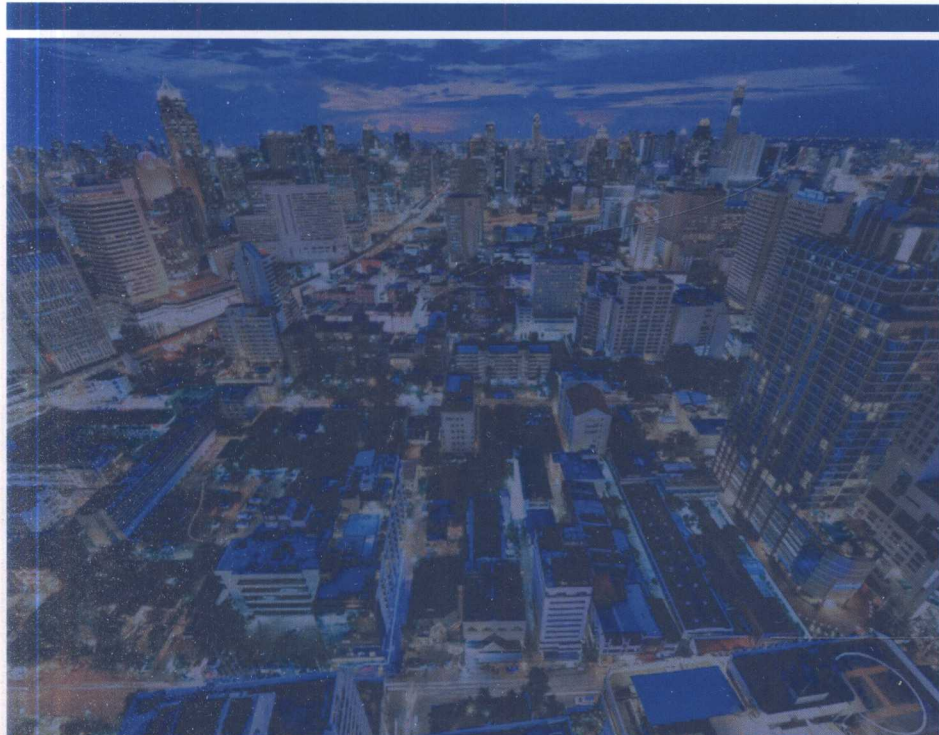


# PREVENTING RISKS RELATED TO POPULATION DISPLACEMENTS:

## DEFINING MODELS OF EDUCATIONAL ACTION IN THAILAND

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Federação Internacional de Universidades Católicas

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**Preventing Risks related to Population Displacements:  
Defining Models of Educational Action in Thailand**



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# ABSTRACT

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This research focuses on the process of group/ community formation and intervention programs to improve life quality, minimize associated social problems, and prevent related risks of the displaced population in Bangkok, Thailand. This research classifies the displaced population aforementioned into two groups: the displaced in congested community, and the homeless. Their common problems are: the lack of evidences of Thai citizenship, unfair treatment, landlessness, insecurity in life, unemployment, insufficient income, inaccessibility to public services and basic education. With the assistance of NGOs and governmental sectors they can form their groups/ community. Their group/community formation, in turn enables them to voice their needs and problems to concerned parties and to access assistances. Supports from NGOs and governmental sectors enable them to strengthen their communities with community activities and community cooperative for career support, groceries, saving, and saving for landownership. This research chooses Phiman Community and Orn-Nuch 14 Rai Community as the cases study of the displaced living in congested community; and Bangkok-Noi and Talingchan Coordination Centers as cases study of the homeless. The establishment of the 'The Community Organizations Development Institute' (CODI) as a public organization under the supervision of the Minister of Social Development and Human Security paves way to sustainable solutions to almost all of their problems and the improvement of their life quality. The case study of 'The Baan Mankong Collective Housing Program' is the proof of the success.

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### Introduction:

“Internal displacement is the great tragedy of our times. The internally displaced people are among the most vulnerable of the human family”.

Kofi Annan<sup>1</sup>

***Preventing Risks Related to Population Displacements: Defining Models of Educational Action*** is an international research project funded by the Centre for Coordination of Research of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (CCR-IFCU). To highlight the paramount importance of the phenomenon of population displacements, the CCR-IFCU brings together universities from Asia, Africa and Latin America to work on the project. By examining the deep causes of displacement and the responses of the state and civil society towards the phenomenon, the project aims “to reduce some of the risks related to displacement through preventive and educational models”.

Assumption University represents the Thailand research team and conducts research in response to the reality and context of Thailand. Focusing on the situation of population displacement in urbanity, ***Preventing Risks Related to Population Displacements: Defining Models of Educational Action in Thailand*** will be carried out in Bangkok, the capital city of Thailand. The study will examine the provision of education to internally displaced persons (IDPs), in particular children, in the urban areas of the country. The roles of educations in preventing risks and improving livelihood of the IDPs will also be addressed.

<sup>1</sup> Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Jan Egeland, made a reference to Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s anecdote in Forward to the second edition of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement published in September 2004.



