

NAMTIP POOMMAITONG : A SURVEY OF THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND
EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF SOAI-KHMER IN
BAN JANGMANG AND BAN CHAM, AMPHOE KANTHARALAK, CHANGWAT SI SA KET
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ISBN 974-579-228-4

The objectives of this study were to examine the quality of life and the educational needs to improve the quality of life of Soai-Khmer in Ban Jangmang and Ban Cham, Amphoe Kantharalak Changwat Si Sa Ket. This research applied the qualitative and quantitative by using methodologies. Field research was carried out for 3 months on observation technique, interviews and questionnaires.

Based on the findings of this study, it could be concluded that the Soai migrated from Atapue, Champasak and Sarawan provinces in Laos to settle down, during the reign of King Narai, in the Northeastern part of Thailand which is now Changwat Si Sa Ket, Surin and Ubon Ratchathani. The villages of Soai-Khmer in Ban Jangmang and Ban Cham, which were chosen to study, located near the Thai-Cambodian border in Changwat Si Sa Ket. Thus, they adopted the beliefs, culture, and dialects from Cambodia. Later, they have become Buddhists in the same way as the Thai in the Northeastern Part of Thailand.

Results of the survey indicated that the quality of life of Soai-Khmer in the villages studied was relatively low in every factors. Considering the physical factor, the Soai-Khmer didn't have sufficient supply of food. The children were not properly vaccinated and birth control was not well accepted. Relating to the intellectual factor, the majority of the Soai-Khmer attended school only until Prathom Suksa 4 and, due to their poverty, the parents could not send their children to further their study in secondary level. As for the economic factor, the majority of the people owned small number of land, have low income, being debt, and did not have enough money to spend for grain and fertilizier. In social factor, it was found that most of the Soai-Khmer participated in the election of the number of parliament but their decisions were based on personal factors. As for the moral factor, the majority of the Soai-Khmer are Buddhists; yet, they still maintain their animistic beliefs. The problems that the Soai-Khmer faced and needed most urgently help, as indicated by the village leaders, were those related to economic due to their poverty, as well as problems concerning food and drinking water.

Findings on educational needs to improve the quality of life, indicated that the parents needed more knowledge on moral issues; especially, diligence, honesty and discipline. Furthermore, most of them needed more vocational knowledge in order to increase their income. When asked the Soai-Khmer students, most of them indicated their needs of knowledge on social issues especially that will promote peaceful living in the village. Moreover, they were concerned with the moral knowledge on the same issues as indicated by the parents.