

สารนิพนธ์

THESIS ABSTRACTS

RURAL ADMINISTRATION IN THAILAND

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Thailand must now face up to the fact that the bulk of her rural population still lives under conditions similar to those of their forefathers centuries ago. The range of problems facing Thailand are many and complex. The author of this thesis has chosen to focus attention on rural administration because it is at present regarded as the foundation of the nation's administrative structure. Inadequate administrative capacities are of course one of the concomitants of developing nations. One of the most important weakness in Thailand's rural development is the inadequacy of her administrative system. Poor administration frustrates Thailand's potential for economic development. Economic and administrative improvements must advance side by side. Administrative obstacles must be overcome, otherwise Thailand's economic progress will be slowed down.

This thesis is divided into five chapters, viz., general introduction, evolution of rural administration from its beginning to the year B.E. 2475; rural administration from the year B.E. 2475 to the present day, with special reference to administrative organizations and personnel set-up, rural reconstruction programs; and the national community development program, and finally conclusions.

The introductory chapter depicts the significance and scope of rural administration and demonstrates that rural people constitute a majority and are the backbone of the nation. Out of a total population of 25,519,965 persons, according to the 1960 Census, 22,497,724 persons live in rural areas (out side the boundary of municipalities), largely pursue agricultural occupations and produce 45% of the national income and 90% of the nation's total export value. The country has a total land area of about 321,250,000 rais, of which 61,860,000 rais (or 19.25 per cent) are in farm holdings. Of the total land in farm holdings, crop cultivation accounts for 82.93%. Thus the country's well-being depends largely on agriculture; and the rate of economic progress is determined largely by agricultural expansion. In short, it is clear that the advancement of rural Thailand is vital for the advancement of the country as a whole and that no real development of the country is possible unless the problems of bettering rural conditions are seriously taken up.

With regard to administration, the absolute aim of administration is the most efficient, effective and economical use of resources to achieve determined ends. Many elements combine to make good administration: organization, personnel, finance, and methods and procedures. In another words, all facets of administration have certain common underlying problems. They are organization, personnel, finance, and methods. This thesis deals only with rural administration, covering district, branch of district,

sanitary district, village authority, and village and hamlet. These units are the primary and principal bases of Thailand's administration.

Chapter II and III are designed to present the systematic study by periods of the evolution of rural administration from the background of administrative organizations and personnel, administrative laws, and rules and regulations. The author realizes that the study of the evolution of rural administration is of great importance because the present is the product of the past and no administrative system can be really understood without some knowledge of what it has been, and how it came to be what it is. The effectiveness of administration is also secured by the exercise of legal authority and is conditioned by the quality of such authority as surely as by the availability of administrative skills and the pattern of relationships.

Chapter IV on rural methods describes the development of Land Improvement Tax operations, rural reconstruction programs in the years B.E. 2485 and B.E. 2494, and national community development programs. The author endeavors to point out how rural methods can be made more efficient, effective, and economical. As a rule, the best development program to be embarked should be an integrated rural reconstruction program, involving all aspects of social and economic problems now prevalent in rural areas. Finally all of the developing countries have adopted community development as their national policy and are using such programs as ways to promote economic and social progress for their rural people. This is also true in Thailand. Community development programs call for the initiation of an integrated and well-balanced program of community development. Thailand has accepted community development as a national policy since 1958 as an integral part of the overall National Economic Development Plan.

Chapter V, Conclusions, attempts to give some basic suggestions for improving rural administration in Thailand. It is written separately with a view to drawing special attention to existing problems in Thailand; discovering the cause and the remedies available; and, finally, choosing the right and appropriate remedies.

In summary, looking toward a more effective administration, consideration should be given to organization, personnel, finance and methods. Rural administration in Thailand is still poor because organization tends to be haphazard; there is still a scarcity of qualified people to do the jobs that require special skills; job placement in many instances is unintelligent; motivation to do good work is lacking; and financial procedures are cumbersome; still there has been marked improvement and the future promises even more.

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