## Research Questions:

1. How is the current situation of population displacement in Thailand?
2. How has population displacement affected internally displaced persons (IDPs), in particular children, in urban areas in Thailand?
3. How can education prevent risks and improve livelihood of children experiencing displacement in urban areas in Thailand?

## Research Objectives:

1. To understand the current situation of population displacement in Thailand.
2. To examine the impacts of population displacement on internally displaced persons (IDPs), in particular children, in urban areas in Thailand.
3. To define models of educational action in preventing risks and improving livelihood of children experiencing displacement in urban areas in Thailand.

## Scope of the Study:

As this study is intended to provide an understanding of population displacement in the context of urbanity, the locale of the study will be in Bangkok, the capital city of Thailand. The focus of the research will be on children and the provision of education for children affected by population displacement. Nevertheless, where education for adolescence and adult IDPs are available, this study will also explore models of educational action targeting these groups of populations.

# CHAPTER 2

## METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

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### Research Methodology:

In this research study, a qualitative approach to data collection and analysis will be employed. Three main methods of data gathering are documentary research, in-depth interview, and case study.

#### **Documentary Research**

The aim of documentary research is to explore the concept and definition of internal displacement and internally displacement persons (IDPs). The documentary research will also help address the situation of population displacement in Thailand. Literature related to population displacement will be gathered and analysed. The literature will include:

- the *Guiding Principle on Internal Displacement* (UN Commission on Human Rights, 1998), its *Handbook* (Martin, 1999) and *Annotations* (Kälin, 2000),
- statistics and electronic resources compiled by relevant national and international agencies; such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the International Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), Housing & Land Rights Network, and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC)
- scholarly articles and academic research; such as articles published in *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, *Journal of Internal Displacement*, *Forced Migration Review*, *Forced Migration Online*, and research studies conducted by Brookings-LSE Project on Internal Displacement, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU): IDP Research network , the Asian Research Center for Migration, Chulalongkorn University,
- news coverage and journalistic articles on the issues of internal displacement.

## ***In-depth Interview***

In order to gain a better understanding of population displacement in Thailand, representatives of relevant government departments, UN agencies, policy makers, human rights commissions, academic and research institutes, local and international NGOs will be interviewed. Not only will the interviews help address the situation of population displacement, but also help identify communities and educational actions for the further case study.

## ***Case Study***

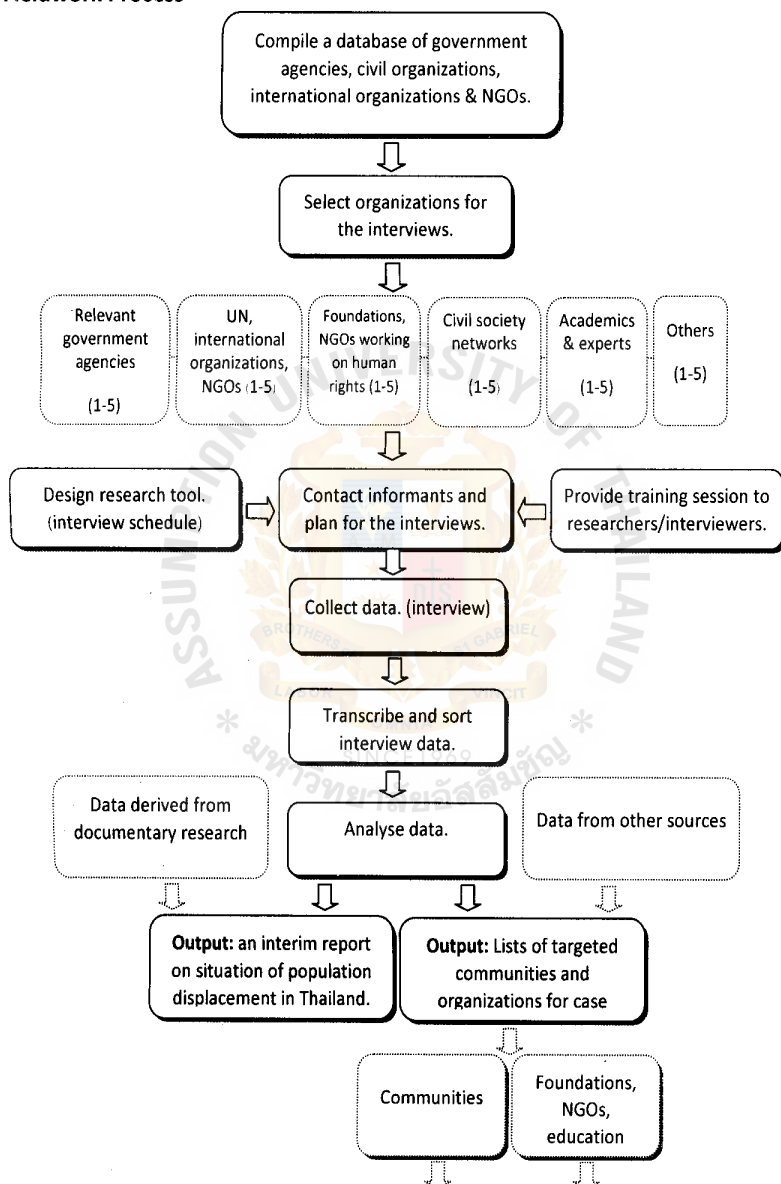
The purpose of case study is to provide exemplars of educational action for children who experience displacement. Case studies of displaced and 'displacement-affected communities'<sup>2</sup> will be selected to examine how education has been managed in response to the needs of the children living in such communities. The roles of educational action in preventing risks and improving livelihoods of the children will also be addressed through the case study.

