

ABSTRACT

Research Title : Citizen Participation in Community Development Management for the Social Inequality Mitigation in the Three Poor Cities from the Northern Zone Based on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy.

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This research aims to identify the objectives of the citizen participation in community development management which involves the application of the sufficient economy philosophy and community development management to mitigate social inequality as well as the synthesis of participation process, sufficient economy principle, and the community development management in order to create a happy society. The data was collected from three provinces which were Mae Hong Sorn province, Prae province, and Nan province. The questionnaires were distributed to 1,200 samples. There were 30 interviews with the local people and the community leaders. The research results showed, in overall, that the frequency of the participation in village-level or community-level social activities in the three northern provinces was rated as 'often'. These social activities, for example, included New Year's Eve ceremony, Songkran ceremony, and community development activities. Other examples were traditional or Buddhist religious ceremonies such as merit-making rituals, Kuen Salak (so-called Salak Offering or Tan Kay Salak ceremony), candle worshipping ceremonies, and life prolonging rituals. In terms of the participation in the community development management in order to reduce the social inequality, there was a high participation rate in direct benefits received from the social activities and government-sponsored village development projects in which the local villagers were proud in their families, neighbors, and the local people's active

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participation in the social activities. Regarding the environmental resources conservation and everyday lifestyle, there was a high practice rate in the sufficient economy activities at the individual and household levels both in overall and in specific attributes. There was the application in the mental aspect by which the local people were not only satisfied with being “**sufficient**” in their everyday lives and personal development, but also did not oppress others. Moreover, there were some other demographic factors affecting the community development management in regards to the social inequality mitigation in the three northern provinces such as age, education level, duration of residence, monthly income, monthly expense, number of family members (not over four persons), and membership in a social group. These factors were synthesized and become the social image of genuine citizen participation in the name of “*Rectangular ridge of sufficiency*”, the participation process for the establishment of happy society under the sufficient economy principle.