

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : Civil Society in Ministry of Public Health : The Study
Through Biography and Leadership role of
Doctor Sem Pringpuangkaew

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Advisory Committee :

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The purposes of the research were (1) to study Doctor Sem Pringpuangkaew's role in the Ministry of Public Health, (2) study the relationship between Doctor Sem's moral leadership and the development of civil society in the Ministry of Public Health, and (3) study the formation of civil society as a process of interaction affected by a series of crises in public health ministry

Life history technique as narrated through auto-biographs and semi autobiographs, was used as a methodology. For the collection of data, the researcher also relied on the direct source of information from Doctor Sem Pringpuangkaew himself and form the conduct of interviews with related persons. A wide range of documents was also consulted in this study.

The researcher found that Doctor Sem Pringpuangkaew became a pillar of

moral values through his own personal struggle with the rigidity of the bureaucratic system in Thailand. Through the course of his own struggles, he informally inculcated a series of moral values among the younger generations of doctors in the Ministry of Public Health. He was known for his honesty, simplicity, sincerity, justice, and personal pride in serving the underprivileged. He was therefore referred to, in many sources of documents and verbal accounts, as a “highly esteemed person”.

The development of civil society in Ministry of Public Health took place in conjunction with the presence of a man with great morality and the establishment of an informal group of officials, called “the Club of Rural Doctors” and “the Rural Doctors foundation”. These informal network became a platform for younger doctors to work closely on the problems of irregularities, be it corruption or unjust conduct of those who exercised authority. Through a series of crises in the Ministry of Public Health, these organizations and Doctor Sem were linked by their congruence of moral standards.