

ABSTRACT

Abstract of dissertation submitted to the Graduate School of Maejo University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Rural Planning and Development

**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION'S STRENGTH FOR SOLVING HMONG'S
NARCOTIC PROBLEMS IN CHIANGMAI PROVINCE, THAILAND**

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This study aimed to examine the strength of community organizations in solving Hmong's narcotic problems in Chiangmai, Thailand in relation to social contexts and community cultures to eventually present structural concepts of a community organization appropriate for solving Hmong's narcotic problems. The data used in this qualitative research was collected from two research sites i.e. one with a community organization successfully combating narcotic problems and the other with a community organization lagging behind, by means of participating and non-participating observation, informal and in-depth interview as well as from relevant documents. The field study was conducted in a duration of fourteen months. All data were then categorized, analyzed, interpreted, synthesized and presented in a logical descriptive form.

The research findings revealed structural features of community organizations in solving Hmong's narcotic problems in Chiangmai as follows:

1. Application of local wisdom to solving narcotic problems.
2. Formation of community organizations by local people themselves.
3. Existence of a learning process and community network for solving narcotic problems.
4. Continuous surveillance leading to decreasing narcotic problems.

The components influencing the strength of community organizations in solving narcotic problems were:

1. Social-cultural contexts i.e. prevalence of narcotics, community spirituality and mutualism.
2. Community organization components i.e. formation and development of community organizations, based on mutual problems, public hearing, finding solutions to problems, simple structure of organization, job delegation, formulation of rules, use of social measures to improve people's behavior, recognized leaders, dealing with conflicts face to face, sharing information and disclosing secret behaviors.

The structural concepts of a community organization appropriate for solving Hmong's narcotic problems in Chiangmai should include the following elements:

1. Creation of local movement to enable local people to realize problems resulting from narcotics as well as importance of mutualism which will result in greater strength to solve community problems.
2. Encouragement of group formation by means of public hearing to solve mutual problems, use of social measures to set up regulations and allowing former wrongdoers to participate in solving narcotic problems as they will be able to provide recent information to the organization.
3. Strengthening of a community organization by employing local wisdom; self management of the community organization; availability of a learning process and network on narcotic problems. All these will result in eradication of narcotics in the community.