

DUANGPORN PRAJAROENWATANA : THE EDUCATION OF CHAO REUA CHILDREN :
A CASE STUDY OF CHAO REAU COMMUNITIES AT WAT-SOITHONG AND WAT
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The purpose of this research was to study the educational settings, problems and needs of Chao Reua Children at Wat Soithong and Wat Prasart-boonyawas.

The findings showed that most of the Chao Reua Children attended primary schools of the National Primary Education Office, the rest attended Bangkluai Elementary School. Only a few of them had never been educated. All these schools have taught along the curriculum of Elementary Education, B.E. 2521. Bangkluai Elementary School also additionally applied special curriculum of B.E. 2511 which emphasize subjects on handicrafts, agriculture and other local occupational training courses. Regarding the children's academic achievement, most of them achieved high performance. Aside from the schools, the children gain knowledge and information from television. Neither their families nor temples played important roles in providing knowledge.

Concerning educational problems, due to the fact that Chao Reua had to move quite often to earn their living, this in turn placed residential problems to the children during their study. Most of the children had to stay with their relatives. Some had to reside at the temples during their study. Only the children of Bangkluai Elementary School that stayed in the school because it is a boarding school. The itinerant life of Chao Reua also caused some of the children to be uneducated.

Concerning their educational needs, most of the parents wanted their children to get primary education. They also wanted the schools of the National Primary Education Office and the Bangkluai Elementary School to organize extra curricula activities relating to mechanics and electronics, so that they could earn their living in case they had no opportunity to further their study. Some parents hoped that their children would complete bachelor degree and the majority of Chao Reua still wanted their children to be government officials. They also wanted the State to set up another schools like Bangkluai Elementary School so that their children could have a place to reside during their study, which would minimize their unequal opportunities.