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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>THE RESEARCH SURVEY OF CONSCIOUSNESS AND THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION OF THAI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Author(s)</td>
<td>Vichai, Peinnukochon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citation</td>
<td>一橋研究 Vol. 4 No. 2 119-137</td>
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<td>1979-09-30</td>
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<td><a href="http://doi.org/10.15057/6393">http://doi.org/10.15057/6393</a></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
THE RESEARCH SURVEY
OF CONSCIOUSNESS AND
THE EMPLOYMENT SITUATION
OF THAI UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

VICHAI PEINNUKOKCHON

1. Introduction

Though the higher education systems in Asia, have shown steady developments throughout the postwar period, the concern on the employment situation of the graduates in increasing among academics and policymakers responsible for educational and labor policies.

In March of 1978 the study of the employment situation of Thai students, composed of Mr. Ikuo Arai (Professor of Tokyo Institute of Technology), Mr. Yokuo Murata (Researcher of National Institute for Educational Research) and I conducted its preliminary tasks, the collection of available documents and information and making a questionnaire survey of employment consciousness of Thai University students. (*)

Through the collection of information, the team found that the Office of University Affairs conducted an annual survey of the employment situation of national university graduates since the 1973

(*) This survey is a part of "A Comparative Study on the Employment Structure of College Graduates in Asia—Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan and Thailand." The Study is supported by the Toyota Foundation.
academic year.

Our questionnaire survey of Thai university students was carried out in five universities of different types: Chulalongkorn University, Thammasat University, Kasetsart University, Ramkamhaeng University and the College of Commerce (Private College).

In this article, I summarize the results of both the surveys of The Office of University Affairs in Thailand and our team.

II. The Employment Situation of Thai National University Graduates

Since the 1973 academic year The Office of University Affairs in Thailand began to conduct a survey of the employment situation of Thai national university graduates. The survey report of the Office in 1973 explained the reason for having made the survey as follows: For a few years before 1973 many people had worried about the employment situation of university graduates at the undergraduate level, because the number of the graduates who could not be employed had increased rapidly since 1970. Moreover in some faculties the number of students surpassed the manpower demand in public and private employment fields. Accordingly, the Thai government wanted to decrease the number of university graduates in order to comply with the social and economic conditions of the country. In doing so the government expected that the budget necessary for educating university students and the unemployment of university graduates would also be decreased. However, the government had not made any decision on this matter because it had not gotten any objective data concerning the employment situation of university graduates. The main purpose of the survey was to obtain such accurate data.

The matters surveyed by the Office covered mainly the number
of university graduates employed and not-employed, the period of seeking jobs, the place of employment, and the graduates' condition after employment.

The employment survey for university graduates was conducted in the following way. In Thailand a graduation ceremony is held several months after students graduate from university. On the occasion of the ceremony graduates receive their diploma or degree directly from the King who attends it. On that ceremony day the questionnaires of the survey were received and answered by the graduates. For those graduates who answered they were not yet employed at that time, the questionnaires were sent to them again by mail one year later to be answered and returned to the Office by mail.

In the following paragraphs I will explain the main results of the survey in 1974.

According to Table I-1, in 1974 the number of all the graduates of national universities was 18,428 and that of those who answered the questionnaires was 12,393, 67.3% of all the graduates. Among these who answered, the number of the graduates who were employed was 9,462, 76.3% and that of those who were not employed was 2,391, 23.7%.

