

# The Perception and Understanding of Lao Youth on the Republic of Korea Scholarship

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## Abstract

This study aims to assess Lao youth perceptions and understanding of the Korea Scholarship, as well as to compare personal factors of Lao youth to perceptions and understanding of the Korea Scholarship. Quantitative research approach was used to describe the socio-demographic. 530 questionnaires were collected from education institutes in Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, and Xayaboury provinces between February and March 2021. An independent simple t-test, one-way ANOVA, and Pearson correlation were used in SPSS version 25. This found that most of the respondents were male, their age ranged from 15-18 years, and their education level was between high school and college. The language proficiency has a high percentage in the middle of Thai and English, the perception and understanding level of Lao youth on the Korea Scholarship has a moderate level, and a comparison between the personal factors of Lao youth and the coefficient test between the level of foreign language proficiency and the perception and understanding level of Korea Scholarship found that there was a weak correlation. The foreign language proficiency of Lao youths will also lead to a weak associated perception and understanding level of the Korea Scholarships.

**Keywords:** Lao Youth, Lao Students, Perception, Understanding, Republic of Korea Scholarship

## Introduction

Education plays a role in the economic development of many countries in the world. No country can achieve sustainable economic development without human resource education. Education helps people understand themselves and the world. It improves their quality of life and leads to broad social benefits for individuals and society. Education is important in raising people's productivity and promoting technological development (Sakmurzaeva, 2018: 2). Higher education has been significantly altered to keep pace with global trends and has had a positive

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impact on economic growth. Higher education has played a significant role in economic success, creating and providing an abundant quantity of high-quality human resources (Huong, 2019: 9). Universities play a role in the development and building of the nation as well as the key to human resource development. The improvement of the university is the development of facilities and infrastructure, the development of staff capacity and effective management, and so on. Therefore, it is necessary to set up capacity development as well as hardware upgrades for higher education universities in development cooperation to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4) (Chang, 2019: 12).

After the founding of the Republic of Korea (ROK) in 1948, the government of ROK has focused on strengthening the modern education system, setting targets to lay the foundation for the country's economy. ROK is growing faster and creating a workforce with the skills of scientists, engineers, and specific skills required for various professions. And later, in 1995, ROK reformed its education system to accommodate a society of learning and competition. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, starting with the curriculum reform in 1997, by defining the characteristics of future learners, the Ministry of Education was restructured. from 2001 to adapt to the current state of development of the country, reform the higher education system to excellence in the learning society and set the overall goal of providing scholarships in ROK to meet the challenge of promoting the improvement of human resources and step by step internationalization, including 1) Awarding excellent students for their display of academic performance, 2) Furthering academic and practical research in ROK, especially in sciences and Information Technology (IT), 3) Supporting and developing rare talent in very specific or technical majors, 4) Fostering the exchange of academic scholars throughout Asia and the world, 5) Easing the burden of tuition on students and Ph.D. candidates. The Statista Research Department (2021) reported the number of foreign students in ROK from 2010 to 2020 shows that: In 2020, approximately 154 thousand foreign students were studying in higher education institutions in ROK, down from about 160 thousand in the previous year (2019). Undergraduate programs were the most popular study program among foreign students in ROK higher education institutes. The goal of the Korea Scholarship is making the students of Lao PDR among the students in the Asian region have a high chance to receive scholarships directly from ROK.

After the reinstatement of Lao PDR in 1995, To meet the Lao PDR government's vision and strategy for cultural and social sectors to 2030 (Ministry of Education and Sports, 2015: 7), ROK played an active role in many aspects such as trade, investment and economics aid provision, hence earning recognition from Laotians as a developed and advanced country. Korean companies are prominent in the automobiles, construction, and financial industries, while Korean mobile phones are perceived as the best among various types of electronic products. There is easy access to Korean television dramas and music through Laos national broadcasting channels, and the 'Korean Wave' enjoys extremely high popularity as well. Korean companies, products, and culture garner high favorability in Laos, which is also evident in the friendly and positive disposition Laotians possess toward ROK. The government of ROK also supported the Lao PDR in various kinds of areas such as health, energy, education, rural development. Education includes technical vocational education and training; secondary and higher education, and provide scholarships for Lao people studying in ROK (The Government of the Republic of Korea, 2017). According to the statistic of Lao people go to study abroad from Ministry of Education and Sport of Lao PDR, the number of Lao people has gained scholarships to study in ROK from 2011 to 2015 are 155 people (67 female), 2019 are 40 people (23 female), 2020 are 15 people (7 female), 2021 are 23 people (12 female), the number of scholarships to Lao slightly decrease due to COVID-19 Pandemic in recent.

