

# Improving the Quality of Life and Social Development of the Donaranyick Community in Praksriracha District, Chainat Province

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## Abstract

The purposes of this research were: 1) To study the life quality of the Donaranyick Community. 2) To prepare the community plan for improving quality of life, 3) To prepare an action plan to guide improvements in the quality of life at the Don Aranyik Community, Phraek Si Racha Tambon, Sankhaburi Amphoe, Chainat. A purposive sampling method was used to collect a sample comprised of 60 households; community members assisted to derive the sample. The data collection was conducted by interview, questionnaire and AIC techniques. The data were analyzed by means of percentage, means and standard deviations. The results of the study were as follows: 1) Opportunities in education and professions of youth. In Sankhaburi Amphoe the educational system provides levels of study from kindergarten, primary, secondary and university levels. 2) Physical development of the community. Electricity, water supply, and roads are available; irrigation canals are also present for farmers. 3) Solutions for poverty. Committees of local sectors and headman work with the local community, the temple, and educational institutions (i.e. Chandrakasem Rajabhat Center). 4) Accessibility services of the government. The decentralized local government works with the district administration and the local government organizations. 5) Accessibility services of local and government sectors. There are a lot of services available to support the local community. 6) Community participation by vocalizing opinions. “Yiam Ban Yam Yen”, which is the community forum, is held to criticize and plan the community plan every year. In addition, the community action plan was followed up by the addressing quality of life and community issues. The first priorities were the “Purposive Ground Project” in village 7 and the “Rice Drying Ground Project” in village 8. The action plan covered the meetings, public relations, as well as the elderly community activities. Furthermore, the “Purposive Ground Project” and the “Rice Drying Ground Project” were opened for the community members, Chandrakasem Rajabhat Center and Arunyig temple. The levels of satisfaction of the projects were at the high level for every item.

**Keywords:** development, quality of life, society, strength, community plan

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## Introduction

In 2002, Chandrakasem Rajabhat University (Chainat Campus) was established as an adjunct campus for Chandrakasem Rajabhat University by using 500 hectares of public land of Don Aranyik Community, Phraek Si Racha Tambon, Sankhaburi Amphoe, Chainat. Concurrently, Mr. Araya Wiwatwanich, the former governor of Chainat, supported expansion of educational opportunities to address the needs of local people. In Chainat, many residents and officers wanted to study further with undergraduate education. Moreover, they desired more accelerated studies in order to fit their studies with their projected career paths. Therefore, the governor found this place suitable to open the university and provide convenient education proximal to Chainat (Chainat Campus, 2011).

The Chainat branch of Chandrakasem Rajabhat University has already successfully and renovated the area. From an examination of 316 acres of the university's land, it was found that 43 people invaded the land for their dwellings and used the area for farming. A committee, appointed by the marshal of Sankhaburi Amphoe from the Department of Public Sankhaburi Agricultural Land, worked with the headman to evaluate the entire property. To pay compensation and clear out the area, the total budget of 89,000 baht was required. Pravost Sinpattanchai, the abbot of Sa Mai Daeng temple, was the associate dean and donated at Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives. After receiving compensation and the following demolition, most of invaders moved out of the area during October 2003-April 2004. Later, the Chainat Campus of Chandrakasem Rajabhat University established a rice farming community for farming during the three seasons.

From the survey of the problem around Chandrakasem Rajabhat University (Chainat Campus) it was found that the conflicts of the community were as follows: 1) There were inequalities in harvesting, 2) The people could not obtain the appropriate farming rights, and 3) The people saw vacant areas and planted crops without permission. Thus, these problems brought conflict into the community. Even though the university took actions to zone the area for the education, conflicts still arose between the people in the community. Moreover, a lack of trust in the university and the government organizations occurred and the problem did not cooperate in the community forums and meetings (The chairman of Preakpattan, 2012).

Apart from these reasons, the researcher aimed at improving the quality of life and social development of the Donaranyick Community in Praksriracha District, Chainat Province. This research will be able to reduce the conflicts of the community by removing invalid occupants from the land and by helping the community to understand their needs to develop the area surrounding the university as well as the government sectors.

In addition, this research aimed to teach the people in the community the community plan and develop cooperation in order to offer the budget to private or government organizations and develop the community in the future.