The percentage of the graduates who were employed was high in the King Monguts' Institute of Technology, 94.3%, Srinakarinwirot University (Education), 86.6%, and Mahidon University (Medicine), 84.5%. All of these three universities aim to train professional persons, such as technicians, engineers, teachers, doctors, and nurses. On the other hand, it was low in Ramkamgaeng University, only 52.8%, Chiangmal University, 68.9% and Prince of Songkla University, 73.3%. Ramkamgaeng University is a newly opened one and the other two are local ones. In the old traditional universities like Chulalongkorn,
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>No. of Graduates</th>
<th>No. of the Grad. who Answered</th>
<th>% of the Grad. who Answered</th>
<th>No. of The Graduates Employed</th>
<th>No. of The Graduates Not-Employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chulalongkorn Univ.</td>
<td>2,779</td>
<td>1,941</td>
<td>69.9</td>
<td>730 780 1,510 77.8</td>
<td>169 262 131 22.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasetsart Univ.</td>
<td>1,374</td>
<td>898</td>
<td>65.4</td>
<td>460 202 662 73.7</td>
<td>136 100 236 26.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khonkaen Univ.</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>89.4</td>
<td>182 109 291 80.4</td>
<td>41 30 71 19.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiangmai Univ.</td>
<td>1,521</td>
<td>1,472</td>
<td>96.8</td>
<td>514 501 1,015 68.9</td>
<td>193 264 457 31.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thammasat Univ.</td>
<td>1,929</td>
<td>1,092</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>410 420 830 76.0</td>
<td>83 179 262 24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahidol Univ.</td>
<td>683</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>52.0</td>
<td>106 194 300 84.5</td>
<td>15 40 55 15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramkamhaeng Univ.</td>
<td>2,167</td>
<td>1,735</td>
<td>80.1</td>
<td>536 381 917 52.8</td>
<td>413 405 818 47.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silpakorkorn Univ.</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>69.3</td>
<td>148 191 339 85.4</td>
<td>23 35 58 14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Srinakharinwirot Univ.</td>
<td>6,250</td>
<td>3,788</td>
<td>60.6</td>
<td>1,733 1,547 3,280 86.6</td>
<td>247 261 508 13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince of Songkla Univ. of Technology</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>43 9 52 73.3</td>
<td>18 1 19 26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Mongut's Institute</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>75.2</td>
<td>256 10 266 94.3</td>
<td>16 — 16 5.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18,428</td>
<td>12,393</td>
<td>67.3</td>
<td>5,118 4,344 9,462 76.3</td>
<td>1,354 1,577 2,931 23.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCES:** The Survey Results of The Employment Situation of National University Graduates in Thailand, by The Office of University Affairs, 1974.
TABLE I-2) Employment of University Graduates by Field of Study, 1974

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Study</th>
<th>The Employed</th>
<th>The Not-Employed</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>71.5</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>570</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>701</td>
<td>91.6</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Science</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>61.2</td>
<td>308</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>80.8</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Science</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>55.0</td>
<td>238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>693</td>
<td>84.7</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>4.536</td>
<td>84.6</td>
<td>823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Science</td>
<td>1.608</td>
<td>68.0</td>
<td>758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>9.462</td>
<td>76.3</td>
<td>2.931</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOURCES: The Office of University Affairs; 1974

Kasetsart and Thammasat University the employment percentage was almost the average.

Examining this employment situation by field study of students, the percentage of employment in Medicine, Engineering and Education was high, over 80%, and that in Natural Science, Law, Human Science, and Science was low, under 70%, as seen in Table I-2. In other words the fields which our team surveyed, Law, Economics, and Commerce, belonged to the ones of low percentage.

The reasons for not being employed are divided into three cate-
categories: no job, no desire for employment and further study (Table I-2). The average percentage of the graduates not employed was 70.6%, 2.2%, and 27.2% respectively in each category. It is noteworthy that the percentage of those desiring further study was considerably high, particularly in Mahidon University (61.8%), Chulalongkorn University (53.6%), and Kasetsart University (43.2%).

As for the places of employment (Figure I), in Mahidon University and Srinakarinwirot University (68.7% and 78.6%) most of the graduates chose the national institution. This is caused by the fact that most of the doctors and teachers which those universities, aim to train are employed as civil servants in national institutions.

It is very interesting that the graduates of Chulalongkorn University and Thammasat University, which have been traditionally famous as the institutions training high-rank government officials, desired to be employed in more private firms. The cause of this tendency will be investigated later.

III. University Students' Consciousness

Of some of the Thai students whose employment situation is becoming difficult as seen in part II, the team asked their views on university education and employment through questionnaire. The results of the survey are shown in the Tables of II.