The Government of Lao PDR recognizes the importance of education in achieving national development goals. The country relies heavily on foreign capital; However, it has shown improvement in recent years. Lao PRD is committed to improving and expanding its education

system, and in particular: 1) Working with international partners to build capacity in Lao education; 2) Sending students abroad, especially to receive graduate degrees that would allow them to improve the quality of teaching in the country's universities. The country's recent growth has been impressive, but dependent on a combination of factors that likely make it unsustainable. Not enough graduate degree holders, Laos's public higher education system is incredibly new, less than 20 years old. It consists of: The National University of Laos, the leading university, situated in the capital city of Vientiane; The University of Health Sciences, also located in Vientiane; The regional universities Champasak, Souphanouvong, and Savannakhet, which are smaller and focused on regional labor needs (Facts and Details, 2022: 31). The most recent UNESCO estimates indicate that between 4,000-5,000 Laotians study abroad annually. Most of them are in Vietnam (2,153) and Thailand (1,344), with smaller numbers in Japan (246), Australia (180), and France (106), and below 100 students in about nine other destinations. This distribution reflects a strong pattern of intra-regional mobility often evidenced in smaller emerging markets (ICEF Monitor, 2014: 17).

### **Perception and Understanding Studies**

Studies in recent years have indicated that learning has been considered a tool for developing human resources. The theory of perception is important for the basic learning of humans. Lindzey et al. (1975: 90-135) have defined perception as a process of basic psychology of humans. Without perception, a human cannot have memory, thought, or learning. Perceiving all phenomena comprises many important steps as when a person got stimulus on the nerve, the nerve will encode information for sending to the brain. Finally, the brain decodes the information and learns what the stimulus is, the perception has processed as Step 1: Stimulus interact with our eyes, tongue, mouth, nose, and skin. Step 2: Nerve is sent to the nerve center system in our brain, the brain will receive the data and Step 3: The brain interprets data into knowledge or understanding based on its prior knowledge and its initial data. In conclusion, perception leads to a learning. Learning comes from the stimulus that interacts with nerves, the 5 senses nerve will be alert and then it will send the sense current to our center nerve resulting in making meaning an interpretation which is based on our initial experience and others, this process is called "perception". Moreover, understanding is a psychological process related to something which enables a person to think and use a concept to deal with that thing properly. Understanding is a process that changes our behavior, thought and human can learn from touching, reading, experiencing, and using technology gained from our previous perception. Bloom has defined the meaning of "learning" as knowing the approaches and processes which mainly focus on the psychological process of memory. The memory makes the process of connection between phases of our thought and interpreting it into our goal which is called Taxonomy of Educational objectives and can be divided into 6 steps knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation (Krathwohl et al., 1956: 212). Another dimension, understanding is basically from an economics and management perspective. It is used to analyze the decision-making of businesspeople or organizations. This can help them reach their priority goal logically. While information is an important factor for making decisions in all kinds of human activities. Information demand will raise when a person needs data for making any decision or when he or she is uncertain about something (Thaklong et al., 2019). According to the previous studies found that there is no relevant research and similar the study of Lao youth perception on Korean government scholarship yet. The review topics above are just some of the issues that have been addressed, such as some methodologies, some theories, and concepts. Therefore, it can be seen that this study is an innovation that is different from previous studies.

### **Research Questions and Hypothesis**

Bearing in mind the purpose of this research, efforts were channeled into seeking answers to the following questions: How does the perception level of Lao youth on Korea Scholarship?

