

USE OF INFORMATION COMMUNICATION
TECHNOLOGY
AMONG PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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ABSTRACT

A survey was conducted from August to November 2008 with the aim to study the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) among public health graduates in the government service. Respondents were selected by convenient sampling with the sample size of 81. Self-administered questionnaires were sent with consent forms and 76.5 percent returned.

The use of ICT among public health graduates was studied in 5 sections which were background data, literacy, accessibility, uses, and perceptions towards the use of ICT. The data were analyzed and descriptive statistical methods were used. The respondents were mean age of 42.5 years ranging from 30 to 61 years. 98.4 percent were medical doctors. 79 percent graduated from local universities with master degrees. The mean service year was 14.48 ranging from 3 to 36 years. In this study, the respondents who had the duty of teaching/training were 79 percent.

Among the respondents, 1.6 percent was found to be unable to use computer and 80.6 percent of respondents did self learning to get the ICT literacy. 56.2 percent of those under 40 years of age had taken a training course. Taking ICT training as a basic computer course for 3-month was found to be 29 percent. In using computer and internet, 16 percent and 44.3 percent did not need any help. Computer was accessible for 91.9 percent and internet was accessible for 91.9 percent at workplace. Printer was the most needed ICT material which was 82.3 percent. The reasons for using computer were word processing and preparation for teaching which accounted both 80.6 percent. The most leading reasons for internet use were sending/ receiving e-mail and finding information which accounted for 80.6 percent. Presentation with PowerPoint was the most skillful one of the responding public health personnel. Most of the respondents showed positive attitude towards the use of ICT but some difficulties such as the electricity problems and high cost for the ICT materials and usage of internet were also expressed.

The findings in this study indicate that most of the public health graduates are accessible to ICT materials either at home or at workplace and have basic ICT skills. These ICT knowledge and skills of the public health graduates can contribute the e-Health activities of the NHP (2006-2011).