

Saving Behaviors for Retirement among Government Officers at Sirindhorn College of Public Health, Praboromarjchanok Institute, Public Health Ministry

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Abstract

A descriptive research whose purpose is to study the saving behaviors and the factors related to the saving behaviors for government officers who aged 50 and above. The sample size was selected through purposive random sampling, 261 officers, from 7 colleges nationwide. Descriptive statistics was then used to analyze the data which includes 95 respondents. Data was collected using mailed questionnaires whose face validity and reliability =0.78. The findings with regards to saving behavior revealed that females had an efficient amount of savings, various types of saving money and saving purpose more than males. Those from the age range of 53-55 years has better saving behavior than other groups like using types of savings to acquire real estate and the saving purpose for emergency use. The single group and the instructors group had less than 5,000 baht/month of savings, using forms of saving money in buying real estate more than other groups. The married group had more saving for emergency use compared to the other groups. For the economic factors (income and expenditures) and saving behavior, in relation to income/month and type of savings, most groups chose to buy real estate and savings through bank accounts and cooperatives more than the other groups.

Keywords: Saving behavior, retirement of the government officers

1. Introduction

As the proportion of senior citizen is increasing, Thailand is indeed heading towards a complete aged society by 2020 which means a society where 20% of the entire population is 60-year-old or older. As for governmental officers, within the span of 5 and 10 years, the proportion of those older than 60 will have accounted for 7.29% and 21.95% of the entire governmental officers by Nontagorn Kajanajittra (2016:45). Therefore, preparation for aged society is needed, along with sound financial management (including reasonable management of incomes, expenses and savings). This is essential that these government officers are able to have a sufficient amount of saving for daily expenses and healthcare in order to ensure a comfortable retirement although they only have their pension to rely on. According to a study of a titled “the impacts of changes in demographic composition in relation to saving patterns in the future” by Pudsorn Simanong : (2009:Abstract), it was revealed that senior female governmental officers are better than their male counterparts when it comes to saving and managing their savings. Concerning the purposes of saving, the most common reason for saving among government officers is their offspring education while the secondary reason being expenses after retirement. Moreover, a study carried out in a titled “incomes and saving types for retirement among population aged between 30 to 40-year-olds in the district of Rangsit, Bangkok” by Saravee Budbumrung (2012:Abstract) which found that those with highest propensity to save are compelled to do because of the concern about their financial stability after retirement ($\bar{x} = 4.54$), savings for retirement ($\bar{x} = 4.61$) and saving for their offspring ($\bar{x} = 4.42$). Furthermore, a study by Kritipas Lerdsonkarm (2012 :Abstract) about saving behaviors and factors affecting saving behaviors among employees in a real estate company who earns less than 142 \$ per month (which account for 29.37% of the total number of employees) revealed that saving for emergency and long term are the main reasons for saving among employees.

From the above mentioned study results, the researcher is compelled to study the saving pattern among Sirindhron College of Public Health, especially among government officers aged more than 50. This is due to the following reason 1) This is the age group where study subjects become aware of their impending retirement and their financial health for comfortable retirement 2) From 2013-2016, the total number of retired governmental officers will have reached 80 and it is estimated that the number will likely to increase 3) The responsibility of educating future generations about saving is indeed essential and 4) This research can serve as a source of information about saving for those working for public health college.

1.1 The purposes of the research

1. To study saving types among governmental officers age 50 or above working at Sirindhron College of Public Health

2. To study factors affecting saving behaviors among current governmental officials aged 50 and above.

The use of the research

3. To serve as a guideline for financial planning and as a source of information for preparation for retirement among governmental officers

1.2 Research framework

The independent variable in this research can be divided into.

1. The subjects background such as gender, age and marital status

2. Economic factors such as monthly income which is the monthly salaries the subjects receive each month in Thai Baht currency, extra sources of income apart from the regular salaries and monthly expenses which are included in the total amount of debt.

The dependent variable in this research is saving behaviours which can be divided into.

1. The amount of saving.

2. The saving types (which include depositing money with banks and co-operatives, buying stocks and funds such as provident funds (LTF, RMF), life insurance and governmental bonds, buying real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc., becoming members of Government Pension Funds, and other means of saving such as buying gold, ornaments, cars, paintings etc.)

