

Abstract

The study of development the social capital for living with the sufficiency economy ways is a case study of HOUY-TON-TOM Village, Tombol HOUY-LAN, Amphur DONG-KOM-TAI, Phayao Province aims to study social capital development needed for self-sufficiency economy of residents in Houy Ton Tom Village, Houy Lan, Dok Kham Tai District, Phayao Province. In this study, the researcher applied the qualitative research approach by using constructive interview with population groups consisting of members of five committees, including 1) women's group of five Houy Ton Tom Villages, 10 each, 50 in total 2) nine members of farmers' group in Houy Lan farm, Moo 4 3) 19 members of paper flowers craftsmen group, Moo 6 4) 11 members of legging-cloth flowers and Japanese paper flowers craftsmen group 5) 14 members of savings for production group, Moo 13. The interviewees were 103 in total, of which 13 leaders provided in-depth interview.

The study found that the environment/geography of Houy Ton Tom Village in general is plain area in the central. The village is surrounded by mountains in the east and the south. There is the "Houy Ton Tom" creek run through the village, which is suitable for farming. Rice farming is the main job for villagers. Out of farming period, some villagers grow corn, nuts or vegetables in their rice paddy fields to avoid the land being useless.

The Houy Ton Tom villagers have strong social interaction as they are related like a family. Their way of life have pretty much been supportive to each other. The abundance of natural resources is also a key factor which enable them to be generous and helpful. In addition, the beliefs in the house ghost, local traditions and ceremonies which allow the villagers to meet and do some activities together, has helped enforcing their acquaintanceship. Such way of life has an element of economic capital which was formed by professional groups and non-professional groups within the village or the "social capital of the Houy Ton Tom Village".

The study found that at initial stage, the gathering of members of each group was led by both their formal and informal group leaders. The leaders invited villagers to group for doing both public and business-oriented activities. The leaders' individual strength was a key factor to attract villagers to join in and sustain the groups.

The study of social capital development of Houy Ton Tom village found that it has been developed by expanding the social capital, including 1) the add ups of one group has resulted in the forming of another group 2) the increase of group members which can be seen in the social capital development of the paper flowers craftsmen group, Moo 6 that they later formed the "loaning groups for the paper flowers craftsmen group, Moo 6"

The study on social capital development for self-sufficiency economy of Houy Ton Tom village found that the group which has developed their way of life according to the self sufficiency principle was the farmers' group in Huay Lan farm, Moo 4. The development stages were as follows: 1) creating interaction within the village, trust building and leadership 2) grouping of villagers through the community' liquor brewing to raise fund for group members 3) communicating with public and private sector, as well as nearby villages 4) the inflow of capitalism obstructed the community's liquor brewing which finally led to the stop of this activity 5) revising the lesson learned from the past 6) applying the self-sufficiency principle in line with villagers' way of life by initiating the group savings and organic fertiliser activities

Suggestions for the government are that the government should have clear policies in increasing the strength of social capital already existed in the villagers for further development. The family unit should become the "social capital" for youths both in the dimension of being "capital" of social capital, as well as in the dimension of being "social" of social capital. Educational institutes should encourage and build network of the institutes, which have social capital element for people in the community.

Religious institutes should encourage social capital, which support the self-sufficiency principle. As for local organisations, they should play a major role in developing social capital already existed in the community and further expanding as a strong network.

Suggestions for the next study are that to study the leadership building process for group leaders which could lead to social capital development, to study group process and the changes which provoke the thought on self-sufficiency, to study relationship between group leadership and continued studies and social capital development, to study the form of community work which create awareness on self-sufficiency way of life.