

Independent Study:

Evaluation of The Project

**on Women Development : A Case
Study of Welfare and Vocational
Training Center for Northern W**

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Abstract

It is a known fact that the girls who are lured to prostitution, mostly come from the northern region. The genesis of this problem is the high level of unemployment among northern women which has made these women vulnerable to enter the old lucrative profession. How to solve this interrelated problem is of great concern and importance to Thai government.

As a counter measure to fight the growing problem of prostitution, Department of Public Welfare, Ministry of Interior, sets up the Center for Northern Women's Welfare and Vocational Training in Lampang province in 1979. According to the official expectation, the offerings of vocational training in 10 most useful disciplines to low income women who live in 16 northern provinces could divert and alleviate the existing trend of prostitution.

The study titled "Evaluation of Women Development Project: A case study of the Center for Northern Women's Welfare and Vocational Training" is aimed at assessing the Center's performance in attaining its aforementioned objectives.

Data which are used in this study are derived from field questionnaires of which the respondents are the Center's former students. The size of the sample is 250 former students all of whom are in the twenty-fifth class which receives the vocational training from October 1991 to March 1992. The questionnaires are conducted 3 months after the completion of the training.

The completion of vocational training brings many changes to the lives of these Center's former students and these changes are for the betterments. Details of the findings can be summarized as follows:

1. Changes in types of work. The trained women get new and better jobs which are in line with their trained vocational skills.
2. Changes in workplace. The new and better jobs enable the trained women to have changes in workplace mostly by moving from rural to urban areas especially to Bangkok.
3. The obtained vocational knowledge is useful to the trained women's occupations as it has been earlier expected.
4. The new and better jobs bring about satisfactory increase in income.
5. The fringe benefits are also increased.
6. The supplementary knowledge in family planning, health education and Thai culture is also useful to the trained women.
7. With the supplementary knowledge, the trained women

can easily and successfully adjust themselves to the modern working environments.

8. The increase in income enables the trained women to cope with the ever rising costs of living.

Thus, the completion of vocational training at the Center has made many changes for the betterments in lives of these northern women.

The achievements of the Welfare and Vocational Training Center for northern women in Lampang province have made Department of Public Welfare to consider the policy to set up vocational training centers in other regions of Thailand of which the one in the Northeast is the most probable.

However, the study would like to propose a recommendation to improve the Center's performance, that is: in addition to offering vocational training, new courses which could be of great importance in self adjustments to modern working environments, such as labour law, social security law and health education should also be offered.

The setting up of women's vocational training center in Lampang province has created a model with a method of how to solve the problem of unemployment among northern women in a very efficient and effective way. The rights and wrongs which are indicated in this study would be priceless example to the later similar projects.