

Thesis Title Islam and Social Change : A Study of
the Impact of Urbanization on the Religious
Way of Life in the Muslims Communities of
Saikongdintai, Minburi.

Name Prapa Siangsanoh

Degree Master of Arts (Comparative Religion)

Thesis Supervisory Committee
Oon Mantawi, B.A. , M.A.
Boon Ketutssa, M.A.
Attajinda Deepadung, Ph.D.

Date of Graduation 30 November B.E. 2535 (1992)

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to make an analytical study of the impact of urbanization on the religious way of life of the muslims' community in Saikongdintai, Minburi. In face of the urbanization, the community has adapted, on the one hand, the socio-economic way of life to cope with the need of modern way of life and to keep their Islamic heritage in term of Islamic rituals, institutions, and morality, on the other. The persistence of religious commitment has been uniquely conveyed through the active leadership and its religious organization.

The research is documentary and relavant field. The documentary research is the review of the official documents of

The District authority and some Islamic teachings in the sources, Holy Qur'an and Al-Hadith. The research gives us information of historical and demographic settlement of the community as well as its scriptural reference for religious practices. The field research is conducted by interview and observation techniques, and is directed to the community leaders and four selected groups of its members, i.e. farmers, employers, government officials and rich land-owners.

The findings of this documentary research indicate the community has been found since the early Bangkok period - some 200 years ago as the community of immigrants, moved from their home land in Kedah and Pattani, Southern Thailand. The community has been in transition from a simple independent peasant society bound by the religious activities it became more differentiated and dependent on modern economy. The community members who once had been mostly the owners of vast pieces of land have lost their lands and were more oriented toward modern education and industrial employment. The trend is in tune with the markedly urbanization and modern way of life which has been rapidly grown since the past two decades. The pressure of the trend has laid considerable impact on its religious practices, consciousness and the felt need for religious revitalization.

To sum up, urbanization has laid significant impact on the adjustments of the community. Its adjustment in terms of religious practices is saliently far-reaching. This trend is to keep the religious heritage which is effectively conducted through the mechanism of the community leaders.