

CHAPTER IV

THE STUDY SAMPLE

This chapter deals with the study sample, the selection of the sample and to what extent the results of this study may be generalized to a broader population.

The Target Population

The target population is the population to which the investigator want to be able to apply the results of the study. In this study, the target population is intended to include the sixth year dental students of Khon Kaen University.

The Population Sampled and Sample

The population sampled is that population selected from the target population for studying and making conclusion. The population sampled and sample in this study will include all the sixth year dental students of Khon Kaen University in academic year 1991 and who are eligible when inclusion and exclusion criteria are applied.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Inclusion Criteria

The students who registered the clinical practicum subjects in the first semester of academic year 1991.

2. Exclusion Criteria

The students who retired or resigned from the Faculty before the end of the first semester.

Justification of the Eligibility Criteria

In academic year 1991, there were some changes in the curriculum of the Faculty of Dentistry. All the clinical practicum subjects were changed to begin in the first semester and to finish in October of the academic year. Therefore, the sample should be identified in the academic year 1991 so that it would be relevant to the new curriculum. This study concerned only about clinical practicum subjects of the new curriculum so the time of collecting data should be after the end of the first semester. It would be beneficial for the investigator to conduct this research in time.

Sample Size

The number of study units must be sufficient to make the study result reliable. A large sample is much more likely to be representative of the population. The large sample is very useful. It involves greater reliability, and increase the power of statistical test applied to data. It is preferable to increase the size whenever practical.

Therefore, the sample in this study is intended to include all the sixth year dental student in academic year 1991 in order to meet the maximum sample size. (sample = 37).