of patient's relatives point of view)?And by how much?

Objective

General objective;

To analyze the total cost which affect to the household costs of disability victims and their relatives by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident in Bangkok in the first year after patient's accident , in term of patient and their relatives point of view).

Specific objectives;

1. To calculate the cost components which affect to the household costs of the disability victims by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident in Bangkok in the first year after patient's accident (patient's point of view).
2. To calculate the cost components which affect to the household costs of the disability victims' relatives by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident in Bangkok in the first year after patient's accident (patient's relatives point of view).
3. To calculate the total cost which affect to the household costs of disability victims and their relatives by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident in Bangkok the first year after accident (patient's and their relatives point of view).

Possible benefit

1. The cost of analysis of the disability victims by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident may be necessary for help the government, National Health Security Office (NHSO) or Social Security Office have more efficiency for allocation the fund to the victims with their health services scheme.
2. The amount of cost per 1 disability victim and their relatives by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident in Bangkok in 1st year of treatment may attract people's attention to help ,support found or give extra benefit to the victims and help them have a chance to get better for quality of life.
3. The cost of treatment and living may give the people lesson learn and awareness with drunk drive habits to warn them that it'll spend a lot of money for their life time if they're disability.
4. The data may helpful for the government, Ministry of health, or social sector decide to implement the policy to provide more prevention programs to stop drunk driving.
5. Recommend the appropriate policy implications to the government such as government support and compensations.
6. Know the factors which affect to the expensive treatment cost that the disability victims by alcohol drunk driving in term of patient and their relatives's perspective and know what make them suffer for financial problem.
7. All of research results may be useful and necessary for those who interested in the cost analysis of the disability victims by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident. And it could be recommended to others for doing this kind of research topic in the national level.

Unit of analysis

Total cost which affect to the household costs of the disability victims and their relatives by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident in Bangkok (in term of patient's and their relatives point of view) per 1 person in first year after patient accident.

Operation definition

Disability victims are the patients who disability by alcohol drunk driving from traffic accident over 12 months (count at the date of patients do a questionnaire).

These victims can be classified into 3 types

1. Drunk drivers who Drunk and drive themselves
2. The innocent victims who were crashed by drunk driver.
3. Passengers in car with drunk driver.

In data collection will use data in the first year after patient's accident from the patients and their relatives only before beginning of this thesis study and follow by eligibility criteria (in chapter 3).