

**Financial Planning Behavior Among Working Age Groups in Muak Lek Municipality,
Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province**

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Received: 13/03/2023

Revised: 23/05/2023

Accepted: 29/05/2023

Abstract

The purposes of this quantitative research were (1) to study the level of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, and (2) to compare the level of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, classified by personal factors. The tool used to collect data was a questionnaire. The data was collected online from 385 respondents. The statistics used for data analysis were frequency, mean, percentage, and standard deviation. Hypotheses were tested with t-test and One-way ANOVA. The results of this study found that different Individual factors, which include gender, age, marital status,

educational level, and average monthly income of the population in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, has different level of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning, statistically significant at the 0.05 level.

Keywords: financial planning, debt planning, saving and investment planning

Introduction

The behavior of individuals in managing their monetary resources has a great influence towards a better life especially now that the world is getting more complicated and people are struggling to survive at its best. Money plays an important role as it is used as a medium of exchange, a measure of the value of things, and can also be accumulated to add value. Financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investing planning happen as people take into account the uncertain future financial situation. Financial planning is essential in life. Each individual has a different strategy and financial planning as the financial needs of people of different ages are different (Kongkaew et al., 2014). Financial planning is a necessity for everyone and will become increasingly necessary in the future because of the risen in life and economic uncertainty. Good financial planning is the way to success and can give everyone more financial freedom. This is because if a person knows that life is full of uncertainty, the person should lead a reckless and conscious life at all times. Financial planning is therefore an example of living a life of purpose and focusing on living according to goals accurately. A person with good financial planning will have the opportunity to be successful in life (Khunchuen, 2012). Financial planning covers the management of important personal finances, which includes effective consumption planning, Insurance planning, investment planning, retirement planning, and inheritance planning. Planning in each aspect creates wealth, increasing wealth and the delivery of wealth to financial planners (Wongchan, 1990). Financial planning decisions are determined by the basic characteristics of each person such as income, age, gender, and educational level (Saenthaweesuk, 2013).

Additionally, financial planning sometimes leads to debt or necessity that leads to an individual's indebtedness. In general, debt is caused by insufficient income to meet expenses, unable to earn enough income to meet the needs of daily expenses, and may be caused by a lack of good financial planning that causes debt problems or due to lack of financial discipline causing negligence in financial planning, as well as market-oriented capitalism. This can be

seen from the stimulation of consumption through various advertising media which continually arises a desire to want to have. Sometimes, spending money on luxury is not four requisites that meet the basic necessities of life. A study found that the purpose of debt creation was to borrow for daily expenses and spend on vehicles and housing. When comparing the debt to the income of a person with a salary of less than 5,000 baht, there was more debt added than their income increased. It can be considered that most of these debt-bearing individuals are still unable to get out of their debt while the number of new borrowers tends to increase (Chanthong, 2013). In addition, the rising trend of debt is a risk factor for economic and financial stability, especially during the current economic slowdown and the current unemployment rate. This will affect the income of individuals. Consequently, consumption and debt repayment ability declined until it may become bad debt, affecting the stability of the financial institution system and the economy. It also affects saving money and investing more for the future (Wanasuk et al. 2014). Savings are considered an important source of funds for individuals. If savings levels are high and sufficient to meet income and expenditure needs, their dependence on debt is reduced (Siriwattana and Rongdej, 2012).

The researchers see the necessity and importance of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investing planning. Therefore, this research aims to study the level of financial planning, debt planning and saving, and investment planning among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province. In addition, the study compares the level of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, classified by personal factors. The results of this research would make each person aware of the importance and necessity of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning, in today's rapidly changing world, and know the benefits that will be gained if the guidelines and goals in financial planning are clear.

Research objectives

There are two objectives for this research.

1. To study the level of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province.

2. To compare the level of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, classified by personal factors.

Scope of the Research

Content scope

Study the level of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province.

Area scope

The researcher defines the scope of the study area, which is Muak Lek Municipality Area, Muak Lek District Saraburi Province.

Scope of the study population

The sample for this research was the working-age population living in the Muak Lek Municipality area, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province.

