

Title : An Evaluation of the Development of People's Organization  
Project : An In-depth Study of the poor.

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This in - depth study had general aim to qualitatively  
the Development of People's Organization project (DPO project  
Community Development Department with technically and financially  
by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), partic  
case of the poor. Its specific aims were : (1) to study h  
physical, economic, social, and cultural conditions of the v  
relation to the successes of the DPO project, (2) to study the pro  
implementation of the DPO project and (3) to analyze the impacts o  
project toward the villagers in general and the poor and disadvant  
in specific.

As case study which aimed to evaluate the successes of  
project in development of the poor, this study had purposively sel  
Nhongyao, Tambon Suksawad, Amphur Praibung, Changwad Sisaket, where  
project was more successful in development of the poor, as a loca  
study. To collect as much qualitative and quantitative data as pos  
researcher had lived in the village for one month in order  
residential and participant observation. Almost all of villagers  
key-informant were indirectly and informally interviewed. The data

made daily record and checked to each other for evaluating the reliability and validity. Finally, the data were analyzed and reorganized into research report.

Ban Nhongyao is one of four villages in 9th group of villages (motee 9), Tambon Suksawad Amphur Praibung, Changwad Sisaket. The village locates about 33 kilometers far from the city of Amphur Muang Sisaket to the South along the Sisaket-Khunhan highway and 2 kilometers from this highway to the village. Ban Nhongyao was originally located in 1904 by several migrants from other villages where had been inadequate fertile land with high density of population. Whereas, Ban Nhongyao, at that moment, was ever wealthy of natural resources and contained of empty lands that were easy to be occupied. Time to time, the village were growing bigger. Presently, its population is 253 persons or 58 households. Its community is rather to be cluster type of settlement with about 30 rai of housing area and 1,170 rai of rice field.

Main occupation of people in Ban Nhongyao is rice farming. Although rice farming is always failure and low productivity, like any rice farm outside irrigated area of Northeastern, the people of Ban Nhongyao always Commit themselves to be reliance on rice farming. It involves in way of life of them not only as main source of family income, but also as source of several social and cultural activities. The people of Ban Nhongyao also have several minor occupations or off-season occupations, such as to weave clothes, to buy and sell buffaloes to buy and sell fishes, to buy and sell mangoes, for example. These off-season occupations, however, need some money to be invested and a group of people to corporate that group of the poor can

not be involved.

The Development of People's Organization project implemented in Ban Nhongyao since 1985. Three people's organizations directly involved: the Village Women Development group and Demonstration Center are Technically and financially supported, while Saving for Production group had been initially established and also by technical and financial support. However, there are several organizations that indirectly involve in the DPO project, such as Housewife Volunteer Group, Housewife Group of Hygienic Food Preparation, Village Youth Group. These groups are interrelated to each other, government and nongovernment agencies outside the village. The Volunteer Group and Housewife Group of Hygienic Food Preparation mainly emphasize on social development supported by Department of Agriculture, while the Rice Barter Group, Village Women Development Group, and Demonstration Center help to each other in terms of financial support. The group's activities and closely relate to the Community Development Department, local Administration Department, and Department of Agriculture Extension. The people's organizations which emphasize on social and economic development were not directly related to each other, but through the Village Youth Group.

It was observed that the DPO project had some impact on the villagers of Ban Nhongyao in general and on the poor and disabled groups in specific. In general, the DPO project, through its

organizations, was able to change some aspects of basic social and economic structure that supported the development of community. The project helped people's organizations to improve their administrative capacity and also helped the villagers to receive more information and knowledge on development of people's organization, community development, and so on. In specific of the poor and disadvantaged group., the DPO project had given some women, preschool children, teenagers, families with less than 10 rai of farm land, land leasers, and land labourers more opportunities to involve in the people's organizations and benefit their products. Especially, the Saving for Production Group or "Glum Sajja" was initially established for the poor and disadvantaged group.

However, in order to improve the people's organizations in Ban Nhongyao for being most useful to all villagers, the study had following recommendations:

(1) Almost all of people's organizations in Ban Nhongyao were in the stage of "rise and fall". It would be become to be permanently rising if the DPO project is extended and more emphasizes on technical support, particularly in organizational administration.

(2) Since it found that several people's organizations were weak in organizational administration, it should be given more training programs and workshops in that area including cash flow accounting, techniques to conduct meeting and techniques of information filing for example. Importantly, the training programs and workshops should be given by expert trainers who can train" villagers who are usually characterized by low education, different experiences and wide range of interests."

(3) To establish people's organization in the past was done in a hurry that might lead to an unstable of the organization, it would be helpful if the establishment of the new people's organization should be really from the villagers and for villagers by organizing than as "working group" to work on necessary information, such as villagers' needs and appropriate organizational management with closely given consultancy from CD worker.

(4) Although some poor and disadvantaged people had been given more opportunities to involve and benefit the people's organizations but not all of them, it should therefore be more campaigned for more involvement of those people and even established more specific people's organizations for them.