

Independent Study : Factors of Community Participation in Narcotic
Prevention and Problem Solving : A Case Study
of Ban Mae Sa Mai, Tambon Pong Yeng, Amphoe
Mae Rim, Changwat Chiang Mai.

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Abstract

This study examines the major factors which influence community-based drug abuse intervention activities through a case study of Ban Mae Sa Mai Tambon Pongyeng, Amphoe Mae Rim, Changwat Chiang Mai.

The researcher's hypothesis is that the positive factors which influence community-based drug abuse intervention activities are:

- Familiarity of villagers with (government) officials.

- The amount of confidence villagers have in their leaders' knowledge and the leader's understanding of the issues relating to drug abuse.

- Treatment of drug addicts.

- Respect or fear of persons of higher status.

Data was gathered through interviews and observations. The questionnaire was given to two groups.

1. Thirty-five members of Mae Sa Mai village were divided into 4 groups

1.1 Five elderly leaders of the village.

1.2 Ten members of the village committee.

1.3 Ten members of the village self-defence volunteers corps.

1.4 Ten members of the village youth group.

2. Detailed interviews were later conducted with representatives of the four sub-groups above.

Results:

Members of the community influenced community-based drug abuse intervention activities in several different ways:

- By sharing labor in community building projects.

- By participating in meetings.

- By persuading their neighbors (to fight against drug abuse)

- By taking the initiative on their own.
- By becoming members of the village committee.
- By following-up on community activities.
- By donating money to help others.
- By donating materials to help others.
- By becoming leaders in the village.
- By participating in other activities.

Based on this study, the most influential factors were participation in meetings and helping and persuading others.

Factors which influence participation in community-based drug abuse intervention activities:

- Respect or fear of persons of higher status.
- Confidence in the ability of village leaders.
- Closeness to and familiarity with, (government) official
- Dissatisfaction with current state of affairs in the village.