

Abstract

The objectives in this study of “The Development of Social Partnership for Child Welfare” are to study the evolution of the concept of ‘Social Partnership’ both from the international and Thailand perspectives, also the approaches to the development of social partnership and the implementation of the social partnership concept in the administration of child welfare. This study used a documentary research approach with 137 data sources collected, analysed and categorized into appropriate sections, together with the review of case studies. The findings of this study are as follows.

The concept of partnership evolved from the business sector in 1970s and then was later adopted by other sectors i.e. governments, NGOs and service users in social welfare provision in 1980s. It started from separate efforts by each organization to the formation of collaborations, networks and then to a social partnership level - with each partner having different motives for taking part in. In Thailand, the concept was evident in the 3rd National Social Work and Social Welfare Development Plan (1997-2001). The development of social partnership has 3 steps which are the participatory agreement on policy and strategic plan formation, the coordination at operation, and the participatory evaluation. The review of case studies on the implementation of social partnership in the administration of child welfare demonstrated that the step of participatory agreement on policy and strategic plan formation in social partnership at macro level is essential. The social partnership project at meso level demonstrated an example of alchemical effect. Furthermore, the development of social partnership at micro level is found to be comparable to partnerships between organizations. In addition, this partnership benefits all parties involved and requires the endorsement of supportive policies at macro level.

Suggestions for further research include the studies on favourable incentives for cross-sector social partnership development, problems and barriers that affect social partnership development for each sector, and the development of social partnership for welfares of other groups in society.

