

THE RURAL YOUTH CLUBS EXTENSION IN THAILAND

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Thailand has numerous problems of rural development, particularly in communication, health, education, and agriculture. Although much progress has been made, in terms of the problems only a start has been made. And since Thailand is an agricultural country, her economy depends largely on the farmers. Rural youth must, thus, be prepared to become better farmers. The future progress, prosperity, and security of the country depends heavily on how well the youth of today are prepared for the responsibilities they must assume in the future.

Here are some of the problems that the rural youth are facing today. Many of them are out of school and idle most of the time, as agricultural work is more or less seasonal. Some after finishing school do not stay home but drift away to the cities to find employment, and since they are usually unskilled, they find it difficult to find jobs. As a result, these young people crowd into the cities adding to the problems of unemployment, juvenile delinquency, and the like. Those who have to stay home have little or no chance to develop themselves fully. One method of developing the rural youth is through rural youth clubs, a method effective in many parts of the world.

The Yuwa Kasikorn (Young Farmers) organization is organized in Thailand in order to help solve rural youth problems. The purpose of this movement is to provide opportunities to the young people on the farms and in the villages to be better farmers, to produce better products by using modern techniques, to be better homemakers, better citizens and better men and women. In other words, the program contributes to the development of Thailand's youth in many ways. And many of its aims and accomplishments are of non-technical in nature. The program promotes democratic living and working together for the benefit of all; it develops positive leadership and good citizenship; it minimizes juvenile delinquency; and it develops self-confidence and the ability to plan and work together.

This study on Rural Youth Clubs Extension in Thailand attempts to describe ways and means for government, foreign organizations and individuals to carry out this program. The study indicates some administrative problems in the extension of the Yuwa Kasikorn program. These problems are largely problems of administration, organization and personnel. An attempt has been made to give an idea of how to propagate the program in order to stimulate the interest of the public.

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