

*Scouting Method, Innovative Process for Happiness of Life.  
Case Study: Scouting in Thailand*

Varit Intrama, National Scout Organization of Thailand, Thailand  
Kamonthip Rattanasuwannachai, Huachiew Chalermprakiet University, Thailand

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**Abstract**

From study of Harvard university, adult development, there have the 3 lesson learn for someone who wants to be “happy person”; social relationship, satisfaction of social relation and healthy is depend on good social relation, especially in symbiosis state. As the result of research, it makes crystal clear how to create happiness for human life. The good social relation must are created for every level of social structure. How to make it real is the big problem in the current situation. Scouting method is the worldwide method to make a man to be a good man that implied can make everyone to be a good citizen. More than 200 countries adopted concept of Scouting Method from World Scout Organization Movement, and applied in be the own one. The basic concept of Scouting Method is “Health, Happy and Helpful Citizens”. Thailand under visionary of King Rama the VI, adopted and applied methods to use in educational system and blend informal with formal educational system. Scout Act 2008 of Thailand, approved principle of method and established National Scout Organization of Thailand, NSOT, is implementation unit. By the way, NSOT hasn’t specific method for implementation. Then if theories are used, maybe it is more realistic for Thailand’s educational system. The main objective of study is to find process for scouting method that will propose innovative method for happiness in educational system as the first time of Thailand and contribution of the study will effect in the workplace in real situation.

Keywords: Innovative Process, Happiness of Life, Scout of Thailand

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## **Introduction**

### **Happiness of life**

"Happiness" is something that everybody searches for. But the happiness is the "individual" state, even in the same context, people still feel happy differently. Thus, the process of seeking happiness for the individual is worthwhile to fulfill in the rest of human life.

We often hear the sentence "I want to be happy like a child." This sentence encouraged the researcher to conduct the preliminary survey which activities in childhood created happiness in children life. Surprisingly, "Scouting" is the most popular answer with more than 60% of responses (82 students from 10 schools in Bangkok Metropolis area, Thailand). In this study, the researcher conducted the study by using qualitative research method, including observation of scout learning behavior, in-depth interviews; both of scouts and scout master, and documentary analysis to find the answer that "How can the scouting process create happiness for the youth?"

### **Principles of International Scouting**

International scouting was established by the founder of the Scout, Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, who brings military methods and blend with the youth fun for youth training sessions. The first purpose is to solve the social problem that effect to youth and youth is cause of them. He used the knowledge and skills from his background when worked for royal army, his experience and reputation as a war hero "MAFEKING", one of the major battles in British history to encourage the youth to learn the skills of the scout. Scouting is a process that developed from the training of military youth in those days to be the path of develop young people into good citizens of social process. At present, scouting have been recognized more than 200 countries around the world.

### **Principles of Scouting in Thailand**

There is some evidence showing the scout process in Thailand originated from King Rama VI. He adopted the idea of scouting internationally as part of the development of scouting in Thailand. Initially, it was the application of military skills to civilians and this process was called "Sua Pa" that mean "Wild Tiger". This process was expanded for training the skill in children of "Sua Pa" and was named "Luk Sua", meaning "Little Tiger", and change to be "Scout" in the present. In th beginning, "Scout" intended to encourage youth to be patriotic and do not be afraid to serve in the military. That intention showed in the King Rama VI speech as follows:

"Luk Sua (Little Tiger) I borrowed the name because tigers have a brave heart. I do not mean brave in the bad way but brave for our country to fight with enemy. In addition to the above mentioned, another purpose is to create pride in their own dignity." Let youth act as a good person that show by the King Rama VI speech as follows: "You don't behave like a kid in the street because you are accompany of the king"

With the evolution of social and educational systems in Thailand, Scouting was changed status from the privacy belonging to the king to under government support and put on the formal and informal educational system.

National Scout Organization of Thailand; NSOT is established by law and have full responsibility for all scouting activities under the objectives of Section 8, Scout Act 2008.

"To contribute the development of young people in achieving their full physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual, as individuals, as responsible citizens, and as members of their country by follow the guidelines:

- (1) A scout has good habit to observe, recognize, obey and self-service
- (2) A scout is honest and sympathetic person, has discipline also.
- (3) A scout knows how to make handicrafts and practices many suitable activities
- (4) A scout dedicates oneself to the public.
- (5) A scout keeps to custom, cultures, tradition and security of the country."

Currently, scouting in Thailand is classified into four categories, divided into classes according to the level of education, consisting of "Cub scout" to teach in the grade 1-3 in primary school between ages 8-11 years. "Scout" is taught in the grad 4-6 in primary school ranges from 11-16 years old. "Senior Scout" is taught in the junior high school level between the ages of 14-19. And "Rover Scout" is taught to youth between the ages of 18-25 year old.