Time

The research was carried out between August 2021 and December 2022.

Research Methodology

Population and sample studied

The population used in this research was people of working age, aged between 19-60 years old, both male and female residing in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province. There were 7,016 people (Muak Lek Municipality, 2021). Using the formula to determine the number of samples of Yamane (1967) by determining the error of 0.05, the sample size was 379 samples, but the research team collected by sending the questionnaire through the Muak Lek Community Facebook application, the rate back was 385 responses which equal to 101.58%.

Research tools

The tool for this research was a questionnaire on “Financial planning behavior among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province”. The research team developed questions from past research. The questionnaire is divided into 2 parts as follows:

Part 1 is a question about the personal factors of the respondents. Closed-ended question format consists of 5 items, namely gender, age, marital status, education level, and average monthly income

Part 2 contains 15 questions about the opinions of the respondents, divided into 3 parts: 5 questions on financial planning, 5 questions on debt planning, and 5 questions on savings and investment planning. The measurement characteristics of the data are a rating scale, which is divided into 5 levels of importance: score 5 means strongly agree, and score 1 means strongly disagree. An IOC was employed to validate the questions and an IOC index higher than 0.67 was accepted and used in the questionnaires. A pilot test of the questionnaire was conducted with 30 respondents. All 15 questions from 385 respondents were analyzed for reliability using the formula for the alpha coefficient (α). The Cronbach alpha value is equal to 0.92. Cho and Kim (2015) say that if the question has an alpha coefficient greater than 0.70, questions with high confidence can be used for the study.

Data collection

This research collected data using an online questionnaire from a sample in Muak Lek municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province. The online survey was created via Google Drive and then submitted online via social media such as Facebook and Line.

Statistics used in data analysis

Data analysis in this study was done using a statistical software program. The statistics used for data analysis consisted of frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test, and F-test with the calculation of the difference among variables using the Scheffe method.

Data analysis results

Frequency and percentage analysis

The study found that the majority of respondents were 216 males, representing 56.1%, and 169 females, representing 43.9%; 158 of them were under 20 years old, or 41%, 107 of them aged 21 to 30, accounted for 27.8%, 74 of them aged 31 years to 40 years, representing 19.2%, and 46 of them aged 41 years and above, accounting for 11.9%. There were 239 people single, accounting for 62.1%; 131 people were married, representing 34%, and 15 of them were divorced/widowed, or 3.9%; 179 people obtained a secondary education/vocational level, representing 46.5%, 57 people had Diploma/High Vocational Certificate, accounted for 14.8%, 111 people had bachelor's degree, accounted for 28.8%, and 38 people had master's degree, accounting for 9.9%; 146 people had the average monthly income less than or equal to 5,000 baht, accounted for 37.9%, 75 people had an average monthly income of 5,001 baht to 10,000

baht, or 19.5%, 72 people had an average monthly income of 10,001 baht to 15,000 baht, or 18.7%, 52 people had an average monthly income of 15,000 baht to 20,000 baht, or 13.5%, and 40 people had an average monthly income from 20,001 baht or more, representing 10.4%

Analysis of mean and standard deviation

Analyzing the level of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, using the mean (\bar{x}) and standard deviation (S.D.). It was found that the overall financial planning was at a high level (3.74). When considering each of the question items, it was found that “Plan your finances with savings to meet your set goals” has the highest mean score with the mean score at a high level (3.80). The question item of “Consistently Planned Money Management” was the lowest mean score with the mean score at a high level (3.66). The mean score for overall debt planning was at a high level (3.68). When considering each question item, it was found that “Able to pay debts on a timely basis” was the highest mean score. The mean score was high (3.77) and the “Compared to existing debt burden” was the lowest. The mean score was at a high level (3.56) and the overall savings and investment planning was at a high mean score (3.62). When considering each question, it was found that “Plan for saving to be used as a source of funds in the future” and “Plan for retirement savings” were at the highest mean score. The mean scores were at a high level (3.69). The item “Seriously study investment planning such as articles, books, websites, etc.” was at the lowest mean score. The mean score was at a high level (3.49), as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Mean and Standard Deviation of Financial Planning, Debt Planning, and Savings and Investment Planning