The questionnaire survey extended to the faculties of Economics, Commerce and Law in five universities. The number of students surveyed was 224 in all as shown in Table II-1. The results of the survey show that the students in each university had generally rather similar views.
Figure 1) Employment Situation of University Graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Not being employed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Government</td>
<td>Private firm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chulalongkorn Univ. (N:941)</td>
<td>46.3 %</td>
<td>31.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasetsart Univ. (N:898)</td>
<td>46.1 %</td>
<td>27.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khonkaen Univ. (N:362)</td>
<td>58.3</td>
<td>22.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chiangmai Univ. (N:1472)</td>
<td>44.7</td>
<td>24.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thammasat Univ. (N:1092)</td>
<td>36.8</td>
<td>39.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahidon Univ. (N:3550)</td>
<td>68.7</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramkamhaeng Univ. (N:2167)</td>
<td>29.2</td>
<td>23.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silpakorn Univ. (N:573)</td>
<td>63.5</td>
<td>21.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Srinakharinwirot Univ. (N:3788)</td>
<td>78.0</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prince of Songkla Univ. (N:71)</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>38.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Mongut's Institute (N:282)</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>42.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>23.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* U: unemployment who has not job and desire for employment.
* S: further study.
TABLE (II). THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OF EMPLOYMENT
COHSCIONSEESS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS; March. 1978

TABLE II-1) Number of University Students Surveyed
(Faculties of Law, Economics, and Commerce)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Boy</th>
<th>Girl</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chulalongkorn Univ.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thammasat Univ.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasetsart Univ.</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramkamhaeng Univ.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Commerce</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>110</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>224</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

III-1) Students' Viewpoint on University Education

As the motive for entering university, students indicated more frequently the items “To get knowledge and skill” and “To get good employment” than the items “To obtain degree”, “To enjoy student life”, and “Not to be employed after graduating senior high school” (Table II-2).

Then, what factors were considered to be important in order to obtain good employment? Among several factors, individual factors like “Ability” and “Individuality” were highly voiced as important ones in every university. After that there came the factors “Degree”, “Field of study” and “Examination for employment”, which are directly related to university education, and Personal connections”, while the factors such as “Name of university”, “Club activities” and “Status of parents” were not considered to to be important by
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Motive</th>
<th>To Obtain Degree</th>
<th>To Get Good Employment</th>
<th>To Get Knowledge and Skill</th>
<th>To Enjoy Student Life</th>
<th>Not to be Employed after Senior High School</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chulalongkorn Univ.</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>41.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thammasat Univ.</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>44.2</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasetsart Univ.</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12.9</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>47.1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>28.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramkamhaeng Univ.</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>72.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Commerce</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>58.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>47.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* some students chose more than one answer
rather many students.

It was against our expectation that in old, traditional Chulalongkorn University about on third of the students considered not important such factors as “Name of University”, Degree”, and “Field of study” as related to university education and that about 80% of them regarded “Status of parents” and “Personal connections” as important factors. On the contrary, in new institutions like Ramkamhaeng University and College of Commerce, most of the students, about 90%, attached importance to “Degree”, “Field of Study” and “Name of University”.

We also asked students their views on university development in connection with their employment. This matter was asked through the items of “Value of university qualification”, “Academic level of university”, and “Number of university students”, as seen in Table II-3.

The value university qualification for getting employment was judged to have diminished by many students, 62.9% on the average. Those who considered it not to have diminished were 21.3%.

In order to improve the employment situation, many students, (64.3%) held that the academic level of university ought to be raised and only 17.2% of them held that it need not be.

Why did so many students feel that way? The students who regarded ability as an important factor to get good employment might have thought that it would lead to better job to raise the academic level of university. Through the free comments of the students in our questionnaire, some students criticized the present universities, indicating that they provided easy degree qualification to students without training them in a real sense. Other students, particularly those in Chulalongkorn and Kasetsart University, hoped
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Value of University Qualification</th>
<th>Academic Level of University</th>
<th>Number of University Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diminished</td>
<td>Not Diminished</td>
<td>Not Sure</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chulalongkorn Univ.</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>62.9</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thammasat Univ.</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>46.3</td>
<td>39.0</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasetsart Univ.</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramkamhaeng Univ.</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td>24.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Commerce</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>58.4</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>%</td>
<td>62.9</td>
<td>21.3</td>
<td>15.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
to have opportunities to practice what they learned in the actual places of employment while they were students.

