

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Assessment is one of the most important activities in the learning process of students to gauge knowledge, competency and skills dependent on goals or objectives of learning in each session by teachers or trainers. Data, which is collected from these assessments, can be analyzed, interpreted and adapted in order to improve future output.

The Student Affairs Division: Phramongkutklao College of Medicine was established at the same time as the Phramongkutklao College of Medicine. Its primary functions are to command and control army medical students regarding discipline, to teach military subjects, to support of dormitory and food, and to play role as the supervisors. Phramongkutklao College of Medicine was established in June, 1975 and it recruited 32 high school students who passed the entrance examination from the Ministry of University Affairs to army medical students. Students studied premedical subjects at the Faculty of Science and Art, Kasatesart University for two years. Later in 1977, the first army medical students who completed premedical year from Kasatesart University started studying at Phramongkutklao College of Medicine.

The role of the Student Affairs Division: Phramongkutklao College of Medicine has two dimensions: direct and indirect aspects. *Direct aspects* include commanding, controlling, registering in the active role of the army, teaching (military subjects, discipline, leadership and physical education), managing activities, supplying dormitory, food, welfare and supervisors. *Indirect aspects* include cooperating with Phramongkutklao College of Medicine in assessing ethics and conducting aspects of army medical students. The educational Quality Assurance (QA) of Phramongkutklao College of Medicine, views the role of The Student Affairs Division as supporting all units of the college [1].

Chief of the Students Affair Division is a M.D. (general or specialized medicine) who usually works hard. Main functions are commanding and controlling discipline and conduct of army medical students. Furthermore, he is a general supervisor or advisor for medical students. So the Chief of the Student Affairs Division should be both physically and mentally strong. According to the standard criteria of army medical students [21]: knowledge, skills, communications, ethics,

conduct and discipline are essential. The important qualification of army medical students that differs from medical students of other universities is working in combat situations or supporting the army in all situations. Discipline is an important factor for working in crisis situations or on the battlefield. The Student Affairs Division: Phramongkutklao College of Medicine has an important role; especially regarding the conduct and discipline that impacts summative assessment of medical students each academic year. These important roles are very interesting but studies and research in this area are very uncommon and there are some findings which assume that researchers may find it difficult to access data. In addition, there is a lack of researchers and incentives and the executives of universities do not cooperate in this study and last the problem of ethics (from private data or personnel or/and organization). Therefore, this research may be a groundbreaking study to collect, analyze and send data to executives in developing the role of the Student Affairs Division in assessing army medical students in the future. The future, medical students will be divided into two groups: the first group (20 army medical students) will be registered in the active role of the army, the second group (80 medical students) will be non- army medical students. This reason originated from a policy of the Thai army which has tried to modify the active component every year together with reducing the budget to support Phramongkutklao College of Medicine. Thereafter, Phramongkutklao College of Medicine cooperates with the Ministry of Public Health to produce medical students by providing a budget to Phramongkutklao College of Medicine within ten years. Twenty army medical students and eighty medical students will study in the same medical curriculum and the two groups will be commanded and controlled by the Student Affairs Division: Phramongkutklao College of Medicine. So, the problems of medical students' assessment may occur according to the difference between the two groups, especially regarding conduct and discipline assessment and this critical point may affect the role of the Student Affairs Division: Phramongkutklao College of Medicine in the future. Therefore, my research will collect data, analyze and suggest recommendation from this research to guide in adapting the role of the Student Affairs Division: Phramongkutklao College of Medicine.

However, the process of assessing includes many factors: assessor or evaluator, tools of assessing, students and attitude or bias of assessor. Consequently, it is difficult to control these factors within a standard measurement. So, when we know

these factors which are important, we can prepare for collecting data for later analysis or application. Following this, the main objective of this study is to analyze the function of the Student Affairs Division: Phramongkutklao College of Medicine in assessing army medical students including problems and obstacles in assessment.

Objectives of the study

The general objective of this study is to analyze the function of the Student Affairs Division: Phramongkutklao College of Medicine in assessing army medical students including problems and obstacles in assessment.

The specific objectives include:

1. To study the Structure of the Student Affairs Division: Phramongkutklao College of Medicine. (Document analysis)
2. To study the Function of the Student Affairs Division: Phramongkutklao College of Medicine regarding assessment of army medical students. (Document analysis, Questionnaire)
3. To study the Function of the Student Affairs Division: Phramongkutklao College of Medicine in cooperation with other related units, both internal and external units regarding assessment. (Document analysis, Questionnaire)
4. To study the Problems and obstacles of the Student Affairs Division: Phramongkutklao College of Medicine regarding assessment. (Document analysis, Questionnaire)

Expected benefits of the study

Results of this study may help to explain the function, main educational programs and student assessment of the Student Affairs Division: Phramongkutklao College of Medicine. Furthermore, It may provide basic data for the development and adaptation in assessing two groups of students, both army medical students and non-army medical students in the future. The last benefit is the role of the Student Affairs Division: Phramongkutklao College of Medicine in student assessment should be recognized much more from other related units.