3. The purposes of saving such as saving for future expenses or for educational expenses, for emergency expenses, for family inheritance, for tax reduction and for returns.

1.3 Research methodology

1. Research type

A survey Research

2. Population and sample groups

Population: They are the total number of 146 governmental officers who are 50-year-old or older (includes all types of governmental officer (both teaching staff and supplemental officers) who work at Sirindhron Colleges of Public Health in nationwide which include dentists, pharmacists, professional nurses, teachers and public health officers, accountants, general workers, human resources officers, mail room worker, accounting officers, librarians, technicians, computer officer, dental assistant and pharmaceutical assistant (the population according to database from Department of Human Resources, Praboromarjchanok Institute, Public Health Ministry dated 1 October 2016).

Sample size: Purposive random sampling is used because these government officers only have 10 years of working before retiring. The sample groups are governmental officers in all 7 Sirindhron Colleges of Public Health who age more than 50-year-old. The number of sample groups is equal to the population of 146.

1.4 Data collection

Validity of questionnaires is done by experts. Afterwards, the total number of 30 sample questionnaires are then given out to governmental officers at the Boramarajonani College of Nursing Khon Kaen, using Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient for test reliability = 0.78 and send the questionnaires by post.

1.5 Research tool and data analysis

The questionnaires used in the study are adapted from the questionnaires of Chanaporn Prapakit (2016:57) and Anothai Sirilux (2005:65-67) as follows:

Part1: Personal characteristics such as gender, age, marital status and job position are acquired using Close-ended questions

Part 2: informational about factors such as monthly income, other sources of income per month (sources of income and the amount of income), expenses per month and types among questionnaire respondents is also acquired using close-end questions.

Part 3: information about saving behaviors in terms of savings, saving types and purposes of saving are acquired using Close-ended questions. Granted, as for questions about saving behaviors, the questionnaire was designed to let respondents place themselves on a given scale.

Use the descriptive statistics such as percentage and means and S.D.to analyzed the research data.

2. Study Results

General characteristics of respondents (65.73%) are as followed: female (72.63%), male (27.36%), age between 53-55 years old (50.52%), age between 56-58 (27.36%), single (46.31%), married (35.78%), with academic position according to the office of governmental officer (47.36%), professional nurses (21.05%) respectively. Saving behaviors of governmental officers at Sirindhron College of Public Health who age 50 or above as follows:

Table 1: The total number and percentage of saving in relation to personal characteristics of Respondents among governmental officers age 50 and above at Sirindhron College of Public Health

Personal characteristics	Saving behaviours)most(
	Savings: person %(Saving types: person %(Purposes of saving: person %(
1. Gender			
Female	<142 \$ /month 35(36.84)	Miscellaneous)purchase of gold, ornament, paintings, amulets etc. 7 (17.89%)	For emergency use 27 (28.42%)
Male	<142 \$ /month 12(12.63%)	depositing money with banks and co-operatives, buying stocks and funds such as provident funds (LTF, RMF), life insurance and governmental bonds, buying real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc., 6 (6.31%)	For future funds and funds for offspring education 9 (9.47%)
2. Age)year(
50-52	<142 \$ /month 5(5.26%)	Purchase of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. 10(10.52%)	Emergency use 7(7.36%)
53-55	<142 \$ /month 21(22.10%)	Purchase of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. 12(12.63%)	Emergency use 15(15.78%)
56-58	<142 \$ /month 19(20.00%)	Purchase of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. /Purchase of funds, lottery etc./ purchase of life insurance and governmental bonds etc. 6(6.31%)	Return profits 10(10.52%)
59-60	<142 \$ /month 3(3.50%)	0	For secondary source of income and offspring education 5(5.26%)

Table 1: The total number and percentage of saving in relation to personal characteristics of respondents among governmental officers age 50 and above at Sirindhron College of Public Health (cont.)

