

Project Title : A Research of Social Welfare Policy in Response
to the Eastern Seaboard Development

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Abstract

The development of the Eastern Seaboard has caused a group of the people residing in the expropriated area of Mabchalood Village, Mabtapud District of Rayong Province, to emigrate to other areas. One group of the villagers still reside at the same location. The other group has emigrated to and purchased a piece of land near their own area because they have closer ties to that area. Most of them still participate in the same activity groups receive the same social services, e.g. both use the same Buddhist temples (wats) and the some schools. However, most of them felt insecure and anxious at the changing situation which will take place in the future. The research team was interested in studying the social welfare policies to respond to the impact of industrial development of the Eastern Seaboard Area, with the hope that the research findings will become

guidelines of social welfare service for the expropriated area both at the present time and in the future.

The research methodology includes : data collection by means of documentary research; a study of the implementation of both governmental and semi-governmental organizations involved with social welfare services both at the policy and at the practical (or implementation) levels at Rayong Province; and an intensive study of people in the Mabchalood Village II and IV.

The findings indicate that at the policy level, the Educational and Social Development Sub-Committee that is responsible for Social Welfare aspect, formulated policies in a wider context in order to be implemented at the practice or implementation level, in accordance with the changes occurred in the Project on Industrial Development of the Eastern Seaboard Area.

At the provincial level, various organizations prepared a variety of programs and projects in order to respond to the impact of development accorded with the governmental policies. However, most of them could not implement according to the formulated programs. This is due to the non-progressiveness of the Project on the Development of the Eastern Seaboard Area.

In terms of the emigration of the people from the expropriated area, the findings show that an amount of the population had emigrated from the expropriated area, most of whom purchased some pieces of land near their own communities. Only few of them migrated to some nearby provinces. It was also found that 18 households still resided in the expropriated area and still harvested their crops until the officers occupied the area and they would migrate from the area. Besides, only 2 families began to immigrate to the land estate allotted by Rayong Province.

The findings also indicate that most of the villagers who ingrated from the expropriated area and resided in the new communities have faced problems related to social welfare, e.g. unemployment, poverty, anxiety, and emotional insecurity.

The Research Team, therefore, proposed some recommendations related to social welfare of the population as follows :-

(1) The Government should consider social welfare of the people more seriously and concretely and should take into account the reality of the situation currently taking place in the community and in the future.

(2) Closer cooperations among organizations or persons responsible for Social Welfare, especially at the policy and the provincial levels, including the semi-governmental and voluntary organizations should be promoted, so that the same and correct data should be proposed and obtained. Then the data will be disseminated to the people at the same direction, in order that both the people who are affected or are unaffected by the expropriation will be ready for the changing situations.

The Research Team has a strong belief that the National Development that will lead to the progress of the Nation, should include both social and economic developments, including social welfare policies which can appropriately meet the needs and respond to the realities of the society. This is due to an undeniable fact that the development emphasizing only materialism or structuralism will deepen and widen the gap between the government and the population. But, if we take social welfare into account more seriously, such development will be effectively attained and it should optimally satisfy all parties concerned at large.