The essence of teaching scouts was enacted as a secondary law, regulation, by the National Scout Executive Board.

### **The Essence of Scouting**

Scout training is developed for suitable learning in each range of age. The essence of cub scouts training is focus on fun activities and games through storytelling. The scout uniforms are used to be tools for creating self-respect. In this training, cub scouts start to let the youth learn the role that occurs in society by using the patrol system as a tool. In the details of the training, the scouting course composes with self-health care, physical health, patriotism, religion, monarchy and basic knowledge in living.

The level of young people in elementary and junior high school is not significant difference. Therefore, the training of scouts and senior scout is quite similar, just difference at the difficult level of activities. There is not much difficulty for scouts training, the higher difficulty level was organized for senior scouts training. Both types of scout training are essential to focus on self-help, learning to behave in society and learning the duties and social cohesion, including patriotism and learning and to be proud of Thai history. Course description of scouts and senior scouts training consist of the patrolling and the history of scouting is both Thailand and international. Moreover, cunning skill, self-discipline and service mind are the training to serve the community, including preserving the community by caring for the environment.

Training youth during thy growing up to adult, rover scout are trained to learn to devote themselves for serving others. This is an important foundation for the growth as a good citizen. The practice by self-regulation to help others in different contexts is the key element for this part. The training of the rover scout has focused on deep-seated insights, in which the scout promise and rule, principles of international scouting are also included.

The core of scout training can be classified into three categories according to the objectives of National Scout Organization of Thailand, physical health development, intellectual development and developing a good citizen of society. The study show the comparison of the content between the scout curriculums, base on the times period that scout master/ scout leader consume. The cub scouts training compose with all of three approach while the scouts training is focused on the intellectual development. The rover scout training is focused on the development of themselves as good citizens of the society. Details can be shown in Table 1.

Table 1 shows the number of period time scouts taught in percentage.

Objectives of NSOT	Cub Scout	Scout – Senior Scout	Rover Scout
Development of Physical Health	39.4%	28.0%	12.5%
Development of Intellectual	27.3%	51.7%	35.4
Development to be good citizen	33.3%	20.3%	52.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

In addition to training of scouts mentioned above, there are many activities that closely relate with the monastic institutions such as The founding anniversary of the National Scout Organization of Thailand, The birthday ceremony of the royal family, The date of the death of His Majesty the King Rama VI who is establish National Scout Organization of Thailand.

The scout's ritual activities, such as the camping open ceremony, parade and national jamboree open ceremony are also activities that indicate the closely relation to monarchy of Thailand. The expression of people who are enthusiasts of scouting also show their loyalty to the king, such as, call themselves to be "Scouts of the King" or name of king as "father" This is the very important factor to created happiness to scout. Possibly, the above mentioned may be a factor supporting the process of scouting to create happiness for the youth.

## Conclusion

Observation data from investigate scout training and in-depth interviews of scouts and other stakeholders found that the happiness of youth is different in the following age groups.

In the cub scouts, factors that affect the happiness of youth are fun activities, playing the game because it meets the needs of the youth in this age. Facing to world of imagination that young people never met before through storytelling contribute happiness to their life. For scouts and senior scouts, factors that affect the happiness

of youth are the challenges from having adventure experience outside their ordinary world, especially camping. Learning to compete with themselves by strengthening themselves even more. As part of rover scout, sacrifice for service to others and acceptance of society are factors that affect the happiness of them.

Besides, the desire to express loyalty to the monarchy by behaving in a more rigorous discipline, the elegant uniform is also one of the factors supporting the happiness of youth who believe in scout activities.

The results of this study show that the happiness of the youth is due to two important factors: the happiness that occurs physical health, having a complete body, mind and intellect. The other factor causing happiness comes from acting for others, extending from the sacrifice for a particular person, to the sacrifice for society as a whole. Scouting is a basic way for young people to enjoy the fun of scouting and it is likely that those young people will be happy in life when they are growing up.

Both of factors may be indicative of the long-term happiness of life, according to research at Harvard University. Young and adults enjoy differently on the basis of satisfaction with different social relationships. This is a limitation to the happiness that occurs in the life of the youth when they grow up. However, this study found some evidence convincing that young people who are trained scouting tend to create the proper social roles for themselves that will be the basis of the their satisfaction of that roles and will lead to happiness in the future. The comparative study of the quality of life or long-term happiness in youth who receive training in other forms of scouting should be conducted to confirm the evidence. The innovation of the process to create happiness for people in the society will be created as well.

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**Contact email:** [v\\_intrama@hotmail.com](mailto:v_intrama@hotmail.com)