A number of concepts have been identified to form a conceptual framework as follows:

- Thai educational system
  - In the context of community-based education
- The formation of community
  - Factors
  - Process
- Community's way of life and learning
  - Way of life
  - Way of learning for survival
  - Way of fighting for survival
  - Way of learning for security
  - Way of fighting for security
- Development of community
  - Period of scattered living
  - Period of collective living
  - Transitional period
  - Community development period
- Baan Mankong Collective Housing Programme
  - Concept
  - Approach and process

<sup>2</sup> A concept of "displacement-affected community" is recognised in the Report of the Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons, Walter Kälin (A/HRC/13/21) in January 2010. It refers to "communities which host or (re)integrate" internally displaced persons and, as such, are also affected by internal displacement. In many instances, IDPs struggle to find their own accommodation and resort to live with host families.

## Fieldwork Process



# CHAPTER 3

## THEORETICAL APPROACH

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### Conceptual Framework

#### Displacement from Development

Infrastructural development projects carried out by states, often with the assistance of the international community, frequently result in the displacement of peoples from homes that stand in the way of dams, highways, or other large-scale construction projects. New standards are emerging for states to address the displacement consequences of development.

Michael Cernea (1999), a sociologist, who has researched development-induced displacement and resettlement for the World Bank, points out that being forcibly ousted from one's land and habitat carries with it the risk of becoming poorer than before displacement, since a significant portion of people displaced do not receive compensation for their lost assets, and effective assistance to reestablish themselves productively. Cernea has identified eight interlinked potential risks intrinsic to displacement.

1. **Landlessness:** Expropriation of land removes the main foundation upon which people's productive systems, commercial activities, and livelihoods are constructed.
2. **Joblessness:** The risk of losing wage employment is very high both in urban and rural displacements for those employed in enterprises, services or agriculture. Yet creating new jobs is difficult and requires substantial investment.
3. **Homelessness:** Loss of shelter tends to be only temporary for many people being resettled; but, for some, homelessness or a worsening in their housing standards remains a lingering condition. In a broader cultural sense, loss of a family's individual home and the loss of a group's cultural space tend to result in alienation and status deprivation.
4. **Marginalization:** Marginalization occurs when families lose economic power and spiral on a "downward mobility" path. Many individuals cannot use their earlier-acquired skills at the new location; human capital is lost or rendered inactive or obsolete. Economic marginalization is often accompanied by social and psychological marginalization.

5. **Food Insecurity:** Forced uprooting increases the risk that people will fall into temporary or chronic undernourishment, defined as calorie-protein intake levels below the minimum necessary for normal growth and work.

6. **Increased Morbidity and Mortality:** Displacement-induced social stress and psychological trauma, the use of unsafe water supply and improvised sewage systems, increase vulnerability to epidemics and chronic diarrhea, dysentery, or particularly parasitic and vector-borne diseases such as malaria and schistosomiasis.

7. **Loss of Access to Common Property:** For poor people, loss of access to the common property assets that belonged to relocated communities (pastures, forest lands, water bodies, burial grounds, quarries and so on) result in significant deterioration in income and livelihood levels.

8. **Social Disintegration:** Displacement causes a profound unraveling of existing patterns of social organization. This unraveling occurs at many levels. When people are forcibly moved, production systems, life-sustaining informal networks, trade linkages, etc are dismantled.

Others have suggested the addition of other risks such as the loss of access to public services, loss of access to schooling for school-age children, and the loss of civil rights or abuse of human rights, such as loss of property without fair compensation, or violence from security forces or risks of communal violence in resettlement areas.

## **Human rights Law and development-induced displacement**

In 1986, the UN General Assembly adopted a Declaration on the Right to Development (W. Courtland Robinson, 2003), which states that "every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, in which all human rights and fundamental freedoms can be fully realized." The heart of the problem is that people displaced by development projects are generally seen as a necessary sacrifice on the road to development. The dominant perspective is thus that the positive aspects of development projects, the public interest, outweigh the negative ones, the displacement or sacrifice of a few.

However, a change in paradigm has emerged in recent years with more emphasis on human rights and social justice. These rights include (Balakrishnan Right to Participation Right to Life and Livelihood Rights of Vulnerable Groups Right to Remedy Rajapogal, 2000):

**Right to Participation.** The affected communities must be able to participate in different levels of decision-making, from the local (project), state (programme), national and international levels. The right to participation is well grounded in the International Bill of Human Rights (for instance, ICCPR, art. 25). More specifically, the 1991 International Labour Organisation Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries (ILO Convention 169) stipulates (Article 7) that indigenous and tribal peoples shall participate in the

formulation, implementation and evaluation of national and regional development plans that affect them.