Regarding the number of university students, 61.1% of all the students maintained that it should not be limited even when the employment conditions were not good. And 15.8% of them claimed that is should be limited if the conditions were difficult. The opinion that the number of students should not be limited supports the expansion and development of higher education. Why was this opinion found among so many Thai students? I conclude there are three main reasons judging from the analysis of questionnaire results including free comments of the students and observation of the Thai educational system.

First, people's demand for higher education has become stronger and more pressing. This demand could be found even among farmers in rural areas although it was not so urgent. Recently, the number of graduates of secondary schools who could not enter universities or colleges and were obliged to commute to preparatory schools has increased. In spite of that the institutions at the level of higher education are not enough in the capacity to fill the demand.

Second, students seemed not to feel that the employment situation was so serious even though it was becoming difficult. The real percentage of unemployment of graduates was less than 20% in 1974. Most university students still have some possibility to be employed in government offices or private firms with better conditions compared with the students under the level of higher education.

Third, apart from the employment conditions, university and college are regarded as educational places to realize students' humanity, to develop students' ability or individuality and to broaden students' outlook on life through learning and training.
On the other hand, the students' view that universities and colleges should not be expanded seemed to be based on the following opinions, although there were not many holding such opinions.

First, judging from economical and social conditions in Thailand, the places for societal activity for university graduates are still limited. If the number of students is increased, there will be many graduates who are not able to find good employment.

Second, because of the dual social system in Thailand it will not soften the social division between an elite class and an ignorant mass class to increase just the number of students under the present educational system.

Third, if the number of university students is increased, many graduates will not be employed after graduation. Therefore, universities should not be increased but vocational schools like agricultural and technical schools should be increased.

At any rate it is very remarkable that many Thai students wanted to expand and develop higher education under circumstances in which their employment situation was diminishing.

III-2) Students' Viewpoint on Employment

In order to understand the students' viewpoint about employment one must first study their fathers' vocations: 3.6% of them are farmers, 18.6% are government officials, 21.4% are company employees and the other 48.6% are independent businessmen.

From the above figures, one can see that out of the total only 3.6% of the students are from farmer families, even though Thailand's total population consists of 70% farmers.

Recently, the number of universities has been increasing, but they are mainly the people from Bangkok who enroll in the univer-
sities. Yet, this has always been the tendency.

According to Table II-4, vocation desired by students, only one student from Chulalongkorn University and one from Kasetsart University wished to be farmers, which is one percent of the total figures. Then, one can see the present university education will not develop in the field of agriculture.

Also, it is interesting to note that students from Chulalongkorn University do not wish to be employed by the government. This applies also to students from the other universities in which only 10-20% seek government. The reason is stated below:

As one can see from Table II-5, students think civil service employment is simple and stable. Yet one other hand, 73.5% of them do not think officials become wealthy and 65.1% of them don't think they can have authority.

One can conclude there are number of students having the opinion that it is not easy for them to get wealthy and have authority, or be promoted either. This indicates graduates can not get promotions by only obtaining a Thai university's Bachelor degree.

Although there must be some other factors, even the students from Chulalongkorn University, which is known as the best in Thailand, only 16.9% of them answered "Degree is evaluated". Only a few graduates can get a stable job and have authority, and also become wealthy, if they become government officials, That is why the students don't wish to be officials.

