EXPLORING THE ATTITUDES AND READINESS OF THAI CHEFS ASPIRING TO WORK ABROAD

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ARTICLE HISTORY

Received: 31 July 2024 Revised: 14 August 2024 Published: 24 August 2024

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to investigate Thai chefs' attitudes, qualifications, and readiness to work abroad. A survey was administered to a sample of 46 chefs to collect data. Findings revealed that the chefs demonstrated a relatively high level of knowledge and understanding of Thai and international cuisine, as well as moderate-to-high English proficiency. However, more than 70% reported challenges in communicating in languages other than English. Conversely, over 80% expressed confidence in their service skills, interpersonal communication, adaptability to different cultures, and ability to build international networks. Regarding understanding of foreign labor laws and regulations, the chefs exhibited a moderate-to-high level of comprehension (60%). While a majority (over 60%) were willing to accept a salary that could cover their living expenses, they expressed a stronger preference for opportunities for career advancement rather than solely focusing on cost-of-living adjustments. European countries were identified as the most preferred destinations for employment (32%). The chefs' culinary competencies included menu planning for à la carte and catering services, developing seasonal menus, conducting market research for ingredients, and overseeing kitchen hygiene and sanitation.

Keywords: Thai Chefs, Work Abroad, Attitudes of Thai Chefs

CITATION INFORMATION: Iamtaweejaroen, P., Kooprasertying, P., Poonnakasem, N., Sangrungreuang, T., Weeragul, K., Siripanwattana, W., Sriaroon, J., & Siripanwattana, C. (2024). Exploring the Attitudes and Readiness of Thai Chefs Aspiring to Work Abroad. *Procedia of Multidisciplinary Research*, 2(8), 61.