

A STUDY OF ADULTS' BASIC SOCIAL SKILLS OF FOURTH-YEAR STUDENTS, DEPARTMENT OF JAPANESE FOR BUSINESS COMMUNICATION, SRIPATUM UNIVERSITY

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper was to clarify the basic social skills of working adults in the fourth-year students of Japanese for Business Communication Department, Sripatum University. A questionnaire survey on the basic social skills of working adults was conducted for 13 fourth-year students who had practical work experience in the second semester of academic year 2020. The basic social skills of working adults were based on three main skills (*Action, Thinking and Teamwork*) and 12 skill elements proposed by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry in 2006. The questionnaire was closed-ended questions, and divided into two parts: Part 1 was a self-diagnosis by students for 12 skills, and Part 2 was a multiple-choice question that asked which skills were required for practical training. Cronbach's coefficient alpha was 0.79 for Part 1 and Part 2. In Part 1, there were seven negative evaluations for 12 skills, however, positive evaluations were significantly higher in all the skills. In Part 2, one skill was not chosen, however, two skills were relatively high. Practical training is the best opportunity to acquire basic social skills for working adults, therefore, further practical research is expected in the future from the perspective of human resources education.

Keywords: Human resources, Practical work, Work experience, Adults' basic social skills, Sripatum University

1. Introduction

According to the Japan External Trade Organization's survey on trends of Japanese companies in Thailand, 2020, there are 5,856 Japanese companies in Thailand (JETRO, 2021b). The number of members of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Bangkok is 1,678 as of the end of April 2021 (JCC, n.d.), and in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' *Survey of Japanese companies expanding overseas*, Thailand ranked fourth in the world in view of the number of Japanese companies by country (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, 2018). According to the 2020 statistics of the Board of Investment of Thailand (BOI), it was announced that Japan was the highest in terms of the amount of foreign capital's direct investment value in Thailand on both an application basis and on an approval basis (The Board of Investment of Thailand, 2021). From the above statistical figures, it can be said that the existence of Japanese companies in Thailand occupies an important position not only in Japanese economy but also in Thai economy. Based on this recognition, the economic relationship between Japan and Thailand, centered on Japanese companies in Thailand, is deepening closeness in various fields such as trade,