

Thesis Title: Program Evaluation of Chiang Mai Provincial  
Non-formal Education Center's Interest Group  
Activities

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M.Ed. : Nonformal Education

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### Abstract

This research is an evaluation of the Interests Group Project implemented by the Chiangmai Provincial Centre for Non-Formal Education. The objective of the research is to study the fit between the target groups' needs and expectations and the project aims, the appropriateness of project inputs, the process of implementation, the situations and problems, project achievement in terms of outputs as well as impact.

The researcher studied how the project was implemented by the Chiangmai Provincial Centre for Non-Formal Education in the year 1988, in 19 districts and 1 sub-district. Data collection methods consisted of interviewing 12 administrators and staff members of the Chiangmai Provincial Centre for Non-Formal Education, and sending questionnaires

to 168 learners, as well as 28 resource persons and district education officers. Statistical techniques used to analyze the data consisted of percentage, arithmetic mean, and standard deviation. Research findings are as follows.

The content of the curriculum used to teach the Interests Groups were usually identified and developed by the resource persons who conducted the groups. Learners had little participation in the process of curriculum development. Therefore, the knowledge acquired by the learners was neither relevant to the learners' needs nor expectation; consequently the project aims were not met. Project inputs such as curriculum, local supplies and materials, venue, length of course, resource persons' fees, and general regulations, were found to be appropriate. However, other inputs, such as management and personnel, were found to be inadequate. For example, there were insufficient staff members, resulting in insufficient follow-up and supervision. Public relations and co-ordination were also found to be inadequate and inefficient. With regards to project outputs and learners' application of knowledge acquired, project outputs of the Interests Groups could be classified into 2 categories, i.e., learners who actually completed and graduated from the course, and those who dropped out from the course but still had their names included in the list of course graduates. The first category of learners who actually completed the course could well make use of the knowledge and skills acquired during the course of study by applying them to their daily living and solving everyday problems. The second category of learners

who actually dropped out, on the contrary, could acquire too little knowledge to really put it to practical use. The impact of the project, on the other hand, emerged from direct project outputs; the research found that the learners as well as other community members changed some of their attitudes, values, beliefs and behaviours. Fewer villagers migrated from the community than before.