**Right to Life and Livelihood.** When security forces take action to move people forcibly or to quell civil dissent against development projects, this may constitute a direct threat to the right to life, which is protected in the UDHR (Article 3) and the ICCPR (Article 6). The right to livelihood is threatened by the loss of home and the means to make a living – whether farming, fishing, hunting, trading or the like – when people are displaced from habitual residences and traditional homelands. The right to own property and not to be arbitrarily deprived of this property as well as the right to work are spelled out in the UDHR (Articles 17 and 23, respectively) as well as in Article 6 of the ICESCR. Article 11 of the ICESCR, moreover, provides for "the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions". Included in the right to life is the right to environment. This concept has also been phrased as "intergenerational equity" or the right of future generations to inherit a planet, or a particular piece of it, that is capable of sustaining life. The many linkages between protection of human rights and protection of the environment have long been recognized. The 1972 United Nations Conference on the Human Environment declared that "man's environment, the natural and the man-made, are essential to his well-being and to the enjoyment of basic human rights—even the right to life itself".

**Rights of Vulnerable Groups.** While development projects may create vulnerability through impoverishment, they disproportionately affect groups that are vulnerable to begin with, particularly indigenous peoples and women. Human rights of vulnerable groups are protected generically in the International Bill of Human Rights. The ILO Convention 169 spells out protections for indigenous groups. The principle of non-discrimination is not only codified in the UDHR (Article 2), the ICCPR (Article 2) and the ICESCR (Article 2) but also in the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

**Right to Remedy.** The right to remedy is asserted in the UDHR (Article 8) and in the ICCPR (Article 2). As noted in a report to the World Commission on Dams, "often, due to the nature of the development process, the project-affected peoples come to know about actions that have been taken without their knowledge or consent. Therefore, they need a quick and efficacious remedy that can halt on-going violations and prevent future ones. The right to remedy is therefore crucial...to all development projects."

## **National Action Plan on Human Rights: Rights to Housing**

Rights to housing mean that a person shall have equal rights to receive appropriate housing provided by the State. Such rights must not violate rights to privacy, community rights, rights of the public; such as land trespass, disorganized construction of housing.

The Thai Government has identified the acceptance of human rights for dwelling provided to all Thai citizens as explained in the **Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E.2540 (1997)** for Article 36 Section "A person is free to choose his/her place of residence in the Kingdom of Thailand.", Article 80 "The State shall protect and develop children and the youth, encourage their up-keep and primary education, promote the equality between women and men, foster and develop solidarity of the institution of family and the community as well as provide assistance and welfare to the elderly, the indigent, the disabled, persons of infirmity and persons suffering a state of difficulty to enable their better quality of life and self-dependence.", and Article 4: "The human dignity, rights, liberty and equality of the people shall be protected."

Additionally, the State has protected the individual rights in case of the expropriation of immovable property for land or home for infrastructure or other productive public usefulness. If it appears that the State does not use the expropriation of immovable property to meet the mentioned specific purpose and within determined the period of time to fulfill that purpose. Article 49 Section 3 identifies the return of immovable property to the original owner or his or her heir and the claim of compensation paid shall be in accordance with the provisions of the law.

The International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR): Article 11 addresses that the States Parties present this Covenant to recognize the rights of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and the continuous improvement of living conditions. The committee members of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Thai United Nations have considered that Thailand can join the membership without any additional new law regulation requirement. Currently, it is under a consideration process from the Council of Thai Ministers for this request approval.

The problem condition of the human rights protection for dwelling in Thai society is that although the people have their freedom, but they have no choices to choose or have insufficient number of selections for people in the rural areas, slums or middle-class income people in city limits. According to the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand related to the Articles of the fundamental policy of the State, it is not directly defined the responsibility of the State to arrange places of dwelling for people. However, the State is directly obligated to support the people. The problem of Thailand is not about having no rights, but it is the insufficient numbers of places to live provided to everybody/every social class. Therefore, the people can arrange for their place of residence by themselves (Purchase/Rent/Possession Rights).

### **National Action Plan on Human Rights: Rights to Education**

When the people's quality and competency are developed, Thai society would be desirable environment for academic excellence, good moral and ethical people, and good health. Education is the most important dynamic factor of human development. According to the



National Education Development Plan Issue No. 8 (1997 – 2001), it is intended to develop the education quality on the basis of Thai culture correlated with each individual demand, community, and national economic prosperity in the Economic Community.

For the past years, the education development has been successful in management; providing academic services for children, youths and public entities. The main issues urgently needed to be resolved are to equally offer educational services for everyone, improving educational quality, academic management quality and educational coverage of all social classes. Presently, our nation is facing with economic problems, and it is undeniable that it has been resulted from the failure of educational management since Thais have educational opportunities on average of 5.3 years. Furthermore, the organized education structure is not correlated with the existing lifestyle of our society, focusing on learning by remembering without learners' thinking and analyzing. The education system is also centralized, resulting in delayed operations and no opportunity for people to be involved in the academic management.

