

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : The Power Structure and Leadership of
Communities : A Case Study of Ban Prasart-tai
Noon-soong District,
Nakhorn Ratchasima Province

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This is the fundamental research which aims at studying the structure of the society in terms of community power structure and general conditions of the community. The stages of power structure in community changes and the leadership of the government and private leaders are focused in order to find out an outstanding leader of Prasart-tai village, which is one of 16 villages of Moo 7, Tumbol Tarnprasart, Amper Noon-soong, Nakhornratchasima Province – where there are 16 villages.

The population of this study are 202 people from 224 families in Prasart-tai village, Moo 7, Tumbol Tarnprasart, Amper Noon-soong, Nakhornratchasima Province. The data have been obtained by questionnaires and in-depth personal interviews of the remarkable leaders in the village. Percentage, mean and standard deviation are employed for statistical analyses.

Results:

1. Most of the population studied are found married, Buddhist, women and age between 36-56 years old. They are local farmer villagers with Pratom 4 education background. They own more than 6 rai of land and earn approximately lower than 3,000 baht a month a family. The rest are ordinary people who earn approximately 3001 – 6000 baht.

2. The community power structure of Prasart-tai village has been found that it is governed by a combination of kinship, patronage and factional systems in order.

3. Men are found more acceptable for the leaders of the communities than women, and senior leaders are found more acceptable than the juniors. Moreover, the resident leaders are preferred more than the migrant ones. Education and ethic promoting and village developing are considered the important leaders' roles for the village.

4. It has also been found that the leading patterns and the level of leading are vitally important for the villagers to consider their village leaders.

Recommendations:

1. Because the community power structure of Prasart-tai village is the combination of patterns which the kinship system plays the most role, the villagers should have an opportunity to take part in the village administration. In addition, the government should support the village in terms of supervising and helping the village administrators as possible when it is necessary.

2. According to various capability of women, woman leaders should be promoted so that they can help develop the village economy as they are leaders of village career groups.

3. The government sector especially the village committee should take roles of local career promotion; whereas, the government should take market promoting roles such as finding markets for production, constructing village road for convenient transportation. This will help create sustainable economy in the community in the future.

4. Youth tour guides should be promoted, for there are several ancient places found in Prasart-tai village. There are many tourists visiting the village. This is one of the village income resource. If the youth tour guides are well-trained with proper knowledge of history background knowledge of the ancient places, they can help preserve the valuable ancient sources for their future touring income.