How does the understanding level of Lao youth on Korea Scholarship? and examine the correlation between the personal factors (gender, ages group, education, and language proficiency) and the perception, understanding level on the Korea Scholarship.

Test hypothesis: First, if the gender, age, education was different the perception level on the Korea Scholarship was different. Second, if the gender, age range, education was different the understanding level on the Korea Scholarship was the difference. Third, the language proficiency level correlated with the Lao youth perception and understanding level on the Korea Scholarship and Last, the Lao youth perception level correlates with the understanding of the Korea Scholarship.

Finally, the results of this study will benefit the local government and Embassy of ROK in Lao PDR to enhance the understanding necessity of Lao youth perception and understanding of the Korea Scholarship, this can also help enlarge the socio-economic recognition on Lao youth perception and understanding on the Korea Scholarship, provide the various perspectives of the effective ways to improve the social perception and understanding of ROK education and scholarship providing system and build up the academic and socio-economic network with education institutions.

### Research Objectives

To unveil the actual circumstances under which ROK and Korea Scholarship are being perceived in Lao youth, a systematic and scientific method as well as research are essential. Therefore, the execution of statistically meaningful analysis and the substantive objectives of this study. Research objects are (1) Examining the perception level of Lao youth on the Korea Scholarship, (2) Examining the understanding level of Lao youth on the Korea Scholarship, (3) Comparison between the personal factors of Lao youth and the perception and understanding level on the Korea Scholarship.

### Research Methodology

This study follows the quantitative research approach to describe the socio-demographic aspects and explorer the difference of perception and understand the level of responsibility, The population targets were young between 15 to 30 years old, the students who are studying in lower and upper secondary school, the second teacher training college, business college, technical and vocational school, and Third Souphanouvong University were selected. This research took 3 provinces for case study there are Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, and Xayaboury provinces. The sample size has adopted from Albert Cohen's theory use 1% of the sample size if there is a population of more than 10,000. One more in this case we select 3 provides in the northern part of Lao PDR (Ministry of Education and Sports, 2020) for the accuracy of the data and to prevent data errors from the actual respondents, set another 15% of 461 samples to add more, that was 530 of the questionnaires.

The sampling system was used random sampling the target of respondents was divided from the opportunities to obtain the scholarship in 3 proportions as below:

**Table 1** Sample size

<b>Sample size</b>	<b>Proportion</b>	<b>Respondents</b>
Studying in high school	60%	318
Studying in vocational school, college	30%	159
Studying in University	10%	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>530</b>

Questionnaire design, the questionnaire uses a self-administered questionnaire survey with closed-end questions. This designed to cover three sections: First part, personal information of respondents (7 items) such as gender, age, institute studying in, the language ability, how did

you know ROK, how did you know about Korea Scholarship, and Which scholarships of each country do you interesting. Second part is designed to collect the young generation's perception level on the Korea Scholarship (17 items). Third part is designed to collect the young generation's understanding level on the Korea Scholarship (17 items), Finally, it is the suggestion part to collect more opinion of respondents on Korea Scholarship processed. A pilot survey of a sample size of 20 was conducted at Souphanouvong University to ensure the reliability and user-friendliness of the designed questionnaires in January 2021. All students responding to the questionnaires commented on its clarity, readability, and ease of understanding. As a result, no amendment in terms of the rewording of items was made. A Linkert scale was applied as an analysis tool to interpret data from the questionnaires. The respondents were asked to rate the items on a five-point Likert scale, ranging from 1 (lowest level) to 5 (highest level). Based on Sirisack et al. (2014: 5) class width was calculated by dividing the range (maximum level minus minimum level) by the number of classes.

Data collection, the survey was conducted from February to March 2021 at previously selected main points: (1) Xayaboury provinces 2 high schools and 1 technical and vocational school, (2) Oudomxay provinces 2 high schools and (3) Luang Prabang provinces 2 high schools, 1 teach training college, and 1 University, where students were requested to participate in the survey. the surveyor group was made up of a researcher of the Center for Korean Study in Souphanouvong University (CKSSU). Before the surveying, an orientation was provided to understand the contents and the methods. Over the 2 months, sampling was carried out with a frequency of 4 days a week. A total of 530 surveys were completed.