The present national crisis signifies that it is time to prepare the workforce's readiness for every aspect according to the Constitution of **the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E.2540 (1997)** with many Articles about the national education management guidelines.

**Section 81:** The State shall provide law relating to national education to improve education in harmony with economic and social change.

**Section 43:** "A person shall enjoy an equal right to receive the fundamental education for the duration of not less than twelve years which shall be provided by the State thoroughly, up to the quality, and without charge."

## **National Education Act of B.E.2542 (1999)**

### **1.1 General Background**

Education is the most important character of sustainable country development for everyone. They should receive lifetime learning, and all people in the society should participate in educational management, including curriculum content improvement and continuous learning process. The academic management is based on the independent operation policies, decentralization system of rural education areas or institutions, education standard, management system of academic quality assurance, uplifted education standard, and continued academic personnel development.

### **1.2 Education Rights and Responsibilities**

Person has equal rights and opportunities for the basic education of 12 years with quality and no cost, including disabled and indigent/special cases, parents, persons and other organizations that manage educational service centers with privileges to support all learners.

### **1.3 Education System**

There are 3 types of education systems for (1) Formal Education, (2) Non-formal Education, and (3) Informal Education. These three types of learning can be transferred regardless of any educational institutions. Each educational institution can elect to manage one of these three types or can select together all three.

The formal learning system has 2 levels of (1) Primary Level and (2) University Level. The fundamental education requirement normally lasts for 9 years, starting from age of 7 to 16 years old. The academic management has various requirements per the orders and regulations about Vocational Education.

### **1.4 Education Management Guidelines**

The learners are the most important factor in the educational management, intending for the learners to naturally develop their interests with high potentials. The academic management is emphasized on knowledge, moral, learning process, integration, and relationships between self and society to improve numerous skills needed for profession and live life happily.

### **1.5 Education Management and Organization**

The Ministry responsible for Education, Religion and Culture should be established to supervise the policy, standard and resource support by a group of personnel management. The major institutional media are educational institutions, religion and national culture with the University Council Committee Members, Basic Educational Committee Members, and Religion and Culture Committee Members. The responsible Ministry should directly delegate the management responsibility and educational organization management to the direct responsible areas and academic institutions. The sub-district municipal administration organizations have rights for the readiness preparation of organizing educational management. The private educational institutions can manage their academic types with supports from government, appropriate rights and other privileges.

### **1.6 Education Standard and Quality Assurance**

The educational authority organizations and academic institutions should establish their quality assurance system to develop the quality and standard in all levels of their institutions for every year, and the academic quality assurance department of each institution is to improve the external assessment methods. All educational institutions must have the external quality assurance assessment for every 5 years.

### **Educational Personnel of Teachers and Staff**

In order to support the teaching profession/academic staff and achieve at the advance level; the sufficient fund should be provided. The law or regulation ought to require the following considerations:

- Salary/compensation
- Fringe benefits
- Teaching and Academic Management Certificates issued or revoked by the independent standard quality control organization
- Decentralized duties and responsibilities
- Human resource management of responsible areas
- Teachers and educational staff enlisted to the membership of Central Human Resource Management of the State Teachers

### **1.7 Educational Resources and Investments**

The educational resources and investments are in forms of budget, finance and properties from the State and every entity of the society, including from foreign supports, to manage the education system of private academic institutions with own decision-making authority, maintenance and for-profit from their assets.

The State allocates a budget for education that is the most important factor of sustainable development for the country in terms of mutual funds, grants, personal expenses and educational scholarships including the check-and-balance system, follow-up procedures, and efficient and effective budget expenditure assessment.

### **1.8 Educational Technology**

The State manages the frequency, media and basic necessary infrastructure and communication for the benefit of education, teaching material and media production support, technology for education, and established fund of educational technology development.

# CHAPTER 4

## RESEARCH RESULTS

### The Research Results

#### The formation of community

##### The factors and process of displace communities

##### *Phiman Community*

In 1997 an economic crisis, known to foreigners as 'Tomyumkung Disease' hit Thailand. Phiman Community at that time was a construction site of new village that the project was terminated due to economic crumble. Laborers in the project became unemployed and penniless. They were unable to return home since they did not get paid. At the beginning of a settlement, there were only 100 families whose main occupations were garbage collection for sales. Later on, they attracted their relatives living elsewhere to join them for the reason that they did not need to pay for rental fee. At present there are 400 families in the community and only 30 of which are members of early settlers.

