

# Opinion on gap year

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Submitted to

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## 1. Introduction

We are interested in conducting the survey on opinions about taking a gap year for several reasons. First, we want to explore how people, especially students, view the idea of taking a gap year, since this group of people are the biggest group of people to take gap year globally. Second, we hope to discover if taking gap year could influence future academic or career success in their opinions. Lastly, I believe that the findings from this survey could provide us a valuable insight into how Thai people mainly students view the idea of gap year that could guide schools and teachers in offering better advice and support to students considering this option.

## 2. Methodology

The 5-question survey was formulated and purposefully distributed to 40 individuals, during the fourth and fifth week of December. The distribution was facilitated using a Google Form.

The survey consists of 8 questions, encompassing 3 demographic information, 4 closed-ended questions and 1 open-ended question.

Out of 33 samples, a total of 33 responses were received, yielding a response rate of 82.5%.

## 3. Demographic Information

Out of 33 respondents, there were 8 males and 25 females. The average age of the respondents was 20 years old, with the youngest being 15 years old and oldest being 29 years old and majority of the respondents being 18-20 years old. The biggest occupation group is students at 28 followed by self-employed at 4 and lastly part-time employed at 1.

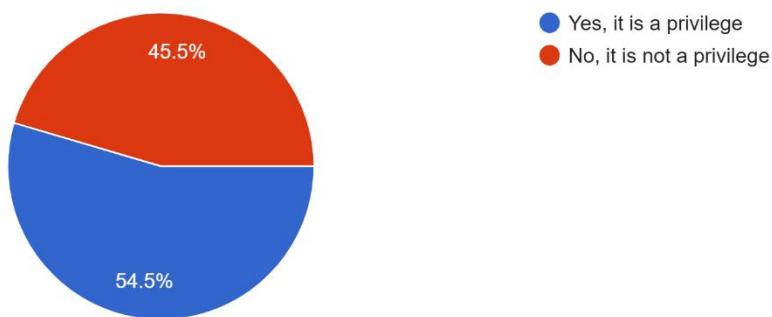
## 4. Findings/ Results (800 words)

The results of the five questions will be presented in this section.

### 4.1 Question 1: Would you consider a gap year to be a privilege, or should it be accessible to everyone?

Would you consider a gap year to be a privilege, or should it be accessible to everyone?

ค่าตอบ 33 ข้อ



This pie chart shows data of a survey on people's perceptions of whether taking a gap year is considered a privilege or something that should be accessible to everyone. The respondents were asked if a gap year is a privilege or should it be available for everyone. A total of 33 responses were collected.

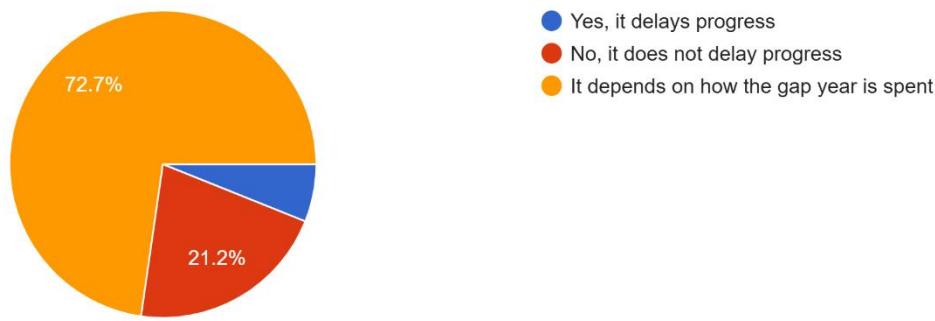
According to the chart, 54.5% of respondents believe that taking a gap year is a privilege, while 45.5% think it is not a privilege and should be accessible to everyone. Although the difference between the two opinions is not extremely large, the results show that a slight majority recognize the idea of a gap year as being more of a privilege than an equal opportunity.

Overall, this outcome suggests that many people link the ability to take a gap year with certain socioeconomic advantages. People who view it as a privilege may feel that only those with financial stability, family support, or access to resources can afford to take time off from academic or professional responsibilities. On the other hand, a big portion of respondents believe that a gap year should be an option available to everyone, regardless of background. They may see it as a valuable experience for personal growth, or career exploration that should not be limited by financial means.

## 4.2 Question 2: Do you believe taking a gap year delays academic or career progress?

Do you believe taking a gap year delays academic or career progress?

ค่าตอบ 33 ข้อ



This pie chart illustrates the results of a survey on people's opinions about impacts of taking a gap year on academic or career progress. The respondents were asked if taking a gap year would be detrimental to academic or career progress or not, or whether it depends on how the individual uses the time they spend on their gap year. A total of 33 responses were collected.

