

ABSTRACT

Title: Hierarchical Basic Needs of the Karen Hilltribe in
Doi Inthanon National Park Area, Jomthong District,
Chiang Mai Province, Thailand

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The objectives of this research were to investigate personal, economic and social characteristics and basic needs of Karen hilltribe in Doi Inthanon National Park Area, Chiang Mai province. The data were collected by means of interview schedules from 77 family headmen drawn by simple random sampling, decoded and analyzed by the SPSS/PC⁺ computer program.

The results revealed that most of the respondents were male, 43.34 years old on average, married, did not have formal education and had an average of 4-6 family members. Most of their occupation was rice farming on their own land. They lived in their own homes with three meals daily. More than one half of the total families occupied lands, with land rights, at an average of 5-10 rais per family as well as less than 5 rais of lands without land rights. Their sources of incomes were many;

the most popular source was rice farming but trading fetched the greatest income, at an average of 27,500 baht per household. The income obtained from gardening and raising pigs and chickens averaged 18,350 baht; from rice farming, 17,800 baht; and from farm working, 12,684 baht. An average income per household was 24,461 baht.

The basic needs were composed of 52 items most needed, 27 items much needed, 8 items less needed, and 4 items least needed.

The overall analysis of the respondents' basic needs demonstrated 3 most needed categories: environment protection, community development, and education for all. The 5 much needed categories were ethics, happy family, good health, more income, and housing improvement.