Data analysis, a quantitative approach was applied. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze the demographic data. Inferential statistical analysis, especially independent sample t-test, one-way ANOVA, and Pearson correlation were used to examine whether there are differences in social characteristic, perception, and understanding level on Korea Scholarship of respondents, Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 25 window was used for the analysis. The Socio-demographic, respondents the male had the largest composition, their 15-18 years was 53.02%, and the education between High school was 62.08 % (table2) due to the fact, (Ministry of Education and Sport, 2014b, 2020) by completing compulsory primary education in 2015, which certainly achieves gender equality, gradually expand the enrollment opportunities for girls at all levels to equal those of boys to get 98% of primary school students, Lower secondary education 75%, Upper secondary education 75%, Higher education, and university 50%, As a result, gender equality in secondary school is more equitable.

**Table 2** The socio-demographic of respondents

Socio-demographic		No. of respondents	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	289	54.53
	Female	241	45.47
Age group	Under 15	3	0.57
	15-18	281	53.02
	19-22	197	37.17
	23s	49	9.25
Education	High school	329	62.08
	College	150	28.30
	University	51	9.62

In terms of language proficiency (table3), the high percentage was the middle of Thai and English proficiency (56.79% and 55.85%), there was high percentage only good in Thai was 30.00% and slightly low with English, Other (Vietnamese, France, Japanese), Chinese, Korea (3.96%, 3.02%, 1.32% and 0.57 respectively) followed by slightly weak language proficiency

was Korean 38.11%, Chinese 34.72%, English 23.40% and Other (Vietnamese, France, Japanese) 8.87% respectively, While the high proportion of respondents could not have the proficiency in others language (Vietnamese, France, Japanese), Korean, Chinese, English and Thai were 76.98%, 56.04%, 49.06%, 16.79% and 7.36% in order.

Although the teaching of English as a compulsory subject is required from the third year of primary school (Lao National Assembly, 2015) and also in the priority work plan to monitor, learn and train foreign language teaching and learning to lower secondary level, based on the human resources structure in education institute with knowledge of foreign languages and institute to learn English or foreign languages in Lao PDR it is still limited, (Ministry of Education and Sports, 2020), supplemental Root (2009: 31) indicated that the teaching style is class can affect learners motivation in Korean language learning the most. However, most the Lao students learning the foreign language indifference schools, and different teaching styles reflect the foreign proficiency level of students in different provinces in the country.

**Table 3** The foreign language proficiency of respondents demonstrates in the frequency and percentage

Foreign Language proficiency	Korean		English		Chinese		Thai		Other (Vietnamese, France, Japanese)	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Good	3	0.57	21	3.96	7	1.32	159	30.00	16	3.02
Middle	28	5.28	296	55.85	79	14.91	301	56.79	59	11.13
weak	202	38.11	124	23.40	184	34.72	31	5.85	47	8.87
Can't	297	56.04	89	16.79	260	49.06	39	7.36	408	76.98

## Research Results

### The Perception Level of Lao Youth on the Korea Scholarship

To examine the perception level, descriptive statistics were conducted to check the significance level of the perception of Lao youth on Korea Scholarship. Table 4 shows the frequency, mean and standard division of students' perception including 17 factors related to perception on the Korea Scholarship, the result found that: the perception level of respondents in total was moderate ( $\bar{x} = 2.64$ , SD. = 1.08), significant average high ( $\bar{x} = 3.45$ , SD. = 1.21) level was found in perception with if the candidates have become the scholarship, then they would be sustaining their family. In terms of the moderate level, there were 9 factors were found in the largest proportion and significant differences. however, there was a slightly high moderate perception level average in 3 factors demonstrator high perception in various majors on the list, followed by the scholarship has been promoted on social media (Facebook, YouTube, etc.), and when applying for the scholarship, the candidate should have a basis in the Korean language ( $\bar{x} = 3.15$ ; 3.11; 3.02, SD. = 1.12; 1.18; 1.26), and then slightly low moderate perception level with there is a government's scholarship, the scholarship is covering the living cost, the scholarship has been promoted by professors, mouth to mouth, and Korean people ( $\bar{x} = 2.62$ ; 2.62; 2.61, SD. = 1.06; 1.09; 1.13) respectively. In addition, the low perception level was found in 7 factors and significant differences. Meanwhile, the respondents receive the information with Korea Scholarship quite low in the scholarship has shown the schedule and the process of applying for a scholarship ( $\bar{x} = 1.89$ ; 1.86, SD. = 0.90; 0.87). Moreover, most of the standard divisions (SD.) when higher than 1 that a significant difference in perception levels between respondents (Table 4).

