

## Abstract

The study on "Community Readiness to Organize Welfare for the Elderly: A Case Study of Nawaa Community, Jana District, Songkhla Province" aims at exploring viewpoints concerning welfare organization for the elderly in the community, participation in the organization, and preparation for the readiness of Nawaa Community. It is a combination of survey and interviews with community leaders. The sampling group consists of 150 community residents aged between 25-59 who answer the questionnaire and 3 community leader who are interviewed.

The majority of the sampling group are females aged between 41-48 with primary educational attainment, married, and earn monthly income between 5,001-10,000 Baht. Their main occupation is agriculture while joining the activities concerning community welfare. Their viewpoints on the organization of welfare for the elderly are collectively highly positive in all aspects, especially the administrative aspect which requires mutual awareness of being the owner of the Fund. As for viewpoints on participation, the respondents are also highly positive while they only moderately agree that community members must collectively monitor the administration of the Welfare Fund.

With respect to viewpoints on the preparation for the readiness to organize welfare for the elderly in the community, the sampling group agree without reservation in all aspects, especially the community administration holding the motto "Good System, Good Regulation, Rich Morality", while Community Council members agree only moderately. Community leaders in their interviews inform that the community has prepared for the readiness to provide welfare for the elderly by encouraging community members to save money for their aging days, by providing income-generating jobs and providing shelter for homeless elderly in the community.

Policy recommendations by the study are that the Government should provide appropriate jobs and income for the elderly, disseminate knowledge concerning the elderly to tambon administrative organization, and encourage working-age community members to seek more knowledge in order to become aged persons with quality. At

community level, preparation should include the provision of housing for needy elderly, the establishment of Welfare Fund, and incentives for participation of community members in all stages. Besides, community members should be motivated to practice savings to prepare themselves toward aging.