## Objectives

1. To study the quality of life at the Don Aranyik Community, Phraek Si Racha Tambon, Sankhaburi Amphoe, Chainat.
2. To prepare a community plan to improve the quality of life of the society at Don Aranyik Community, Phraek Si Racha Tambon, Sankhaburi Amphoe, Chainat.
3. To prepare an action plan to guide effort to improve the quality of the society at Don Aranyik Community, Phraek Si Racha Tambon, Sankhaburi Amphoe, Chainat.

## Research Scope

### 1) Population and sample group

A sample group of 60 households was derived from those living in Don Aranyik Community, comprised of village numbers 7 and 8, at Phraek Si Racha Tambon, Sankhaburi Amphoe, Chainat.

### 2) Content

This paper focused on six indicators of quality of life:

- 1) Opportunities in the education and professions of youth.
- 2) Physical development of the community.
- 3) Solutions for poverty.
- 4) Accessibility services of government.
- 5) Accessibility services of local and government sector.
- 6) Community participation by vocalizing opinions.

## Methodology

### Population and Sampling group

The population in this study was comprised of community leaders, officers and residents of the Don Aranyik Community, Phraek Si Racha Tambon, Sankhaburi Amphoe, Chainat. In addition, the people were the group which moved their dwellings on account of the land deal that established the university. There were a total of 871 households and 3,622 people (The chairman of the community, 2012).

The sample group in this paper was the officers and people who lived at the Don Aranyik Community and that moved their dwellings because of the zoning of the land for the university. The headman and the chairman of the community in the village numbers 7 and 8 were responsible for the discussion. The focus group was composed of five groups, including seven people from the two villages. Respondents were selected by the community leaders by purposive sampling.

### **Instrumentation**

The instrumentation in this study was comprised of three items as follows:

1. The focus group discussion addressed the six indicators of quality of life: 1) Opportunity in the education and professions of youth. 2) Physical development of the community. 3) Solutions for poverty. 4) Accessibility services of the government. 5) Accessibility services of local and government sectors, and 6) Community participation.
2. The techniques of bamboo ladder used to measure the quality of life during the past, the present and into the future.
3. The Project of Community Development Satisfaction Index

### **Data Collection**

1. The study and collection of the secondary data entailed the following: the community plan, the qualitative data, the education, the environment, the economy, the role of the government sector in the community, the usefulness and the accessibility into the media, as well as the appearance.
2. The focus group discussion concentrated on the six quality of life indicators. In addition, the bamboo ladder technique was used to measure the life quality during the past, the present and into the future of the participants in the focus group discussion.
3. The results of the focus group discussion were used as the primary data for developing the community plan.
4. The community development plan was implemented by the community; the research team served as consultants during the operation and evaluated the satisfaction of the community plan.
5. Research conclusions were formed based on the results.

### **Data Analysis**

1. In the descriptive statistics, the f bamboo ladder technique and the project of community development satisfaction index were analyzed by mean and standard deviation

2. In the content analysis, the content of the focus group discussion was interpreted and summed up with the objectives of the research by the typology and taxonomy of the six quality of life indicators.

## Results

### 1. The study the quality of life at the Don Aranyik Community, Phraek Si Racha Tambon, Sankhaburi Amphoe, Chainat.

In the focus group discussion, there were 69 people from the sample group (98.57%). It concluded the following:

#### 1.1 Opportunities in education and professions of youth

In the past, the stage was at 5.95 and the stage in the present is at 7.66. Moreover, the stage in the future is projected to be at 8.90. The education system in Sankhaburi Amphoe provides education in kindergarten, primary, secondary and university levels. In the past, the educational opportunities were fewer and the financial status of the parents was lower. Notwithstanding, the young people still obtained knowledge and expertise required of professionals.

At present, the attitudes of the people emphasize education. The youth not only obtain good education, but also focus on the indigenous wisdom. In the future, both the local and government sector will emphasize education at all levels in order to provide easier access to education. In addition, the young people have the opportunity to show their potentials for the increased competition.

#### 1.2 The physical development of the community

In the past, the stage was at 4.90 and the stage in the present is at 6.88. Furthermore, the stage in the future is projected to be at 8.90. The current infrastructure facilitates the physical environment and more conducive to agriculture.

In the past, infrastructure was insufficient and did not adequately develop electricity, water supply and roads. Nowadays, the development of infrastructure has resulted in improved electricity, the water supply, roads, as well as the allocation of irrigation canals. On the other hand, the areas of irrigation, especially proximal to the roads, cannot be implemented due to dirt roads near the irrigation canal. Even though it has not been formally addressed, the people expect that this will be improved in the future.