Questions	Mean	S.D.	Interpretation
Financial Planning			
1. Plan to manage your finances consistently	3.66	.85	High Level
2. Appropriately allocate financial plans for both income and expenses	3.74	.84	High Level
3. Make a financial plan with savings to meet the set goals	3.80	.83	High Level
4. Regular money deposit	3.70	.87	High Level

5. Make a financial plan so that there is plenty of cash for emergency expenses	3.78	.88	High Level
Total	3.74	.68	High Level
Debt Planning			
1. Manage to pay debts in accordance with the installments to be paid	3.77	.83	High Level
2. Limit the amount to spend each month	3.71	.83	High Level
3. Very serious credit planning	3.66	.79	High Level
4. In each month, separate income for debt repayment and expenses	3.68	.82	High Level
5. Comparison of existing liabilities in each year	3.56	.82	High Level
Total	3.68	.63	High Level
Savings and Investment Planning			
1. Consulting on investment with other people	3.61	.838	High Level
2. Allocate money for regular investment	3.62	.776	High Level
3. Study seriously about investment planning, such as from articles, books, websites, etc.	3.49	.807	High Level
4. Plan for savings to be used as a source of funds in the future	3.69	.772	High Level
5. Plan for retirement savings	3.69	.827	High Level
Total	3.62	.604	High Level

Data analysis using statistics t-test

To compare the level of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, classified by gender by t-test, it was found that respondents with different gender have a level of opinion about financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning, statistically differently at the 0.05 level with the following details and as shown in Table 2. (1) Financial Planning: Females had a high level of opinion ($\bar{x} = 3.94$) and males had a high level of opinion ($\bar{x} = 3.57$). (2) Debt planning: Females had a high level of opinion ($\bar{x} =$

3.86), and males had a high level of opinion ($\bar{x} = 3.54$). (3) Saving and investment planning: Females had a high level of opinion ($\bar{x} = 3.75$) and males had a high level of opinion ($\bar{x} = 3.52$).

Table 2 Comparison levels of Financial Planning, Debt Planning, and Savings and Investments Planning classified by Gender

Question Item	Male (n = 216)		Female (n = 169)		t	p
	\bar{x}	S.D.	\bar{x}	S.D.		
Financial Planning	3.57	0.67	3.94	0.62	5.63-	*0.00
Debt Planning	3.54	0.61	3.86	0.61	5.02-	*0.00
Savings and Investments Planning	3.52	0.58	3.75	0.61	3.76-	*0.00

Data analysis using F-test statistics

To compare the level of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, classified by age, marital status, educational level, and average monthly income, with one-way ANOVA statistical, it found that different in age, marital status, educational level, and average monthly income, affects the level of opinion about financial planning, debt Planning, and saving and investment planning statistically different at the 0.05 level, as shown in Table 3.

Table 3 Comparison of the level of Financial Planning, Debt Planning, and Saving and Investment Planning, classified by Age, Marital Status, Educational Level, and Average Monthly Income

Personal Factors	Financial Planning		Debt Planning		Saving and Investment Planning	
	F	Sig	F	Sig	F	Sig
Age	29.54	*0.00	20.30	*0.00	15.19	*0.00
Marital Status	15.63	*0.00	12.25	*0.00	9.09	*0.00
Educational Level	10.54	*0.00	5.55	*0.00	5.02	*0.00
Monthly Income	25.42	*0.00	16.45	.0 *00	10.27	*0.00

Summary and Discussion

The results of the analysis of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, can be summarized according to the objectives of the research as follows.

1. The results of the overall level of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, were at a high level of opinion.

1.1 Financial planning of the working age group in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, has a high level of opinion, which means they pay attention to financial planning. Many of them have a behavior of saving money to meet their goals, setting a financial plan in order to have cash for emergency expenses, appropriately allocating financial plans for both income and expenses, regularly depositing money, and having a regular financial management plan. The result is consistent with Itthiratanachot (20021)'s research which found that the financial planning for the retirement of the Office of the Auditor General of Thailand had a high level of overall opinion. The result of the study also is in accordance with the research of Sangvichit et al. (2019) which found that the overall knowledge of personal finance planning among students was at a high level.