This study is consistent with Thongthai (2013) as the perception and attitude affecting readiness entry into Asian Economic Community of graduate students at Srinakharinwirot University that the recognition of information from social media sources is in the moderate level according to the scholarship has promoted on social media that mean it showed up the condition of the scholarship, and also consistent with Lindzey et al. (1975: 90-135) has to define perception as a process of basic psychology of humans, Perception would be more or less depends on its influencing factor or what influence it such as the character of the receiver and character of the influencer. When a stimulus is a determinant, the perceiving phase happens first and is followed by the learning phase. The reason for that is that perception is a basic approach leading to learning and development. Perceiving process, so that, means various processes of understanding, thought, learning, decision making, and behavior, additional the study of Wattanasiri (2010: 13) shows indicates the education of youth in language proficiency perception and information awareness earlier influences them to get a good scholarship. as result most Lao youths learn of the Korea Scholarships according to the situation that influences them to get a benefit, it would be sustaining their family, but do not go through the process that allows them to learn as thoroughly as they should so that the level of perception is mostly in the moderate. Moreover, besides the condition of the scholarship, students in the remote areas can't understand the process of applying the scholarship to the ROK embassy, even apply online on the website, due to the promotion of Korea Scholarships in Lao institutions to upper secondary schools from the center to the provinces are mostly reduced and the condition of scholarship information was not Lao language it makes the deep knowing of students was low that why they have low-level perception.

**Table 4** The perception level of Lao young on Korea Scholarship

No.	The perception list on scholarship	$\bar{x}$	SD.	Perception level
1	The scholarship has been provided for Lao students	2.90	1.14	Moderate
2	The scholarship has been supported for undergraduate, master and doctoral degree	2.90	1.14	Moderate
3	There is a government's scholarship	2.62	1.06	Moderate
4	There is a private company's scholarship	2.42	1.00	Low
5	There is a research scholarship	2.44	1.07	Low
6	The process of applying for a scholarship	1.86	0.87	Low
7	The candidates can apply for a scholarship online	2.46	1.12	Low
8	The candidates can apply for scholarship to Korean embassy	2.32	1.09	Low
9	The candidates can apply for scholarship to university	2.84	1.04	Moderate
10	The scholarship has been promoted on social media (Facebook, YouTube, etc.)	3.11	1.18	Moderate
11	The scholarship has been promoted by professors, mouth to mouth, and Korean people	2.61	1.13	Moderate
12	The scholarship is covering the living cost	2.62	1.09	Moderate
13	The candidates can apply for scholarships free	2.33	1.08	Low
14	There are various majors to be select	3.15	1.12	Moderate
15	when applying for the scholarship, the candidate should have a basis in the Korean language	3.02	1.26	Moderate
16	The scholarship has shown the scheduled	1.89	0.90	Low
17	If the candidates have become the scholarship, then they would be sustaining their family	3.45	1.21	High
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.64</b>	<b>1.08</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

