

Thesis Title: Educational Policies and Management of the Hill Areas

Education Project

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Abstract

This research was aimed to 1) to analyze the Thai government's general policies on the hilltribes and the management of education programmes for these minority groups; and 2) to analyze the specific policy on the Hill Areas Education Project as well as the project management. The aim of the study is to propose, based on the Hill Areas Education Project, appropriate policies and education management approach for the hilltribes. For this study, data were collected on the one hand through a review of documents, articles, analyses, dissertations and theses pertaining to the policies, concepts, and practical approaches to solving hilltribes-related problems and/or to providing education programmes for the hilltribes. On the other hand, interviews were conducted with those who are involved in the Hill Areas Education Projects, and observations were also made on the actual implementation of the project in the field. All the data from

Various sources were analyzed through the process of categorization, making relevant connections, interpretation, and induction. The data are presented in a descriptive and analytical format.

Findings from the study reveal that, while the government's policies on the hilltribes show some considerations of these people's quality of life, they do not really respond to the hilltribes' way of life. They still ignore the hilltribes' basic rights, and they do not allow these people to make decisions concerning their own lives. Besides, the government's as well as the general public's attitudes towards the hilltribes have not really changed: the hilltribes are still regarded as "the nation's and the society's problems". At the same time, the government's policies are not in line with popular concepts on the development of hilltribe communities, which demand that the government acknowledge the hilltribes' abilities, traditional wisdom, and basic human rights.

The policy and principles of the Hill Areas Education Project, on the other hand, do respond to the hilltribes' way of life as well as are in line with popular concepts on the development of hilltribe communities, which value human dignity. The actual implementation of the project in the field, however, still need to be improved in terms of quality development, and continued and regular monitoring.