

*The Model Development for Integrated Community Welfare Fund Network in the  
District Level: A Case Study of District in Thailand*

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Abstract

This research was the participatory action research. The objectives were to collect the information about community welfare fund and situations of the disadvantages in the community, and to develop the model for integrated appropriate community welfare fund network with the local context according to social capitals and competencies. The study area covers 11 sub-district areas in Panomsarakam District, Chachoengsao Province, Thailand. The duration of the study was from March to December 2009. The study's implementation was done by set up meeting for brain-storming of key persons in sub-district and district. The objective of sub-district meeting was done for explored the disadvantages in each sub-district and set the guidelines for helping them. Through the district level meeting was done for setting the community welfare fund network's committee that were 2 peoples from each sub-district. The results if this study found 1) There were 2 models for implement; which were the in cash and in kind helping, 2) Community welfare fund management used the community self help group model; such as people sector, rich man, key persons in the community, NGOs, experts from universities, local government sector, etc. The model of the integrated community welfare fund network was the output of participatory action of all sectors. For the future activities might be got some problems; for example: lack of continuous support to strengthen the action process of the community welfare fund network, such as money, man, materials, etc. Moreover, the working system of the network is the important issue that should be considered.

Key word: Community welfare fund, Network

## **Introduction**

This article as the past of the research was named “The Model Development for Integrated Community Welfare Fund Network of Amphoe Panomsarakam” that was the participatory action research. Because measuring social welfare through gross domestic product (GDP), the activities for improve social welfare for all people is very important.

At present, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Society is working out the second strategic plan on social welfare for Thai society to make Thailand a “welfare society” by the year 2016. The target of this strategic plan has been set for the national welfare system to cover all groups of Thai people and seeks to empower society and expand the country’s social security system to cover all groups of Thai people, especially those in the non-formal sector. It will also develop the quality of social security services, mobilize funds for social services.

## **Objective**

The objectives of this study were;

1. to collect the information about community welfare fund and situation of the disadvantages in the area of the study,
2. to develop model of the integrated community welfare fund network as appropriate with local context, and
3. to implement the participatory action for helping the disadvantages according to social capital of their communities.

## **Study area**

The study area covers 8 tambons that includes: Koh Kanun, Nong You, Nong Nae, Panomsarakam, Ta Than, Mueang Kao, Kao Hin Son; and 3 municipal areas that includes: Koh Kanun, Panomsarakam, Kao Hin Son; in Amphoe Panomsarakam, Chacheongsao Province.

## **Duration of study**

The first implementation of this study was between March to December 2007, and the activities also performed continuously until now.

## **Samples**

The 419 samples were separated into 3 groups; 1) 305 peoples as the head or secretary of fiscal fund, social fund, career fund, and community enterprise fund; 2) 106 peoples as the community leader and the representatives from related government sectors which were 8 from local administration office, 8 tambons headman, 87 villages headman, and 3 representatives from municipal offices; and 3) 8 key man of community welfare fund at the tambon level.

## **Research methodology**

The situations review of the disadvantages in the community; start by meeting with key participant in the tambon level for set up the definition of “the disadvantages” according to community’ context by all participants’ opinion. Next, the representatives go to survey the number of all disadvantages in the community. And brainstorming for develop model of the integrated community welfare fund network as appropriate with local context, and do the participatory action with key persons and stakeholders for helping the disadvantages according to social capital and social competency.

## Results

The result found 3,794 disadvantages included 2,669 who received some help and 1,125 who not received that were 507 old age peoples, 39 disability peoples, 127 disadvantages child, and 31 poor social accessibility peoples. After that the representatives of each tambon go to find out the disadvantages that should be received the urgent help as the example cases. In order to the consideration of the network's committee, theirs were 7 disadvantages as the first group for help.

The study for model development started by collect data of community groups in Amphoe Panomsaraka. It found 305 groups in 4 types: 1) 133 fiscal funds, 54 career/ community enterprise funds, 117 social funds, and 1 local wisdom fund. And found the fiscal funds had the highest gross working capital, followed by the social funds.

The model development of community welfare fund network done by set the meeting for brain-storming in the level of tambon and amphoe. The tambon level meeting done for explored the disadvantages in each tambon and set the guidelines for helping them. The amphoe level meeting done for seeking the committee of the community welfare fund network that the 2 peoples from each tambon, and they set the rules and working guidelines.

The results of this study were: 1) Using the representatives from each tambon is the basis of work, 2) There 2 model for implement; which were the in cash and in kind helping, 3) Community welfare fund management use the community self help group model; such as people sector, rich man, community key man, NGOs, that support by Ministry of social development and human security, experts from universities, local government sector, etc. The model of integrated the community welfare fund network that occurred was the results of participatory action of all sectors. As a whole, it found that head of community welfare fund; key person in the community; representative of the government sector; representative of the people sector, agree with the beneficial of the activities for integrated community power and developed community welfare fund network. But for the future activities, it's may be got some problems; for example: lack of continuous support to strengthen the action process of community welfare fund network, such as money, man, etc. Moreover, the working system of the network is the important issue that should be considered.

And how the participatory activities of the community welfare fund network would be variety of forms and methods which included issues that make people get a good quality of life and well-being; such as fund, generosity, nature rehabilitation, etc. The assistance and relief is the issue which is concerned to the way of life from birth to dead; which is matching to the culture, local intelligence by using extensively the religion principle and the people participation. And how the outcome from community welfare fund network management will cause the income and decrease the expenditure and create good relationship among the community people which finally leads to reduce poverty of people. It is congruence with core concept of community welfare management, which is self dependency and living together of the people; that is the "valuable giving and honorable receiving".

## Discussion

The activities should be done in future are; to strengthen the agreement of community welfare fund's member to provide some benefit from their fund to support the community welfare fund network management, which is the holistic network integrated, both in cash and in kind support; to promote activities of the network to public for increase the member of

network and money donation for activities; and to keep the continuous cooperation with local government sector.

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