

Thesis Title Learning Process that Influences Occupation Change

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Abstract

The purposed of this the research were to study the learning process in occupation changes from agriculture to handicraft producing and also focus to identify factors leading to the changes in a rural community. A qualitative method – non – structured interview, observations, and group discussion – was employed in data gathering.

The findings revealed that the learning process in occupation changes has been gradually transferred from Buddhist monk's expertise who practiced producing umbrellas from Mynmar a hundred years ago. Other monks and some villagers who were interested in handicraft producing went to practice the umbrellas producing from the monks for uses and then transferred through generations within the households of each family.

In 1939 when the villagers faced with agriculture problems, they could not plant their crops due to lacking of water, there were more debts. The villagers, thus, sought seriously for new occupations. The umbrella producing then became the popular occupation since the villagers found that they can make more money from selling them. Thus, more and more people have practiced umbrella producing ever since. The learning process of a new occupation in those days began informally that can be drawn as: setting of new occupation

awareness, group short-term practicing from local wisdom, self-practicing at home, transferring knowledge and skills to off-springs for labor assistance, then expanding to relatives and finally, to the whole community. After then, the community school has put the know-how in extra-curriculum activities respectively.

The factors that affected sustainable changes to handicraft producing were both intrinsic and extrinsic factors. The relationships between the new occupation and local wisdom and better incomes were classified as intrinsic factors, while more tourists, good transportation and extra-curriculum activities were extrinsic factors respectively.

However, there are some impacts of this change, such as, to social structure, family relationships. Elder respect has been declined, people pay less attentions to community problem solving cooperatively, and there has been increasingly competitive within the community, as well as more debts in handicraft investment.