1.2 Debt planning among the working age group in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, has a high level of opinion, which means the working age group in Muak Lek Municipality pays attention to debt planning. They might have a behavior of managing to pay off the debt in accordance with the installments to be paid, there is a limit on the amount they can spend each month, there is a separation between debt repayment income and expenses, take credit planning seriously, and compare the existing liabilities each year. This is in line with Peethong (2017) who found that debt management using the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of the Royal Thai Army Headquarters in terms of knowledge was at a high level.

1.3 Planning for savings and investment among the working age group in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, has a high level of opinion. This maybe implies that the working age group in Muak Lek Municipality pays attention to planning for savings and investment. Savings are planned to be used as a source of funds in the future. They also have a retirement savings plan, allocate money for investments regularly, have investment consultations with other parties, and there is a real study on investment planning. This is consistent with the results of a study by Teerakitikorn and Wenthong (2021). It was found that

the level of opinions on the importance of savings guidelines for preparing for retirement in the central region overall at a high level. The results of the current research also are in accordance with the study of Likittrakankul et al. (2016), which found the overall attitude toward saving strategies for adults in preparation for entering the elderly was at a high level. In addition, the family that has created the habit of saving from a young age causes that person to have the most regular savings, followed by saving to create stability in life, and saving helps to spend more rationally, and reduce extravagant spending, respectively.

2. Comparison of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, classified by gender, age, marital status, and educational level, and average monthly income. The results of the research can be summarized as follows:

2.1 Working age group in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, with different gender has a different level of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning. This is in line with the research of Chuadjapoh et al. (2020), which found that different genders affect the saving behavior of students in accounting majors, at the Faculty of Management Science, Udon Thani Rajabhat University, differently. The results are also in line with the research by Chaisiri (2019) which found that different gender affects the saving behavior of people in Songkhla province differently.

2.2 Working age group in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, with different ages has different levels of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning. The research result is consistent with the research of Supakitvanichkul and Phasunon (2016) who found that different ages had different effects on financial management. The result is also in line with the research by Sriphanom (2016), who found that different age groups of the sample affected different saving behaviors.

2.3 Working age group in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, with different marital statuses has different levels of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning. The result is consistent with the research of Supakitvanichkul and Phasunon (2016) who found different marital status affects financial management differently.

2.4 Working age group in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, with different levels of education has different levels of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning. This result is consistent with the research of Supakitvanichkul and Phasunon (2016) that different levels of education had different effects on financial management. In addition, it is in line with Teerakitikorn and Wenthong (20021),

that different educational backgrounds of people in the central region of Thailand have different ways of saving money to prepare for retirement. Hakham (2019), also found that people in the Bangkok metropolitan area who have different levels of education have different savings behaviors.

2.5 Working age group in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province, with different average monthly incomes has different levels of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning. This is consistent with the research of Supakitvanichkul and Phasunon (2016) that different average monthly income affects financial management differently. Hakham (2019), also found that people in the Bangkok metropolitan area who have different monthly incomes have different savings behaviors.

Implications

From the research, it was found that financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment of working age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province are different. Therefore, various agencies should provide knowledge in financial planning and management for those who wish to do financial planning and provide useful information for successful financial planning.

From the research, it was found that the knowledge and understanding of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment of working age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province are different. Therefore, various agencies with personal financial planning services should have staff with a high level of knowledge in financial planning and management to provide advice to those who want to have a better understanding of financial planning. In addition, people should have knowledge and understanding of financial planning to make financial planning more effective.

The research found that there may be other factors that make the financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment of working age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province different. Therefore, various agencies with personal financial planning services should provide a variety of consulting services that individual needs.

Limitations and Future Research

This research studied the level of financial planning, debt planning, and saving and investment planning among working-age groups in Muak Lek Municipality, Muak Lek District, Saraburi Province. Therefore, there should be a comparative study of personal finance

planning and management in other areas. The results might be different, however, it would be more complete in-depth information that can be used for further use in formulating guidelines for personal financial management.

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