

## Abstract

The study of community empowerment through the system of community work standards with the case study of Ban Suan Kluai, Ban Song Sub-district, Wiang Sa District, Surat Thani Province has its goals to study the process of community empowerment through the system of community work standards, and study the consequences after the community is certified by the community work standards. The study methodology is that of qualitative approach. The development leading team, development partners, as well as core-leaders in the community and nearby communities were the respondents of this study. Data analysis is carried on in narrative approach.

The results of the study revealed that, in strengthening of community empowerment through the system of community work standards in Ban Suan Kluai, the process from guideline as determined by development partners of several sectors is applied to use for this effort, with the Department of Community Development to serve as the main office for promotion and support of the community for self-development, by enrolling into the system of community work standards. It is the development that relies on the indicators for evaluation of the development towards empowerment. The results of the study have shown that formulation of the indicators is a new task that contains quite complicated details for the community, so some resource persons are still required to facilitate learning and provide technical assistance for the community, besides, the community also utilizes existing capital for development of themselves. The results of self-evaluation, launched by the development leading team in cooperation with the district evaluation committee, have prompted that it has passed the evaluation criteria and is certified by sub-committee of district evaluation and the provincial sub-committee of examination and certification, and has been given a certificate of honor to certify that the outcomes of self-development have passed the criteria of community work standards. Characteristics of community powerfulness as identified by the system of community work standards include: 1) Economic condition of the community – People practice savings, have secure occupation, have enough land to earn a living for self-sustaining, and have source of funding in the community. 2) Environment and natural

resource management – People realize the consequences of deforestation, so they turn to reforestation. Forest protection groups are formed for forest care and conservation. In addition, the community is able to deal with environmental problem within the community. 3) Health and hygiene – People are alert and turn to take care of their health, while no infectious disease exists in the community. 4) Religion, culture, and traditions – People have awareness in self-dependency, engage in reviving of culture and traditions, being grateful in return to the persons who have helped them, and have generosity and care for the elderly people. 5) Development of people in the community – Value is significantly placed on education, as well as collecting and transferring records of wisdom for use in the daily life. Learning and sharing takes place among people in the community through communication at various levels between people to people and group to group, which bring about transfer of wisdom by social process. 6) Community management and administration, with the focus on participative operation through group and network process, coordination for working with relevant offices, preparation of community database for use in development planning, arrangement of welfare in the community, and strong self-devoted leaders who have developmental knowledge and capacity 7) Safety and security in life and property, with the focus on quality of life development and protection by specifying rules and social measures together. After certification by the standards of community work was granted, core-leaders have increased confidence in development because the development process by the standards of community work has originated systematic learning, recognized reputable image, more social services, participation of members in the community and involvement of leaders in the development by jointly thinking and making decisions together for the implementation of community projects and various activities for community development. Community development through the system of community work standards in Ban Suan Kluai has also systematized the work into process, where the development results can be evaluated by the community on their own to bring them towards community of empowerment for sustainable self-reliance. However, it is mandatory to hold significance the enhancement of knowledge and understanding in evaluation system and formulation of indicators suitable for the community.