### **1.3 The problem-solving of poverty and build the strength for the community**

In the past, the level was at 5.95, the level of the present is at 6.14, and the level predicted in the future is at 7.80. The local sector and the headman have been meeting with the local community, the temple, and the education institution to develop agriculture and professions.

In the past, the majority of people were farmers and prioritized careers over education. Even though income of farmers is typically lower than other professions, the way of the rural community is very generous and farmers provide assistance to one another.

At present, there are a lot of the private and government sectors developing the professions of the future. Moreover, it provides an opportunity for the elderly to work in order to allow them to generate income and reduce their reliance upon their grandchildren.

### **1.4 The inequitable practice by the state power**

The level of the past was at 4.66, the level of the present is at 7.00, and the predicted future level is at 8.45. The decentralization of local governance has entailed cooperation between the district administration and the local government organizations. The government provides equitable services for the people.

In the former, the accessibility of the public service with the government sector was less; therefore the people did not approach it. The current distributions of community services are more and these services listen to the demands of the community. Notwithstanding, the occupancy of public area is due to a lack of understanding and lower participation in the community forums. In the future, it will be necessary to emphasize the participation of the people in order to listen and attend to their needs.

### **1.5 Accessibility services of local and government sectors**

In the past, the stage was at 3.33 and the current stage at 7.71. The future stage is estimated to be at 8.33. The decentralized government, as well as the local and government organizations, serves ubiquitous people.

In the former, there was lower accessibility to the fringe benefits (including medical insurance and allowances) of the government organization due to the limited budget. However, at present access to infrastructure, such as electricity and tap water, is typically easier than the past. One exception is the irrigation canal, which is insufficient to meet the needs of all areas. In the future, the importance of decentralized local governance will increase in order to address the various benefits to the people.

## **1.6 Community participation by vocalizing opinions**

In the previous time, the level was at 4.90 and the level of the present is at 6.28. Furthermore, the level in the future is projected to be at 8.23, respectively. “Yiam Ban Yam Yen”, which is the community forum, is held to develop, criticize and modify the community plan for the local people and the education institution.

In the past, the importance of the government’s work was less. For this reason, the solutions for problems did not respond to the needs of the community. However, the chairman of the community proposed the plan because of the contemporary low meeting attendance.

In the future, the advancement of technology will facilitate communication between the government and people and will allow vocalization of the needs of the community.

## **2. The preparation of the community plan to improve quality of life at the Don Aranyik Community, Phraek Si Racha Tambon, Sankhaburi Amphoe, Chainat.**

The brainstorm session to prepare the community plan provided the following:

In the village number 7 at the Don Aranyik Community, the people prepared a community plan that included five objectives: build the purposive ground project, improve the elderly activity, provide benefits to the disadvantaged people, and build a knowledge center as well as a knowledge management system. The Purposive Ground Project received the most votes from the people.

In the village number 8, people offered the following ten objectives: add a budget for the elderly people, provide unlimited amounts of rice, engage in roadwork, build a broadcast center, repair the rice drying ground project, meet with government officers, and build a knowledge center, clinic, and park. The Rice Drying Ground Project received the most votes.

For the project with the activity corporates with the researchers from Chandakasem Rajabhat University, the community and Aranyik Temple in developing and selecting the community plan by using AIC technique.

