

Thesis Title : Women's Participation in Forest Resources

Development : A Case Study of Ban Huai Muang,  
Changwat Khon Kaen.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to investigate the general characteristics of the women who participate in the development of forest resources, social and cultural environment of the community, and factors related to the levels of women's participation in the development of forest resources.

The samples under study were 70 women of Ban Huai Muang who had been purposively selected. The qualitative research method was applied by using participation observation along with the quantitative method, using the semi-structured interviewing according to interview schedule and observation form. Secondary data were also used in the study. The study was conducted during the period

between March, 1990 - March, 1991

The findings are as follows.

1. Social and cultural environment of the community

Ban Huai Muang has its origin from migrants of various backgrounds. The immigrants moved in from many places with strong income and economic interest. They depend on the market production as their means of livelihood and have to rely on marketing system and outside capital. This causes the lack of cohesion which affects the community. There are also covert conflicts within and outside the community. People neither strictly observe traditions nor follow cultural norm. Instead, expediency seems to be the community's norm. It can, therefore, be concluded that the village's social structure is quite loose, lacking cohesiveness.

2. General characteristics of women who had participated in the development of forest resources.

Women who had participated in the development of forest resources could be classified into two groups according to the levels of their participation. Those belonged to the high-level participation group appeared to be in the greater number. They had larger family and lived in the village longer than the low-level participation group. However, age, income, land ownership, debt and the household size of the women of the high-level participation group were lower than the other group ; although both groups had different purposes in their acquiring debts.

3. Factors relating to the participation of the women in the development of forest resources

Factors which are significantly related to the women's different levels of participation in the development of forest resources, include income, participation in community development activities in the past, group membership, substantial and abstract expectation from community, means of receiving information regarding forest resources, level of knowledge concerning forest resources and level of awareness of the forest resources problems.

Factors which are not significantly related to the women's participation in the development of forest resources include age, land ownership, debt and source of socialization within the community.

It was found that seven factors under study showed positive correlation, i.e. past participation in community development activity, group membership, abstract expectation from the community, means of receiving information concerning forest resources, source of socialization within the community, level of knowledge of forest resources, and level of awareness of forest resources problems. However, income, expectation for substantial interest from the community and land ownership are factors which showed negative correlation to the level of women's participation in the development of forest resources.