

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : From Semi-Public and Semi-Private Administration to
Autonomous Public Organization: The Case Study of
Baan Paew Hospital, Samut Sakorn Province.

Student's name : Ms. Thasaneewan Ketkaew

Degree Sought : Master of Arts

Academic year : 1999

Advisory Committee :-

1. Asst. Prof. Wutisak Lapcharoensap Chairperson
2. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Chaichana Ingkawat
3. Assoc. Prof. Pornchai Theppunya

Baan Phaew Hospital in Samut Sakorn Province is a community hospital. The importance of this hospital came from the fact that it has been trying to answer the question as to how to give maximum services to the poor with relatively low expense. Leaders of this hospital - administrators, doctors, and its community leaders - believed that under the condition of governmental constraints, it was not possible to achieve its aims by relying on the assistance from the state alone. Instead, it should truly develop its real "community" aspect through the bond of local culture. Over the years, Baan Phaew Hospital succeeded to prove itself as a real community hospital. Its original official hierarchy was replaced by a joint public-private committee in administering the hospital. Its success was finally acknowledged by the ministry of public health and its model of organization development became a "pilot" project and a precedent for community hospitals around the country.

To study Baan Phaew Hospital, this research applied field survey method for data collection. A wide range of persons was interviewed, which included doctors, administrators, and community leaders. Besides, this research also made use of some documentary sources in order to understand why it has changed into an autonomous public organization.

Baan Phaew Hospital is the first community hospital which changed into an autonomous public organization. With such organizational improvement, it has increased the degree of flexibility. But this was possible not only because of its leadership, but also because of Baan Phaew Hospital's readiness to accept fundamental change.

There is great potential for Baan Phaew Hospital to succeed. However, hospital's administrators, patients, and the whole community should be continually supplied with sufficient information so that an appropriate decision could be made. Baan Phaew Hospital therefore exemplified a concrete case of bureaucratic reform.