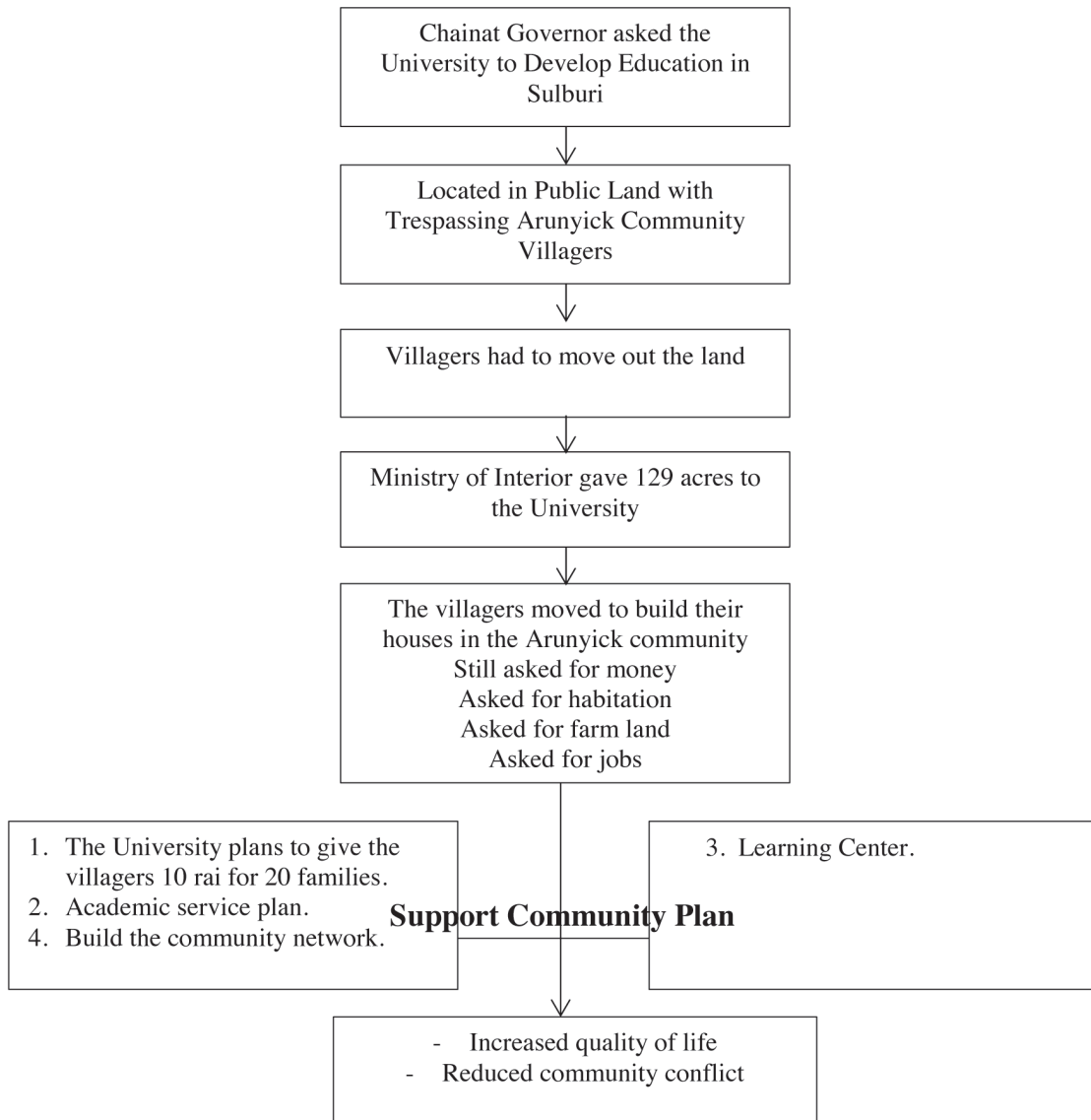
## **3. Preparation of the action plan to improve the quality of life at the Don Aranyik Community, Phraek Si Racha Tambon, Sankhaburi Amphoe, Chainat.**

### **3.1 Purposive Ground Project**

The proposed ground has a width of one meter, a length of 15 meters and the roof has a height of three meters. The committee of the community, the headman, the chairman of the community and the people enforced this project together. The level of satisfaction of the project was at the high to very high level.

### 3.2 Rice Drying Ground Project

The rice drying ground project is operated by improving the entire area by smoothening the surfaces. The proposed ground has a width of 20 meters and a length of 20 meters. The level of satisfaction with the project was at the high level.



**Figure 1** The model to improve the quality of life and social development of the community.



## Discussion

### 1. The findings of the quality of life at the Don Aranyik Community, Phraek Si Racha Tambon, Sankhaburi Amphoe, Chainat

#### 1.1 Accessibility of education and development of the youth

From the report, it was found kindergarten, primary, secondary, and undergraduate levels of education were provided in Sankhaburi Amphoe. It is interesting to note that the largest number of people graduated from primary school (57%), secondary school (28%), university (3%), as well as the non-formal educational institutions (0.5%). Furthermore, almost all of the people were farmers, employees and merchandisers.

Almost all of the local people had sufficient employment and revenue to support their lives and university education, but some of the local people lacked the enthusiasm required for university-level studies. The opportunity of education in the urban community was higher because of the more competitive rates and expenses. Therefore, the people selected the chance to work in order to provide for higher expenses. The Royal Thai Government Gazette (2007) further mentions that the right to free education is no less than 12 years of study. The disabled people and the poor are granted the same rights and support from the government to have an equal education.

