

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

A CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT OF SHORT COURSE TRAINING IN RURAL ADMINISTRATION DEVELOPMENT FOR THE MEMBERS OF TAMBON ADMINISTRATION ORGANIZATION IN THE UPPER SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF THAILAND

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The purposes of this research were 1) to study background information to develop a rural development administration training course for the members of Tambon Administration Organizations (TAO) in the upper southern provinces; 2) to improve the training course to be compatible with the background information obtained; and 3) to evaluate the course and to make further improvements. The research was conducted in 3 stages:

Stage 1 : study of background information for course development

Stage 2 : development of a model curriculum

Stage 3 : implementation of the course to evaluate and to make further
improvements

Research results :

Stage 1 : Study of background information for course development

The field survey was conducted with a set of questionnaires eliciting needed data from 228 leaders who were Tambon Council (TC) members on the process of transforming into the councils of Tambon Administration Organizations in 1997 in Krabi, Chumporn, Nakornsri thammaraj, Pang-nga, Phuket, Ranong and Suratthani. Related literature and research were also exhausted. Most of the respondents were 42-50 years old, had finished the fourth grade of compulsory primary education, served as village leaders and also as TC members at the same time for over 4 years. Their annual incomes were 30,000 Baht at the most. After being officially recognized, only 50 percent of the respondents participated in the training to serve in the new positions more effectively. Their problems concerning knowledge, working and topics of training needed were as follows:

1. A moderate level of problems concerning understanding of roles and duties of leaders in budget administration, work supervision, evaluation of implementation of the Tambon Council Act, local leadership, program planning, and program coordination.

2. A moderate level of problems concerning laws related to implementation evaluation, work supervision, budget administration, coordination of project planning and local leadership.

3. A high level of local leaders' needs for training in the TAO Act and the TC Act 1990, budget administration, work supervision, local leadership, evaluation of coordination in Tambon development planning and natural resources conservation.

The results of the study on related literature and research revealed that local leaders had problems concerning knowledge and individual skills in rural development administration, local leadership, working in accordance with assigned roles and duties, and relationship with people and related agencies.

Stage 2 : Development of a model curriculum

1. The model curriculum based on the background information obtained was designed, consisting of (1) problems and needs, (2) course objectives and (3) training units.

2. The model curriculum was checked three times with the use of the Delphi technique by 30 specialists and found to have a high level of suitability and compatibility.

Stage 3 : Curriculum evaluation and improvement

The curriculum was implemented in training 31 samples of leaders, with the use of pretests and posttests. After the training, the leaders were found to have a greater amount of knowledge in the structure, roles, functions and TAO administration, local leadership, and principles and procedures of rural development administration. Their achievements of knowledge, attitudes and skills were also found to be higher, at a significance level of .05 for every training unit. The evaluation indicated suitability and compatibility of the curriculum with its objectives, and thus could be used for the training of TAO members.

Recommendations : Government agencies, private sectors and community organizations relevant to potential improvement of TAO members should provide training to people so that they will be aware of authority, roles and functions of TAO as well as how to join with TAO in Tambon development. In addition, the government should formulate a policy for local administration organizations to create community learning processes, thus leading to self-dependence and sustainable development.