### The Understanding Level of Lao Youth on the Korea Scholarship

To inspection the understanding level, descriptive statistics were performed to define the significance level of the understanding of Lao youth on the scholarship. Table 5 shows the frequency, mean and standard division of students' understanding of 17 factors related to the scholarship process. The result found that the understanding of Lao youth on the Korea Scholarship was Moderate level ( $\bar{x} = 2.80$ , SD. = 1.06). This proportion, the respondents were large understanding on the scholarship which shows in 12 the moderate's factors, regarding the high understanding level there were 3 factors that the scholarship has opened for global and Lao students to apply, followed by the Korea Scholarship has supported for undergraduate, master and doctoral degree, and there are various majors to be select  $\bar{x} = 3.36$ ; 3.25; 3.24, SD. = 1.00; 1.05; 1.07 respectively. Most students still do not have a deep understanding of the important steps in the preparation, periodic notification of scholarships, including the process of applying for a scholarship. This study is consistent with the understanding process beings from knowing the true information, and knowing other understanding factors such as ability, meaning interpretation it is understood that understanding would lead to a further learning phase according to the student's perspective, their understanding of scholarship could provide good knowledge, an advantage in future occupation, can choose the course they want.

While 5 factors had a low understanding level on the Korea Scholarship there was the cost of submitting a scholarship without a fee, there is a research scholarship, The candidates can apply for a scholarship to the ROK embassy, understand all procedures of the Korea Scholarship, and understand the process of applying for a scholarship  $\bar{x} = 2.51$ ; 2.50; 2.42; 2.19; 2.11, SD. = 1.03; 1.04; 1.05; 0.98; 0.92 successively. Due to the low level of foreign language proficiency, especially Korean language proficiency of Lao youth the level of understanding of Korea Scholarships is also low because communication is important to gain the true meaning of information (Sornsuwannasri, 2020: 152-176) to express the key massages of the matter through interpretation and then be able to conclude the main meaning of scholarships applying procedures. This indicates that the understanding level of students shows in low level.

**Table 5** The understanding level of Lao youth on Korea Scholarship

No.	The understanding of Lao youth	$\bar{x}$	SD.	Level
1	The scholarship has opened for global and Lao students to apply	3.36	1.00	Moderate
2	Korea Scholarship has supporting for undergraduate, master and Doctoral degree	3.25	1.05	Moderate
3	There is a government's scholarship	3.00	1.06	Moderate
4	There is a private company's scholarship	2.66	0.96	Moderate
5	There is a research scholarship	2.50	1.04	Low
6	Understand the process of applying for a scholarship	2.11	0.92	Low
7	The candidates can apply for a scholarship online	2.77	1.07	Moderate
8	The candidates can apply for a scholarship to ROK embassy	2.42	1.05	Low
9	The candidates can apply for a scholarship to university	2.93	1.04	Moderate
10	The candidate could be getting information about scholarships from social media	3.19	1.11	Moderate
11	The candidate could be getting information about scholarships from professors, mouth to mouth, and Korean people	2.63	1.10	Moderate
12	The Korea Scholarship has been providing high living cost	2.79	1.08	Moderate
13	The cost of submitting a scholarship without a fee	2.51	1.03	Low



**Table 5 (Con.)**

No.	The understanding of Lao youth	$\bar{x}$	SD.	Level
14	There are various majors to be select	3.24	1.07	Moderate
15	The criteria of Korea Scholarship are needs Korean language skills (TOPIK)	2.90	1.23	Moderate
16	Understand all procedure of the Korea Scholarship	2.19	0.98	Low
17	If the candidates have become the scholarship, it would be covering Tuition fee, assurance, flights, transportation.	3.13	1.22	Moderate
<b>Total</b>		<b>2.80</b>	<b>1.06</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

### **The Comparison Between the Personal Factors of Lao Youth and the Perception and Understanding Level on the Korea Scholarship**

One of the main goals of this study was to work on the hypothesis to compare the personal factors such as gender, age, education of Lao youth, and the perception and understanding of Lao youth on the Korea Scholarship, including to find the correlation foreign language proficiency of respondents with the perception and understanding of Lao youth to enhance knowledge of Korea Scholarship (Table 6).

