

## ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : Background of Thai Buddhists in the Semi-urban and semi-rural Community and the Social Structure of the community : A comparative study of the Semi-urban and Semi-real community, The Rural community and the urban community in Pattani province.

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The study was conducted for the following purposes:

1. To reveal the social structure of the Thai Buddhist semi-urban and semi-real community in Pattani Province, or which system was prevailing-kinship, patronage or clique,
2. To find out whether the social structure depend on the people's background, and ]
3. To compare the social structure of the Thai Buddhist semi-urban and semi-rural community with that of other types of community : The rural and the urban communities

The samples of 186 Thai Buddhist people was selected by the multi-stage sampling technique. In-depth interviews were used to collect the data

It was found that the kinship system was mainly used in the semi-urban and semi-rural community, followed by the clique system and supplemented by the patronage system. The reason might be that the proportion of Thai Buddhists in the community was much lower than the Muslims. Close relationship in the families and good relationship with the relatives were this very important. They finely respected seniority and still conserved traditional and cultures very well. However, the social structure had an tendency to change to the clique system in the future when the community be come move urbanized.

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**Recommendations**

1. the government should promote the community to hold activities that conserve old traditional and culture as protection against capitalism.

2. As this research added more information on to the body of knowledge in social sciences, then government should grant a research fund for research of this type.