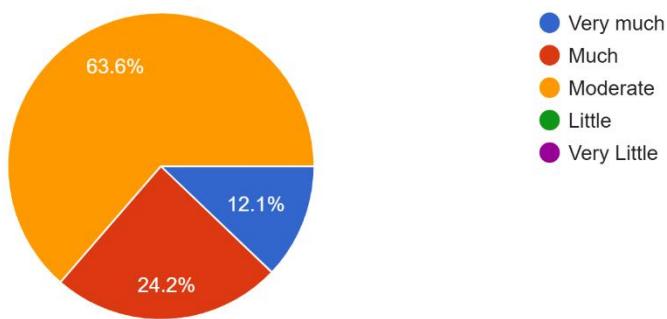
According to the chart, 72.7% of respondents, which makes them the majority say it depends on how the gap year is spent, while 21.2% of respondents say it does not delay progress on career or academic. With the last 6.1% of respondents, which makes them the minority say that gap year would impact on progress on career or academic, the results shows that the majority recognize that impacts on career or academic progress depends on how the individual spent their time on gap year, with some saying that gap year would not impact career progress and a minority saying that a gap year would be detrimental to career and academic progress.

All in all, the survey shows that most respondents hold a balanced perspective, recognizing that the outcomes of a gap year largely depend on how effectively time is utilized.

### 4.3 Question 3: To what extent do you think society should support taking a Gap Year?

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ค่าตอบ 33 ข้อ



This pie chart presents data on a survey about people's opinion on how much society should support taking a gap year. The respondents were given 5 options ranging from the society should heavily support taking a gap year to moderately support taking a gap year all the way to lightly support taking a gap year. This question was answered by 33 respondents.

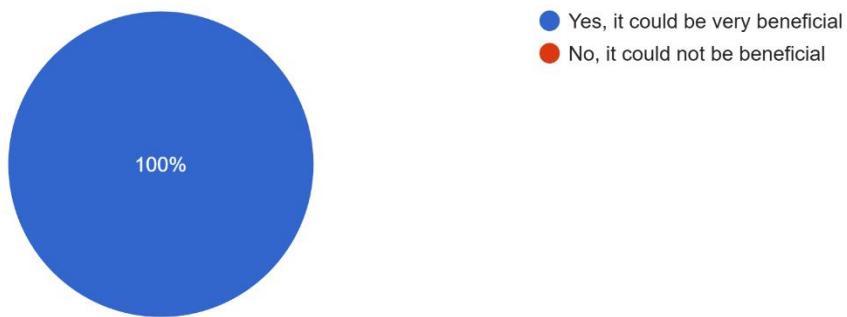
The largest portion of respondents, 63.6%, indicated a "Moderate" level of support. This suggests that most participants believe society should offer a fair amount of support for individuals choosing to take a gap year. The second largest group, accounting for 24.2% of respondents, chose "Much," highlighting a strong endorsement for gap year. Meanwhile, a smaller segment of participants, 12.1%, chose "Very much," reflecting those who feel society should highly encourage and actively support gap year opportunities. Interestingly, none of the respondent chooses "Little" or "Very Little" options, implying that none of the respondents are strongly opposed to the idea of taking a gap year or believe that it should receive minimal societal support.

Overall, the data demonstrates a generally positive attitude toward the concept. The results suggest that while the majority perceive the importance of balance, there are some who acknowledge that gap years deserve societal understanding and encouragement as part of educational and personal development.

#### 4.4 Question 4: Do you believe that gap year could be beneficial for your personal development?

Do you believe that gap year could be beneficial for your personal development?

ค่าตอบ 33 ชื่อ



This pie chart data of a survey on people's perceptions of whether taking a gap year could be beneficial for their personal development or not. The respondents were asked if they think that a gap year could be beneficial for their personal development, and were given 2 choices between yes, it could and no, it could not. 33 responses were received from this survey.

The unanimous result demonstrates a strong belief that a gap year can contribute significantly to personal growth. Participants may view this time as an opportunity to gain new experiences, develop life skills, explore personal interests, or clarify academic and career goals. The total agreement also suggests that students or young adults increasingly recognize the importance of experiential learning outside of a traditional academic environment.

Overall, the data clearly shows that all respondents view a gap year as a highly beneficial period for personal and professional development.

#### 4.5 Question 5: What is your opinion on gap year among Thai people?

In this survey the respondent were asked to type out their own opinion about their opinion on gap year among Thai people. Out of 33 respondents 25 gave us an answer, with 8 giving no comment.

The general view on gap year suggests that gap year is seen by many as an opportunity for self-discovery, personal growth, skill development, and career exploration, and that it is considered beneficial if used wisely, allowing students to clarify goals and gain real-world experience. But there are also many challenges and criticisms especially in Thailand. Firstly, cultural pressure, as families and society often view taking a gap year as wasting time or being lazy. Secondly, financial barriers, because gap years can be expensive, making them accessible mainly to wealthier people. Thirdly, social perception, as Thai people tend to be less open-minded about gap years, sometimes judging those who take them as unsuccessful or unmotivated. Lastly, rarity, as Taking a gap year is still uncommon in Thailand, and many students go straight from high school to university without exploring their interests.

Gap years are generally seen as valuable for self-discovery, personal growth, skill development, and career exploration, offering students the chance to clarify goals and gain real-world experience if used wisely. However, in Thailand, they face challenges including cultural pressure to avoid delays, high financial costs, social stigma, and their rarity, as most students move directly from high school to university without exploring their interests.