##### *The Homeless*

In 2001, the Human Settlement Foundation Thailand<sup>3</sup> conducted a survey on the population of the homelessness in Bangkok and found that there are around 1500 persons. According to the survey, majority of the homelessness are people from agricultural sector and the causes of their homelessness were—1) their migration from their homeland to seek employment in industrial areas, 2) broken home, 3) lacking of housing, 4) poverty, 5) unemployment, 6) lack of dependency, 7) abhorrent sickness. These problems drive the homeless to Bangkok and other big cities. The Bangkok metropolitan policy to close Sanam Lung open market permanent in August BE2544 drove these homeless out of the compound and

<sup>3</sup> The Human Settlement Foundation Thailand or Four-Region Slum Network is an NGO working for the benefits of members of congested communities. This private organization for development started off with 3-4 founding members in the name of 'Community Relation for Slum Development' in BE2525 and registered officially for the name of Human Settlement Foundation Thailand in June BE 2531

they all suffered from the lack of shelters. Four-Part Slum Group and the Human Settlement Foundation Thailand intervened to offer them assistance. With the financial support of Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI, Public Organization) built a Living Shelter for the Homeless on a premise leased by State Railway Thailand. It is a two-storey open hall building which could accommodate 70-100 persons. At present there are only 20 persons residing in this temporary shelter.

### ***Orn-Nuch 14 Rai Community***

Orn-nuch14 Community is formed by a group of displaced living under bridges. When they were driven out of their lodges in Zone 2 and 3 by Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) , they formed a group to build living lodges on a piece of unoccupied land and establish the existing community. Later on, the community leaders in collaboration with the Four-Region Slum Organization influenced the Housing Authority of Thailand to allocate budget to purchase a piece of land, divided it into pieces, and allocated to each 107 families for rent.

## **Community's way of life and learning**

### ***1. Process of Group Formation***

#### ***1.1 Phiman Community***

Phiman Community formation started with agreement and attraction among familiar displaced people, most probably relatives to find appropriate location to establish a new community. Uncle Samnao, head of Phiman Village gives an account that "a formation of their community started off when Moobaan Phimai Real Estate Development Project became bankrupt. Some of the construction workers who did not get paid could not return home nor went anywhere since they were penniless. They eventually decided to settle down here. When they found that there was still unoccupied land, they attract their relatives and friends to join them later and number of community members keeps increasing."

#### ***1.2 Homeless people from Sanam Luang***

Uncle Dam, one of the homeless, gives further explanation that "one of the factors contributing to the formation of their community was Bangkok Metropolitan Administration's (MBA's) policy to drive the homeless out of Sanam Luang premise. These homeless eventually united to form a group to seek assistance. The Four-Region Slum Network provide us piece of land to establish our community. We have been residing on this piece of land for years. When some of our members move away, others moved in."

### ***2. Learning for Survival***

#### ***2.1 Phiman Community***

The displaced, living in the congested communities, and the homeless have developed all-round skills to learn for survival. Phi (Brother) Amorn gives an account of how the displaced in a congested community

built their living lodge thus: “At the beginning they all had to sleep on the floor of a house without walls. Walls of the house were gradually built later on from pieces of wood and plywood, old advertising boards. When there were more materials, the house was expanded and maintained. When it rained they found a leak on a roof and fill up a leak after rain. When they found rain blown into a house, they rebuilt a wall to block it.”

## 2.2 Homeless people from Sanam Luang

Pa Lek (Aunt Lek) gives a comment that “after we have moved to live at Coordinating Center of the Homeless, our living condition consistently improves. We do not need to run for shelters when it rains. We have a quarter for sleeping and eating. We live together in communal life by which we share what we have with other members. Living together we are secure”. Lung Dam (Uncle Dam), a homeless gives further comment that “we have to improve and develop our community for the survival and prosperity of each individual and our fellow brothers and sisters. We have to care and share among us and members of the Four-Region Slum Association. Each one of us has to improve themselves unceasingly to cope with the changes”.

### 3. Process of Permanent Settlement

The learning process for life security and permanent housing of the homeless and the displaced are quite similar. Both group gain support from various NGO<sup>4</sup>s and governmental community development agencies. They are—community development unit of Bangkok Metropolitan Administration. Lung Dam (Uncle Dam) a homeless gives words in an interview that “the Four-Region Slum Network has given a lot of supports to us all. When they (our brothers and sisters from the Four-Region Slum Network needs assistances such as people for demonstration, we give them full support. Phi Kaek (Brother Kaek) gives further information that “when they need a support for protest and demonstration, we and friends from other networks have joined them in 3-4 protests and demonstrations during the daytime at the statue of King Rama V. Lung Somporn (Uncle Somporn), the leader of Orn-Nuch 14 Rai Community explains that “we have struggled for a long time to build and maintain our community as you can see nowadays. The Four-Region Slum Network and officials from community development of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (MBA) have been our advisors, mentors, and supporters since early days of the formation till now. Moreover, members of the displaced in congested communities have strengthened their lives and housing security by establishing a co-operation in their community. Lung Chai (Uncle Chai) explains that “we have established a saving co-operative for housing purpose in our community. The Four-Region Slum Network and the Community Organization Development Institute (CODI) have helped us to find a new location for our community at Bangprakork District.

The displaced have elected a community leader by means of voting. Their community leader has a duty to maintain discipline and order inside their community and to represent their community in coordinating with external organizations. Lung Dam (Uncle Dam), the leader of the homeless explains the process of the election of their community leader thus: “Senior mentors in our community will

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<sup>4</sup> NGO stands for Non-Government Organization which refers to groups, organizations, or associations that do not belong to governmental or political institution though they operate for public benefits.

discuss with community members to find candidates. In a meeting, community members cast open vote by raising hands. The candidate who receives majority support becomes a head of a center. I am a president of the homeless. They elect me to represent them in coordinating with external organizations and foundations.”