#### 1.2 The physical development of the community

The communities left the public land. They received appropriate compensation and bought new land in order to establish their dwellings near the irrigation canals and the commercial buildings. The houses were equipped with electricity, water pipes, as well as roads that were more convenient than other communities. The Department of Lands (2011) mentions that the public land means the land is operated by the government organization; public land has been conserved for the people appropriately during the present and the past. In addition, no people are permitted of occupying the land without permission from the government.

#### 1.3 Solutions for community poverty

The agriculturists, who have their own lands, can generate income and buy the machines, while others have not high income and they use village funds and bank loans. Some farmers also have additional professions, for instance, merchandising, agricultural processing as well as raising livestock.

Thailand has a high level of economic disparity among the people, similar to countries in Latin America. Income inequalities have been a rather big problem for the society. (Somchai et.al, 2005)

#### **1.4 The inequitable practices of the state**

The headman, the village headman, as well as the chairman of the community are always selected by the people in the local politics to be the representatives due to their familiarity. For this reason, they request projects to address the community's needs. If the representatives of the community differ in their point of views with the local politicians, they will not be the representatives of the community.

In the social life, however, in the framework of Foucault, it means that power is related to the networking opportunities and is sensitive to the state of the society (Chairath, 2008).

#### **1.5 Accessibility services of local and government sectors**

Every household has electricity as well as the tap water access, yet the irrigation canal near the road is not convenient for the people in the community.

Furthermore, "Yiam Ban Yam Yen" is the project of the local hospital that is organized by the local community. It maintains the health and wellness project for the local community and seeks to improve the welfare of community members.

Maslow proposed a framework of human needs, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory, which he divided into six themes: 1) Physiological Needs, 2) Safety Needs, 3) Love and belongingness Needs, 4) Esteem Needs and 5) Self Actualization Needs. (Sucha, 2003)

#### **1.6 Community participation by vocalizing opinions**

A forum is held every year and the inspection is from the community development officer. When the community requests the infrastructure, the officer considers the priorities. Notwithstanding, it is not covered in the budget because of its excessive costs; thus, it not every request is possible to address.

In the framework proposed by Amstein, however, the participation of the people for development consists of eight components: 1) Direct Manipulation, 2) Therapy, 3) Informing, 4) Consultation, 5) Placation, 6) Partnership, 7) Delegated Power and 8) Citizen Control (Amstein, 1969) (cited Parichar et.al, 2006)

### **2. Results of the action plan to improve quality of life at the Don Aranyik Community, Phraek Si Racha Tambon, Sankhaburi Amphoe, Chainat.**

From the action plan in the village number 7, the ground was used the center by the community for the following purposes: meetings, public relation, as well as the elderly community activities.

In past, the rice drying ground of village number 8 was useless because it was defective; thus, the local government used the rice drying ground for parking and the activity area. For the action plan, the community proposed a plan that is relevant to their needs of the community.

Anek et.al (2014) stated that action research consists of participatory research with an action component, and includes qualitative research. In addition, to obtain new knowledge and solve the problems of the community, the research team, community, and the local people participated in the research process. For instance, the phases of plan, do, check and action were accomplished by facilitating the learning process of the community, maintaining people-centered development and solving the problem-learning process.

### **3. The action plan for the community plan to improve the quality of life at the Don Aranyik Community, Phraek Si Racha Tambon, Sankhaburi Amphoe, Chainat.**

From the action plan at the Don Aranyik Community, villages 7 and 8, the two projects for the community were as follows: the purposive ground project and the rice drying ground project. These projects involve cooperation from the local community, Chandrakasem Rajabhat University and Aranyik Temple. The conflict group, who moved from another land, consisted of 43 people whose dwellings were demolished. This group has already received compensation, such as jobs and areas for planting houses.

Moreover, the meeting was held by the rice community, the researcher from Chandrakasem Rajabhat University (Chainat Campus), and the temple. The following topics were discussed: the rice community, the action plan for the community, as well as the purposive ground project. Later, they cooperated with Chandrakasem Rajabhat University (Chainat Campus) and to illustrate their projects as well as negotiate their understandings by the activity group. Therefore, the conflict decreased and contributed to their understandings of one another. This activity not only improved quality of life, but also developed a cooperative relationship among Chandrakasem Rajabhat University (Chainat Campus), the community, and the temple to acquire the understanding and the participation in required to strengthen the community.

Prachasan (MPP.) stated that community development is sustainable development; in other words, it opens the opportunity for the people and the representatives of the organization in the local community to participate and assume responsibility for determining the community's development, deciding the future of the community, and sharing the benefits together.

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