Moreover, approximately 40-80% of students in every university have the opinion that they can contribute to national welfare and also can apply their study to society in Government positions. But there are only a few public-spirited students wishing to contribute to society as Government officials.
# TABLE II-4) The Vocations Desired By Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocation</th>
<th>Farmer</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Government officer Administrative</th>
<th>Govt. officer, Clerical</th>
<th>Private Firm, Administrative</th>
<th>Private Firm, Clerical Sales</th>
<th>Self-employment</th>
<th>Others</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chulalongkorn Univ.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thammasat Univ.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>30.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasetsart Univ.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15.4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramkamhaeng Univ.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Commerce</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>50.0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* some students chose more than one answer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University</th>
<th>View</th>
<th>To Become Rich</th>
<th>To Have Authority</th>
<th>Job is simple And Status is stable</th>
<th>To Contribute to National Welfare</th>
<th>To Utilize Learning In School</th>
<th>Degree is Evaluated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chulalongkorn Univ.</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Including Engineering)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>75.9</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>56.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chulalongkorn Univ.</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>80.9</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Not including Eng. N: 36)</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>72.2</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>69.4</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>16.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thammasat Univ.</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N: 42</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>19.0</td>
<td>80.9</td>
<td>28.6</td>
<td>74.6</td>
<td>50.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kasetsart Univ.</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N: 67</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>23.3</td>
<td>78.3</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>56.7</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Commerce</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N: 57</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>73.7</td>
<td>26.3</td>
<td>75.4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>66.7</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramkambaeng Univ.</td>
<td>No.</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N: 29</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>10.3</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>72.4</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>86.2</td>
<td>31.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
This is because most of the Thai people still think in the old fashioned way. For instance, the government officials must be appreciated in society, even if they hesitate to work for national welfare and they just aim for promotion profit.

There is little difference among the students as to the view of government officials, yet the students of the College of Commerce and Ramkamgaeng University rate highly the two following points as opposed to Chulalongkorn University's students. One point is that Government officials can utilize school learning and the other is Government officials enjoy authority.

III-3) The Students' Consciousness of Their Role in Society

The students' main opinion was written freely by 184 students (72% out of all). There are affirmative opinions and negative opinions on it as below.

As to affirmative opinions, there are lots of students who answered that they can contribute to society after graduating from the university because they have knowledge and ability useful to society, and they are thinking of the Thai nation's profit instead of their own profit. At the same time, 47 students gave as their opinion that students should contribute to social development while in university. They wanted to be trained in their preferred companies, or to do social welfare activities, for example: teaching the local children, giving technical advice to farmers and helping in the fields, or giving exhibitions or issuing bulletins during the summer vacation. Most of the students who gave this opinion were in Thammasat and Chulalongkorn University.

On the other hand, in Kasetsart, Ramkamhaeng University and the College of Commerce negative opinions prevailed. Actually gra-
Photographs can not contribute to society, because they have only few opportunities to get good jobs without any personal connections, and also, the old people refuse students' opinions or new ideas. One more reason is that due to so much corruption, the graduates become lazy and selfish. 36 students from Chulalongkorn, Thammasat and Kasetsart University stated that their freedom of speech and activity are limited by the present political situation in Thailand. The authorities are trying to separate the students from the people in order to prevent the political action and social disorder. This problem has become an obstruction to the students' role in society.

IV. Conclusions

The proportion of the age group (19 to 20) who are enrolled in institutions of higher education is still as low as five percent in Thailand. The rapid quantitative development in recent years, however, has been causing unemployment of university graduates. The Office of University Affairs has been making a fact-finding survey on this problem recently. In 1974, approximately 24 percent of university graduates were "unemployed". The unemployment rates were especially high for graduates from humanities and social sciences.

Thai universities were traditionally developed to train government officials, but it seems that occupational orientation of students recently is toward private companies, rather than toward civil service. The social status of Thai government officials as conceived by Thai students is low. Very few students prefer agricultural jobs.

Generally, the motivation to attend college is "to obtain knowledge and skills" or "to find good jobs", rather than "to get degree". There is a tendency, however, that students in traditional and prestigious universities expect "to find good jobs", while students in new
universities expect “to obtain knowledge and skills”.

“Ability and aptitude” is generally regarded as the most important factor to get a good job. But students in new universities consider that “degrees and fields of study” is also very important. As high as 60 percent of students think that the value of university education has recently been decreasing in spite of the fact that quantitative development of Thai higher education is still low. Not many students, however, have the opinion that quantitative expansion of higher education should be restricted.

It seems that Thai students want to play an important social role as elites, but there are many social and economic factors to prevent it. Ambivalent consciousness is characteristic of Thai students. They are obliged to maintain consciousness as part of the masses as well as consciousness as elites. This fact makes it dubious to decide the stage of development of higher education only in terms of enrollment ratios.