## **Living Condition of the Displaced**

### **Housing**

Housing of the displaced can be classified to group in accordance to the types of the displaced. 1) The displaced in congested community. This group of the displaced live in houses built upon a private or governmental premise that they have encroached. Their houses are built from pieces of used materials as bricks, cement, advertising posters that they can collect. 2) The homeless. These displaced do not have houses to live in. They live in open public parks and public premises such as Rattanakosin Island<sup>5</sup> during the night time. When they get up, they will use public toilet and go to work. When it rains they have to move to live inside public telephone booth, bus stop, and inside unoccupied house.

#### **1. The Displaced in Congested Community**

The displaced in congested community live in either one or two storey house. Roof of a house is made from either zinc sheet or roof-tile. The wall of the house is made from plywood, gypsum board, or advertising board. Only some few owners are able to afford to buy bricks to make walls. Some houses are built on ground level. Others elevate the floor above ground level to prevent flood and reptiles crawling into their houses. They build fence to mark the area of their house. Roads inside the community are made from ground or laterite. The road inside the community is flooded when it rains. At the beginning the size and space of their house is just livable depending on the materials available in their community. When they can collect more materials such as more advertising board, they improve their house by expanding the size of the house to add more space.

#### **2. The Homeless**

The homeless do not reside in a house. Lung Rung (Uncle Rung), who was once a homeless tells his life story that “formerly he slept mostly on the ground floor of Flat Dindaeng (Dindaeng Governmental Real Estate) and sometimes at Sanam Lung.” He gives further information that “his wife sleeps with friends at Klong Lord and Sanam Lung alternately.” Currently she moves to live at Coordination Center for the Homeless. There are three coordination center: 1) Talingchan Coordination Center for the Homeless: The homeless in this coordination center reside in a single ground level building. It is an open building

<sup>5</sup> The area covering Sanam Luang and the Royal Grand Palace

which has brick walls and tile roof, and single bathroom and toilet; 2) Bangkok Noi Coordination Center for the Homeless: It is a two-storey building. It has separate bathroom and restroom for men and women. 3) Chatuchak Coordination Center for the Homeless. The homeless who do not live in coordination center live in public premise such Klonglord, Hua Lampong Train Station, and Morchid Bus Terminal. These homeless sleep in groups on plastic mats with bags of personal belonging laying by their side.

## Occupation

Majority of the displaced earn their living by collecting and trading used items. They collect used items from garbage dump sites that spread around Bangkok and carry home in bags, rolling carts, and three-wheel bicycle/motorcycle (Zaleng). At home they classify garbage into groups and sell them in a market after 3-5 days. The average income of each family is around 200-500 Baht per day. The merchandisers sell brand new items, used items. Brand new items include portrait of the members of Royal Family, necklaces, balloons, paper and plastic mats. Used items that they sell are mostly used items they collect from garbage dumpsites, donation items, renovated items, amulets, second hand clothes, kitchen utensils. Their average income of each family is around 100-300 Baht per day. Most of the displaced choose the occupation that need little money for investment or the one that need efforts only. They prefer independent rather than bureaucratic occupation. They do not like hard work and prefer working to earn money only sufficient for daily living.

### 1. *The Displaced in Congested Community*

Most of the displaced are merchandisers. Lung Chai (Uncle Chai), the leader of Phiman Community gives an interview on the the occupation of the displaced thus: "The main occupation of our community members is merchandising. Majority of them are merchandisers selling items at flee (flea) market. I also sells items at flee market. The items they sell vary from one family to another. Second majority sell used items they collect from garbage dump sites." Phi Amorn (Brother Amorn) at Phiman Community gives further information that "at present I earn mony by selling garlic chives at evening market and scrap irons, or by welding materials. I do everything by which I can earn money." Lung Pichet (Uncle Pichet) at Orn-Nuch 14 Rai Community inform the interviewer that "he is also a merchandiser. He sells



groceries at home.” In addition to merchandising, the displaced in congested community form a Zaleng group (Tricycle group) which they call themselves Phiman Community Zaleng Group for collecting and selling used items. Our children have grown up and started working as laborers, used items collectors on motorcycle-carriage.” The average income of each displaced family residing in congested community is around 150-500 Baht per day. Lung Chai (Uncle Chai) informs the interviewer that “the average income of each family on a rainy day is around 150 Baht and 200 Baht on the day that it does not rain.” Pa Samien (Aunt Samien) at Orn-Nuch 14 rai Community reports that “the average income of our whole family is 300 Baht per day. My husband is motorcycle-taxi driver (motorcy rubjang). He is the only one person who works to earn to support the whole family.” Lung Pichet (Uncle Pichet) at Orn-Nuch 14 Rai community says that “the average income of his family (investment and profit) is around 500 Baht per day.