The tests of hypothesis the personal factors of Lao youth gender, age and the perception and understanding level on the Korea Scholarship was not different had confident significant 95%, cause the way of learning is independent, the equality between gender in studying was agreed with the enhancing women strategy of the ministry of education and sports of Laos phase 2 years 2014-2015, and the gender has independent to the expression of opinion, learning, and understanding equality. Thus, the Lao youth was understood in a scholarship has no difference. according to the World Health Organization, the youth people between 10-24 years in Southeast Asia country were the same in attitude, awareness, and goal of studying, thereby gaining the same awareness of the Korea Scholarship, due to the age range, 10 to 24 years has the attitude, awareness, and goal of study different, under the same Learning environment, that establishes the understanding on the Korea Scholarship was no difference.

The education of Lao youth was different, the perception and understanding level on the Korea Scholarship was different. The finding accepted H1, the confidence level has 99% confidence level in a statistically significant. Based on the environment, facility, and motivation were differently influenced by the perception of Korea Scholarship. For this reason, the educational institutions should provide more information widely and become apparent that they could understand Korea Scholarship. Due to the learning environment, facility, and motivation difference has influenced the understanding of Korea Scholarship difference.

The language proficiency level associated with the perception of Korea Scholarships is very weak. On the other hand, raising the level of foreign language proficiency of Lao youth at a high level will increase the perception of Korea Scholarships in the same direction. As a foreign language can be a medium for learning through a variety of channels, it is important to promote foreign language learning to Lao youth, such as the Korean language, to increase their language skills, to be able to achieve the Korea Scholarships from various sources and to have opportunities to study abroad.

The foreign language proficiency level and the overall understanding of Korea Scholarships are weak. In the same direction, it means that the weak level of foreign language proficiency of Lao youth will also lead to weak levels of understanding of Korea Scholarships. Conversely, if additional capacity language foreign for Lao youth was in a higher level will cause an understanding on Korea Scholarship rose as high. Therefore, should promote learning a foreign language such as Korean give more to promote language proficiency, can learn scholarship Korean sources and cause understanding deep in scholarship Korea as an opportunity to study abroad in the future.

The coefficient of correlation between the level of perception and understanding of Lao youth on the Korea Scholarship as a whole was the highest correlated. Among them, recognizing that being able to apply for a Korea Scholarship through a university, being able to choose from a variety of courses, applying for a scholarship through an embassy and a scholarship covers a high level of living expenses with a high level of understanding correlated.

Explaining that the level of perception of Lao youth is still at a moderate level will also lead to an understanding of Korea Scholarships at a moderate level. Therefore, raising the level of perception thoroughly to a higher level will increase the understanding of Lao youth about Korea Scholarships, such as the characteristics of the scholarship, the preparation, The process of applying for a scholarship, the term, and the channel of the announcement are well increased. This part is consistent with Thongthai (2013: 283) found that: the consisting of resources, personal media, and media resources related to the preparation for entry into the ASEAN Community labor market of master's students with a moderate and low correlation in one direction, the sequence has a statistical significance of 0.01.

**Table 6** The comparison between the personal factors of Lao youth and the perception and understanding level on the Korea Scholarship

No.	Hypothesis	Results
1	If The gender was different, the perception level on the Korea Scholarship was different	Denied
2	If the age range was different, the perception level on the Korea Scholarship was different	Denied
3	If the education was different, the perception level on the Korea Scholarship was different	Accepted
4	If the gender was different, the understanding level on the Korea Scholarship was the difference	Denied
5	If the age range was different, the understanding level on the Korea Scholarship was the difference	Denied
6	If the education was different, the understanding level on the Korea Scholarship was a difference	Accepted
7	The language proficiency level correlated with the Lao youth perception level on the Korea Scholarship	Accepted
8	The foreign language proficiency level correlated with the perception level on the Korea Scholarship	Accepted
9	The Lao youth perception level correlates with the understanding of the Korea Scholarship	Accepted

## Discussion and Conclusion

The Korea Scholarship makes a chance for students of Lao PDR to receive scholarships directly from the ROK. while focusing on the information of scholarship from the ROK supporting Lao students to study in the ROK according to the promoting the improvement of human resources to the internationalization of ROK policy for awarding excellent student who has a good academic performance to make a student of Lao PDR have a chance to receive scholarships from the ROK. The ROK has been supported a scholarship for students of Lao PDR study at the university at ROK started 2011 to play role support to Lao PDR developing in human resources in various kind of majors such as sociology, sciences, technology, health, energy, education, rural development, etc. when the scholarship students graduated, they have to come back to Lao PDR to work as professional in their majors to make up Laos as a developed country in future. The study on the perception and understanding of Lao Youth on the Korea Scholarship does influence the young students preparing themselves to play as one of

development parts in future. Especially for Lao youth during studying in high school, college, and university.

