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NATTHAPON ASSWISESSIWAKUL : THESIS TITLE. HOUSING SOLUTION FOR RAILWAY TRACK SQUATTER COMMUNITY IN NAKHONRATCHASIMA : A CASE STUDY OF BILEY-LANGJUANPHUWA COMMUNITY , THESIS ADVISOR : ASSO.PROF.CHAWALIT NITAYA, Ph.D , THESIS COADVISOR : KULDOLDIBYA PANITCHPAKDI, Ph.D , 303 pp. ISBN 974-03-1427-9.

The Biley-Langjuanphuwa community is a squatted community in the land along the railway tracks and behind the governor of Nakhonratchasima's house. The State Railway of Thailand, Nakhonratchasima Branch aims to this community as a pilot project for solving railway tracks squatter problem by using the participation of involved parties. The aims of this research were to study the housing solution process for the Biley-Langjuariphuwa community, the changes of community participation, the problems, and limitations of the process. Economic and social conditions, physical characteristics and community settlement were also investigated in this research.

The research experimented the concept of "Building Community Capacity" for housing solution. To do the study, the researcher had participated the process of community's housing solution by urging, suggesting, co-operating and supporting in order to encourage community members to identify problems, and to initiate and implement solutions by themselves. Secondary data, observation, semi-structure interview, diary, or memos, and photographing were also applied for this project.

This study, between 24 June 2001 until 31 January 2002, found that there were two types of housing solutions initiated coincidentally: 1) The housing solution by external parties; 2) The housing solutions by community itself. The collaboration of the researcher and the headman of nearby village was a major factors in creating two solutions.

The study found that the external parties became involved because of encroachment, the community's lack of negotiation power and desire for immediately tangible results. An informal relationship between the parties and the persons in authority are the main factor to make the process go forward. The constrains of the process were the delays of procedure of State Railway of Thailand, lack of officer's attention, and lack of understanding person. It showed that the process of Building Community Capacity for housing solution started when community realized that they must solve their problem themselves. Insecurity of eviction was the main reason to motivate the people to solve their housing problem. The effect of problem, community leaders, coordinators, and problem solving skill were essential for this process. The constraints of the process were the difficulty in finding respected community leaders, lack of knowledge about solution process management.

To solve the Biley-Langjuanphuwa housing problem by using concept of the building community capacity, the organization should emphasize the trespass status of the people. In addition, they should have opportunity to solve their problems by themselves, other related organization must support them with information and essential resources. In further studies, the researcher should have more experience in action planning and selected communities with different characteristics from: Biley-Langjuanphuwa.

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