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SAYAN YAISAMSAN : POLITICAL FACTION AND PARTICIPATION IN
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT : A CASE STUDY OF IN A NORTHERN THAI VILLAGE.

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This study focused on the political faction participating in assemblage development to explain political behavior of a northern Thai village, which faced less political faction problems than people in other parts of Thailand. An Anthropological approach was used to study a village in Chiang Mai. The data presented was collected from fieldwork between October 1996 to December 1997. The aims to this study were factors and processes contributing to political factions which influence and impact social participation of people in community development. Because social development needs the participation of people in a society, factors and influences should be recognized as important in the development of political factions usually and their contributions to society.

The study found that political factions are nonpermanent political conflict groups in villages. They are activated in disputes over the control of resources and men and are recruited according to diverse principles. These principle of recruitment may rest upon kin ties, patron-client relations, religious or politico-economic ties or any combination of these. They are mobilized and made effective through an authority structure of leadership and henchman, whose rewards in many cases depend upon the leader's discretion.

Political faction in the village showed a significant impact upon the characteristics of people's participation in development activities. The more dominant the political faction the less the people, especially the poor, could in a real sense participate in development activities. Political factions thus constitute a major constraint upon the opportunity of local people to partake and gain benefits in development activities.

Conclusion reconvened now these results suggest further research on political factions their influence on community development is Required.