Personal characteristics	Saving behaviours)most(
	Savings: person (%(Saving types: person (%(Purposes of saving: person (%(
3.marital status single	<142 \$ /month 20(21.50%)	Purchase of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. 17(17.89)	Emergency use 7(7.36%)
Married	<142 \$ /month 11(11.57%)	Miscellaneous)purchase of gold, ornament and other possessions) 10(10.52%)	Emergency use 15(15.78%)
Widow/divorce/ separated	<142 \$ /month 16(16.48%)	Depositing savings with co-operatives and commercial banks 6(6.31%)	Return profits 10(10.52%)
4. Job position			
Dentists	>572 \$/month 4(4.21%)	Purchase stocks 4(4.21%)	Return profits 3(3.15%)
Pharmacists	275-570 \$/month 2(2.10%)	Purchase stocks 3(3.15%)	Return profits 2(2.10%)
Professional nurses	142 -275 \$/month 13(13.68%)	Purchase of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. /Purchase of funds, lottery etc./ purchase of life insurance and governmental bonds 5(5.26%)	Emergency use 8(8.42%)
Academics	<142 \$ /month 34(35.28%)	Purchase of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. 15(15.78%)	For future funds and funds for offspring education 15(15.78%)
Public health officers	275-570 \$/month 7(7.36%)	Purchase of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. 4(4.21%)	For future funds and funds for offspring education, Emergency use 5(5.26%)
Finance officers/ Accountants	<142 \$ /month 5(5.26%)	Purchase of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. 2(2.10%)	For future funds and funds for offspring education, Emergency use 5(5.26%)
Miscellaneous (multi-media officers/ educational officers etc.(<142 \$ /month 3(3.25%)	Purchase of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. 2(2.10%)	For future funds and funds for offspring education, Emergency use 3(3.15%)

From Table No.1, Found that;

1. It was revealed that for female subjects tend to have greater saving behaviours, saving types and purposes of savings. This means that those who earn less than 142 \$ /month, accounting for 36.84% of the whole female subjects, tend to save their income by miscellaneous means purchase of gold, ornament, paintings, amulets etc., which accounts for 17.89% as for the most common purpose of saving, emergency use account for 28.42% and the age 53-55 years of age is the group who have savings and purposes of saving more than other groups. To elaborate, they (22.10% of all subjects) have less income than <142 \$ /month, using their savings to buy real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc., accounting for 12.63%

2. The main purpose for saving is emergency use 15.78%. Those in single group tend to have more tendencies to save other groups in the same category. To elaborate, those in single group who earn than <142 \$ /month which accounts for 21.50% of subjects in the same category, tend to save money through the means of purchasing of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions (17.89%). Also, it was revealed that married subjects tend to save their income for emergency use more than other groups in the same category (15.78%)

3. As for academics, they tend to have greater tendency to save, various types of savings and more purposes in savings than other professions. To elaborate, academics who earn less than <142 \$ /month which account for 35.78% of all subjects tend to save money through the means of purchasing real estate (35.78%), purchasing real estate such as houses, lands and constructions and savings for educational purposes (15.78%).

Table 2 the number and percentage of economic factors in relation to saving behaviors of governmental officers at Sirindhron College of Public Health age 50 or above.

Economic factors (unit: \$/month)	Saving behaviours		
	The amount of saving person (%)	Saving types person (%)	Purposes of saving person (%)
1.Income			
Less than 714 \$	<142 \$ /month 23(24.21%)	Miscellaneous)purchase of gold, ornament and other processions) 9(9.47%)	Emergency use 1(1.05%)
714-857 \$	<142 \$ /month 8(8.42%)	Purchase of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. 12(12.63%)	Return profits 5(5.26%)
857-1,000 \$	275-570 \$ 11)11.57%)	Purchase of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. 6(6.31%)	Return profits 6(6.21%)
1,000-1,142 \$	<142 \$ /month 5(5.26%)	Depositing savings with co-operatives and commercial banks 4(4.21%)	Return profits 7(7.36%)
1,142-1,285 \$	275-570 \$/month 6)6.31%)	Purchase of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. 4(4.21%)	Return profits 13(13.68%)
More than 1,285\$	275-570 \$/month 6)6.31%)	Purchasing funds such as Provident funds (LTF,RMF) 5(5.26%)	0
5.Expenses)Debts(/month			
Less than 142 \$	<142 \$ /month 3(3.15%)	Depositing savings with co-operatives and commercial banks 15(15.78%)	family inheritance 10(10.50%)

Table 2 the number and percentage of economic factors in relation to saving behaviors of governmental officers at Sirindhron College of Public Health age 50 or above.(cont.)

