

# สารนิพนธ์

## THESIS ABSTRACTS

### The Response of Village People Toward Community Development A Case Study of Sarapee Project

It was March 1st, 1965 that the Department of Community Development and the Shell Company of Thailand Co., Ltd., launched a joint venture community development project at Tambol Sarapee, a typical Thai village in the province of Korat, 457 kilometers northeast of Bangkok. The main objective of the project is to create condition of economic and social progress in Sarapee with the active participation and initiative of the Sarapee people. The community development workers, assigned to this project, are to stimulate the villagers to fully utilize their own resources, to introduce and convince them to try new improved agricultural practices in lieu of those they have inherited from their ancestors. The community development workers will only provide technical assistance to the people who are willing and ready for experimentation. In doing so, the project should not involve the large sum of money. And from lessons learnt at Sarapee, the same techniques can be applied to those other Thai rural villages left in decades of ignorance, diseases and fear.

Anthropologically, community development is a planned social change in which the change agent or community development worker plays active role in inducing the client system or the people to accept his advice. The response and attitude of the client toward these advice is very important since they will indicate whether the advice are acceptable or not, and they will predict the success or failure of this planned social change as well. Thus, the response and attitude of Sarapee people toward the advice given by the Community Development workers for 3 years should be evaluated and examined.

Collecting of data had been done through participation and observation for a period of 102 days. Formal structured interviews had been conducted with 162 Sarapee villagers of various socio-economic status in the purposively selected 9 "mubans". In addition, informal interviews had been operated with some other Sarapee villagers.

The study shows that the Sarapee villagers, who are "the rich", "the local leaders" and "the middle-aged", can perceive practical benefits produced by the project very well and they tend to accept the advice introduced by the Community Development workers. It also reveals that those who perceived practical benefits from the project usually accept the advice.

Besides, the author has found that:

1. In terms of its physical setting, Tambol Sarapee is very large and is composed of many big "mubans". Therefore it renders some difficulties in initiating community development projects.

2. The Sarapee villagers faced such basic problems as lacking all weather roads linking each "muban", lacking irrigation system to provide enough water for farming and drinking throughout the year and lacking a modern market system. Therefore, acceptance of innovations introduced by CD workers among Sarapee villagers is quite slow.

3. There has been a steady migration of people into Sarapee, but only one fourth of them felt that the Sarapee Project was the prime motive of their migration.

4. Many organizations take part in the project, personnel and money are also from various sources. Should the lessons and techniques learned from Sarapee project used to the other cases, there will certainly be some difficulties since such resources may not be available at all time.

The author recommends that :-

1. The community development program should concentrate on limited areas. Therefore, only one or two "mubans" in Tambol Sarapee should be selected as a specific area for this kind of community development pilot project. This should also be applied for choosing other areas for the same purpose.

2. Prerequisites for choosing "mubans" for the project are the existence of a road system, an irrigation system and a market system. If a village, whether at present or in the future, does not have these prerequisites, other programs should be initiated to provide these basic facilities, in order to ensure the success of the same type of project.

3. There should be some special programs designed to convince and encourage village residents who are slow in accepting suggestions from CD workers of innovations, particularly among recent migrants, poor peasants, the young and women.

4. There should be more research concerning the villagers' attitudes and behavior changes caused by the Sarapee project.

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