

สารนิพนธ์

THESIS ABSTRACTS

TO DEVELOP RURAL AREAS IN THAILAND BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

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The government is now, and has always been responsible for the improvement of conditions in rural areas. And this responsibility has fallen largely such on ministries as Agriculture, Public Health, Education and Interior. Each ministry is a specialist in its own field but villagers do not live in accord with the way in which ministries are organized. Life is an organic whole, it cannot be divided into compartments. When we speak of people in terms of poverty, ill-health, and illiteracy we cannot afford to overlook the inter-looking character of these needs. Education, economic development, and public health are so inter-related and mutually dependent that the success of one depends upon the success of the other. Though there has been improvement, the conditions under which most villagers live is still substantially one of poverty, disease and ignorance. Their lives leave much to be desired, for they are underhoused, underfed, under-clothed, and only half-literate. These conditions have become the main obstacle to economic and social development.

The National Community Development Program was made an integral part of the National Economic Development Program on October 20, 1960. Both plans share the common objectives of improving the standard of living and the social and cultural well-being of the people as a whole. The role of the Community Development Program is to develop villagers, the bulk of our population, to become self-reliant, responsive citizens, capable and willing to participate effectively in the task of developing all aspects of their communities and their nation.

The National Community Development Program was prepared by the Interior Department in 1959 and was promulgated as part of the National Economic Development Program in 1960. The ultimate objective of the program is the improvement and enrichment of all phases of village life.

Specific targets planned for the Community Development Program are:

- (1) Development of a coordinated inter-ministerial program of community development.

(2) Establishment of an effective training program for community development workers and related personnel.

(3) Establishment of an effective training program for village leaders.

(4) Providing stimulation with a view to inducing active participation in community action and self-help projects designed:

- (a) to introduce improved agricultural practices appropriate to the economy of a particular region;
- (b) to develop income-producing employment;
- (c) to create better sanitation and favorable conditions of community life;
- (e) to foster community cultural activities; and,
- (f) to set up needed public facilities.

(5) Increasing the effectiveness of government services in the villages by coordinating the work of representatives of the technical ministries.

To achieve the objectives mentioned above, emphasis needs to be placed upon some of the more important principles:

(1) The changing of the attitudes of village people is of strategic importance, no less than is their material achievements.

(2) The development of village leadership and the revitalizing of village organizations and institutions are indispensable to the success of the program.

(3) The development of village people to become self-reliant, responsive citizens capable and willing to assume full responsibility in developing themselves, their communities and the nation at large.

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