

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : Problems and Needs of Thai Buddhist People in the Rural Area and Leadership Power of Local Leaders : A Case Study of Pattani Province

Author : Pol. Lt. Col. Sapon Pansomsont

Degree : Master of Arts (Social Development)

Year : 2001

The study was conducted for the following purposes: 1) to reveal the problems and needs of Thai Buddhist people in the rural area of Pattani Province, and 2) to find out what levels of leaders they could rely on to help solve their problems. These leaders ranged from neighborhood, village, tambon leaders or the tambon administration organization to local politicians. Members of Parliament and government officials, The data were collected from Thai Buddhist household Leads or their spouses Or representatives by interviewing them. The households in the study were located in the rural areas in Muang, Nongjik, Yaring, Kokpho and Mae Lan district. Frequency and percentage were used to describe the data. The findings were briefly reported below.

1. The Thai Buddhist people were found to suffer most from the economic problem-uncertainty of income from the primary occupation. They also encountered the health problem on general-diseased or illnesses. Apart from the health problem, another social problem that they suffered was illegal drugs, Regarding the natural resource and environmental problem, they were faced with the problem of pollution and garbage and waste disposal. The most severe public utilities problem they confronted was poor road condition.

2. They said that could seek help from immediate people when they had problems, These people were neighbors, village leaders, tambon leaders, subdistrict headmen, village headmen, village committee members, and members of the tambon administration organization council.

(6)

Recommendations :

1. Meetings should be held at village and tambon levels so that community problems and activities can be discussed and analyzed and the people together can help solve local problems. The results of the discussions should be presented to the agencies concerned urgently.

2. Decentralization of authority, responsibilities and administration power to local administration organizations should be carried out urgently.

3. Budgets should be allocated to rural communities to alleviate their suffering, especially the grass root people, The community or local administration organizations should set a plan or projects to solve the local problems.

4. Government agencies in the rural areas that deal with forestry and agricultural community development, for example, should campaign for the correct method of garbage and waste disposal. They should cooperate with local organizations in setting a plan to manage the community environment.

5. Government officials at the tambon and district levels should urge local people to select their representatives to play a role in different levels of public administration. The representations must be selected from educated people who work for the benefit of the community and are widely accepted in that community.

6. Further research should be conducted on the same topic in other areas and the results should be presented to agencies concerned to solve the problems in rural areas.