

Natchachaya Phewngern 2011: The Roles of Social Capital in Community Development at Ban Plakhaow Community, Plakhaow Sub-District, Mueang District, Amnat Charoen Province. Master of Arts (Social Development), Major Field: Social Development, Interdisciplinary Graduate Program. Thesis Advisor: Mr. Wirot Manopimok, Ph.D. 237 pages.

This qualitative research was to study role of social capital in community development. Selected samples using a specific selection technique with snow ball sampling technique. The data was collected by in-depth interview, participatory and non-participatory observation, and focus group discussion.

The results showed that Ban Plakhaw community was an old district. The development of community could be divided into 3 phases; formation phase, transformation phase, and adjustment phase. In formation phase, the community was subsistence agriculture. The community way of life was very simple and the social structure was based on kinship and seniority system. Later, in the transformation phase, the community production system changed to commercial agriculture. The way of life is dependent on money and the community self-reliance is very low. Many problems were arising in this period such as debt, poverty and natural resource degradation. Finally, in the adaptation phase, affecting from various problems and domination of capitalism, the community has been revitalized a lot of important social capital.

There were 3 different kinds of social capital that had important roles in community development; social capital as human resource, social capital as local wisdom and culture, and the social relation in community. This social capital embedded in community which based on community harmony, consideration, help, and norm had facilitated community cooperation, increased capability in co-working and enlarged community empowerment. The benefits of social capital resulted in the adjustment of community to solve their social, cultural, economic, and environmental problems. The community could rely on self-reliance, and finally lead to sustainable community.

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Thesis Advisor's signature