

Independent Study : Roles of the Government in Solving the
Problems of Prostitution : A Comparative
Study between Phayao and Chiangrai
Provinces

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Abstract

The purposes of this study were : 1) to compare the problems of prostitution in Phayao and Chiangrai Provinces ; 2) to study social, economic, and political factors concerned with the problems of prostitution; 3) to study the roles of government in solving the problems of prostitution in Phayao and Chiangrai Provinces. Data were collected from government administrators at the administrators' monthly meeting in Phayao and Chiangrai Provinces and from 50 prostitutes who had asked for advice at the Phayao and Chiangrai Provincial Public Health offices.

The findings were as follow :

1. Social factors - value and consumerism; economic factors - poverty and income; - and political factors - the

policy of government toward the "business" of prostitution and the role of government official caused women to become prostitutes.

2. The roles of the government officials in both provinces both in policy and its implementation are similar. However, the implementation of this policy may be based on individual government officials. Although the government said that the problems of prostitution are very important, there is no department responsible for solving these problems. The insufficient budget and the prevailing attitude of officials slow down the solution for the problems of prostitution. Thus, the solution is done gradually rather than urgently.

3. The government officials solved the problems of prostitution in their own provinces by : disseminating information, knowledge, and education to the children in their area ; promoting vocational training in order to raise income ; instructing the children to observe good moral values; promoting health care and preventing diseases ; preventing deception, compulsion and ruthless, ill-treatment and exploitation. However, their work has been mostly based on customary procedure. Therefore, if the government is not serious about trying to solve these problems, prostitution will remain a severe problem in the future.