The respondents where the man has high proportion than women and the age range between 15-18 years was large proportion, the largest proportion is made up of students who study in high school, second is the made-up who study in college and last is study in university. Most of them were a study in the education institute in Northern parts of Lao PDR (Luang Prabang, Xayaburi, and Oudomxay provinces). The Lao youth has language proficiency skill was good in Thai, English, but Korean was slightly weak. They know about ROK from entertainment in largest proportion, Known about Korea Scholarship from Online source, education institute, from mouth to mouth respectively, and most of the Lao students was interesting in scholarship from ROK has higher than half.

The perception level of Lao youth on the Korea Scholarship was moderate Significant average high level was found in perception with if the candidates have become the scholarship, then they would be sustaining their family. In terms of the moderate level, there were 9 factors were found in the largest proportion and significant differences. However, there was a slightly high moderate perception level average in 3 factors demonstrator high perception in various majors on the list, followed by the scholarship has been promoted on social media (Facebook, YouTube, etc.), and when applying for the scholarship, the candidate should have a basis in the Korean language, and then slightly low moderate perception level with there is a government's scholarship, the scholarship is covering the living cost, the scholarship has been promoted by professors, mouth to mouth, and Korean people respectively. In addition, the low perception level was found in 7 factors and significant differences. Meanwhile, the respondents receive the information with Korea Scholarship quite low in the scholarship has shown the schedule and the process of applying for a scholarship. Moreover, most of the standard divisions (SD.) when higher than 1 that a significant difference in perception levels between respondents.

The understanding level of Lao youth on the Korea Scholarship was moderate level. This proportion, the respondents were large understanding on the scholarship which shows in 12 the moderate's factors, regarding the high understanding level there were 3 factors that the scholarship has opened for global and Lao students to apply, followed by the Korea Scholarship has supported for undergraduate, master and doctoral degree, and there are various majors to be select respectively. While 5 factors had a low understanding level on the Korea Scholarship there was the cost of submitting a scholarship without a fee, there is a research scholarship, the candidates can apply for a scholarship to the ROK embassy, understand all procedures of the Korea Scholarship, and understand the process of applying for a scholarship successively.

The comparison between the personal factors of Lao youth and the perception and understanding level on the Korea Scholarship found that the coefficient test between the level of foreign language proficiency and the perception and understanding of Korea Scholarship there was a weak correlation with the same direction. Meanwhile that the weak correlation of foreign language proficiency of Lao youths will also lead to weak associated perception and understanding level of Korea Scholarships. On the other hand, raising the level of foreign language proficiency of Lao youth at a higher level will lead to a higher level of perception about Korea Scholarships with the confident 95%. The coefficient of correlation between the level of perception and understanding of Lao youth on the Korea Scholarship as a whole was highest correlated, meaning that if raising the level of perception thoroughly to a higher level will increase the understanding of Lao youth about Korea Scholarships, such as the character of scholarship, the preparation, the procedure or process of the submit, the term and channel of the announcement, well increased in the same direction with a 99% confidence level.

Best on the result of the study further research on this topic can be suggested. Future studies should focus on promoting the "Miracle of Han River" knowledge of ROK to Lao students via

at capital and provinces, to increase perception and understanding level on scholarship for students ROK Embassy should promoting the varies of scholarship such government scholarship, research scholarship, private scholarship through the step for apply in Lao Language by cooperate with Ministry of Education and sport of Lao PDR. Moreover, ROK should guide them understand the benefit of Korean Language not just only to take scholarship by the way could generate more income by working with Korean companies in Laos PDR. This can be the effective ways to improve the social-economic for Lao by education institution.

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