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KANYANAT AUNWAN : SOCIAL ADAPTATION OF MARGINAL COMMUNITY IN URBAN AREA. A CASE STUDY OF BAN BAKHAM NAIMUANG SUBDISTRICT MUANG DISTRICT KHONKAEN PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISOR : IAM THONGDEE. M.A., RUENGDET PANKHUENHAT, Ph.D. , 167 p. ISBN 974-661-952-7

The purpose of the research is to study the social adaptation of a marginal community in an urban area which arose from the expansion of a core city. The forms, characteristics and causes of adaptation, are studied, as are the nature of obstacles to adaptation and solutions. The study uses a qualitative approach to data collection including participant and non-participant observation of a target group of 332 households (351 families) who do not have documentation of their right to residency.

This study found that the residents of the community, especially women, have increased roles and access to benefits in social activities, such as family support, environment and health protection, informal education and formation of community organizations. It was also found that the chief factors for the community adaptation are the increased roles of government and non-government organizations in community development and some community residents' receptive attitude to development. Change can help improve residents' quality of life, however it may also cause some loss of community tradition and religious belief as well as some social and economic problems such as gambling, debt and divorce.

It is possible to conclude that social adaptation in the marginal community is an on-going process influenced by both community and outside factors. These factors deserve further consideration both for academic purposes and future social development.