

Thesis Title Group Organization and Potentiality in Problem
 Solving of a Northern Rural Community

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Abstract

This research aimed at studying the conditions and mechanics of group organization in a rural community; and to analyse the group capacity as a problem solving mechanic in the northern community. The researcher applied multi-techniques to collect data such as group discussion, interviews, participant and non-participant observation, including analyses of documents and related research.

The results of this study were as follows:

Groups in a community were emerged by grouping of people at all age levels and sex. Those groups could be classified into small sub-groups, permanent bigger groups, and particular groups according to the community's necessity, cooperations and maintaining of family and community institutions. Those groups were formulated based on the native culture, having temples as their centre and their own groups as the solution mechanism. Group activities, relating to social, economic,

political, and cultural aspects, were organized not only to solve problems, but also to promote learning and new knowledge exchanges. The internal group organizations were based on mutual trust and familiarity with relationships and networking at the village level, particularly the farmers' group and saving group. Those two groups had a significant role as a mechanism in community problem solutions.

The conditions of group organization within a community consisted of the community members' relationship, male and female roles, traditions and culture, community production system, serious problems affecting the community, conflicts, exploitations, learning, adjustment, and external organizations' supports.

The group organization's mechanisms consisted of the community leaders, members' participation, local wisdom, community resources, kinship system, community capacity, self-reliance, learning and benefits. Those mechanisms functioned significantly in group organizing. The "Sai-Ngern" community group organization was found being capable in solving community problems in agriculture, debt solution, low income and production, rice scarcity for self consumption in the community, exploitation, and conflicts. As a consequence, those problems helped strengthening the community and members in improving their life quality effectively.