Economic factors (unit: \$/month)	Saving behaviours		
	The amount of saving person (%)	Saving types person (%)	Purposes of saving person (%)
142 -275 \$	275-570 \$ 5(5.26%)	Purchase of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. 14(14.73%)	For return profits 7(7.36%)
285-428 \$	<142 \$ /month 12(12.36%)	Member of government pension funds 4(4.21%)	Tax reduction 7(7.36%)
428-571 \$	<142 \$ /month 12(12.36%)	Member of government pension funds 3(3.15%)	Emergency Use, Tax reduction 5(5.26%)
571-714 \$	<142 \$ /month 3(3.15%)	0	0
More than 714 \$	<142 \$ /month And >571\$ 1(1.05%)	0	0
3.marital status single	<142 \$ /month 20(21.50%)	Purchase of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. 17(17.89)	Emergency use 7(7.36%)

From table No.2 economic factors in relation to most saving behaviors revealed as follows;

1. Income per month. It was revealed that for those earning less than 714\$ /month tend to have lower propensity to save less than 142 \$ /month than other groups in the save category. They save up by purchasing types of real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. than other groups (12.63%). Also, those earn between 1,142-1,285 \$ /month save for return profits than other groups (13.68%).

2. As for other sources of income, it was revealed that those with more than 571 \$/month income tend to have greater amount, types of savings and purposes of savings other than groups. To elaborate, those in the 285-571 \$/month saving groups (9.47%) tend to save by purchasing real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. (25.26%) and the purposes of saving is for family inheritance and processions (15.26%)

3. Monthly expenses. It was revealed that those in 428-571 \$/month expense group tend to have savings in the 142-285 \$/month bracket. As for those spending 142-285 \$/moth tend to save by purchasing real estate such as houses, lands and constructions etc. (22.10%) and tend to save money for return profits (15.78%) than other groups in the same category

4. Expenses for health reason. It was revealed that those with health expenses less than 285 \$/month tend to have greater amount and purposes than other groups in the same category. To elaborate, those earning less than 142 \$/month (28.42%) save by purchasing real estate such as houses, lands and constructions (29.47%) and have the saving purpose for emergency use (18.94%) respectively.

5. Expenses. It was revealed that those with 285-428 \$/month debt and those with 428-571 \$ expenses (debt) month tend to have less than 142 \$/month saving. They tend to save by depositing money in commercial banks and co-operatives (15.78%) and the purposes are to by processions and for family inheritance (10.30 %) more than other groups respectively.

3. Results Discussion

Personal characteristics in relation to saving. It was revealed that females have higher propensity to save in terms of the amount of saving and savings in the form of ornament such as gold and tend to save in case of emergency. Females, by nature, tend to have greater saving than their male counterparts, in terms of savings, and savings in the form of ornament such as gold and for emergency use. Furthermore, females tend to be the one who take care of their families; therefore, it is important that they have some savings, especially for emergency. In

addition, females tend to think before spending and females that have less than 142 \$/month saving for emergency, especially those females who are married (15.78%). This is because they tend to think about families before spending and are mindful about spending in the case of emergency. Granted, the subjects in the age group of 53-55 year-old tend to have the greatest propensity to save. As for the subjects with academic position earning less than 142 \$/ month, the non-risk types of saving were used such as purchasing real estate while those saving more than 142 \$ (dentists, pharmacists or professional nurses) tend to have riskier savings such as governmental funds, bonds or stocks for greater return profits.

For factors affecting saving behaviors, It was revealed that for subjects with less than 714 \$/month income, the savings per month tend to reach less than 142 \$/ month. Also, it was found that as the subjects have greater savings, they tend to have greater amount of savings.

As for the types of savings, it was revealed that those who earn less than 714 \$/ month tend to have low risk investment such as purchase of gold and real estate and cash deposit in commercial banks. Whereas for those learning more than 1,285 \$/month, the high risks of saving. The same is for those with lower expenses who tend to have higher amount of savings than other groups in the same category.

4. Recommendations

For policy;

Because saving among governmental officers is important yet it remains a topic in which many lack proper understanding of the various types of saving, despite the fact that most want good return profits for future expenses. Therefore, executives at governmental agencies should encourage greater and more in-depth knowledge about savings before safe and comfortable retirement among all governmental officers, be they junior or senior.

For research;

Suggestion is to study saving types and behaviors among governmental officers working for 10 or more as there is a need for greater in knowledge in saving.

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Biographies

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