## **2. The Homeless**

The homeless are mostly merchandisers (vendors) selling miscellaneous items as portraits of the members of Royal Family, replica of the Buddha, amulets, and second hand items. Lung Dam (Uncle Dam), the leader of the homeless gives an account on the occupation of the homeless as following. “Majority of the homeless are vendors (merchandisers) selling plastic mats, toys (for children), balloons at temple fair, event fair, and Sanam Luang most probably in Bangkok and sometimes in other provinces. Lung Yai (Uncle Yai) gives further information that “we sell second hand handbags and replica of Buddha. We sell replica of Buddha in front of Supreme Court, opposite to Sanam Luang from 11 PM till 5 AM. Pa Lek describes the way she earns thus: “I buy second hand cloth from Wat Suan Kaewn at 1 Baht per piece. After washing and ironing them, I can sell them at 5 Baht per piece to the second hand cloth dealer.” Some are labor-freelancers. Phi Kaek, a case of labor-freelancer gives account to the interviewer that “My husband collects used items only. I take a job to care for children in the community, washing and ironing clothes.” Lung Rung, a case of labor-freelancer tells the interviewer that “I stopped collecting used items for years. Now I have started a car-care business on Lad Proa Road, and sometimes I have been hired to join political rallies.” Pa Namtaan gives further information that “I find a job in temples to wash dishes, clean temple court yards, and collect used items.” In case of Phi Kaek’s wife “she collects used items such as bottles, and paper from home-owners and carries them home in rolling-carts.” The average family income of the homeless displaced is around 100-300 Baht per day. Phi Kaek says that “his average income is around 100 Baht per day. He sometimes can earn as much as 200-300 Baht on a very lucky day.” Lung Yai tells the interviewer that

"he earns around 200 Baht per day." Pa Lek claims that "her average income is around 200 Baht per day. It is not much since she has only little money to invest."

## **Education**

Most of the adult displaced never attend school. Some few did attend school, but could not finish. Some of the homeless complete compulsory education and others complete high school. The number of displaced in congested community who have received education is greater the number of the homeless of the same category.

### **1. *The Displaced in Congested Community***

Majority of the members of the displaced in congested community complete compulsory education. Most of them attend public school nearby. Few complete bachelor degree. Lung Samnaown at Phiman Community describe the education of his family members thus: "I have completed grade 12, my wife grade 6, and my eldest son grade 9. After my eldest child has completed grade 9, she assists her mother to sell miscellaneous items. My youngest child is current studying in grade 12 at Rattanakosin School." Lung Chai at Orn-Nuch 14 Rai Community gives an account of the education of his family members that "I have completed grade 6 and my wife never attends school. All my five children attend school. One has completed grade 6 and another grade 9 from a public school nearby."

### **2. *The Homeless***

The homeless displaced receive quite little education. Some have completed elementary school and few have completed lower secondary school. Most of the adult homeless never attend school. Very few have completed elementary or lower secondary school. Some used to attend school but could not complete any level. For example, Phi Khai used to attend school in grade one but eventually had to quit when her father allow her aunt to take her as adopted daughter. Phi Moan, is another example. When she completed grade 1, her mother moved to live in another community. She had to quit school to accompany her mother and to help her work."

## **Public Utilities/Services Systems**

The displaced people cannot have direct access to public services especially running water and electricity. They solve their problems in two ways. 1) They rent an adjacent house that has full access to public services and connect running water system or electricity to their community. 2) They make an

agreement with the owner of a nearby house to reconnect running water system or electricity to their community. An indirect access to public services/ the displaced people have to pay higher prices. The owner of the house always includes service charge and profit margin to monthly bills.

### ***1. The Displaced in Congested Community***

The displaced living in congested community cannot have direct access to basic public services such running water and electricity. They solve their problems by either renting an adjacent house or making agreement with the owner of a nearby house to reconnect running water system or electricity to their community. In practice, the running water and electricity is connected from the house owner/ house-rent to the house of the community leader and reconnected to houses of community members through measuring meters. The charge per unit of running water or electricity used is higher than the charge calculated by the governmental service providers since the owner of the house always includes service charge and profit margin to monthly bills. The community members have their own financial administrative system. In general, the community leader has a duty to collect the charge from each family and to settle bill with the house owner. Some house owners charge the community arbitrarily without informing the community of the total unity of running water or electricity that the whole community consumes and how much per unit they have been charged. Only few do. Lung Chai of Phiman Community gives an explanation of the public service system in his community that “the charge per unit of running water and electricity used is higher than the charge calculated for ordinary home use. Moreover the charge per unit in each community zones varies because the running water and electricity is reconnected from my house to community zone and reconnect from community zone to family members. In some community zone the charge for running water used is at 22 Baht per unit and electricity at 12 Baht per unit. I have rented a nearby house and reconnect running water and electricity from a nearby house to my house and to my community members. While the government charge for running water used is at 12 Baht per unit, the charge for community members is at 20-22 Baht per unit; electricity government charge 5 Baht per unit and community members charge at 10-12 Baht per unit. Excess money is retained for the purpose of maintaining community running water and electric service infra-structure. Phi Amorn of Phiman Community has given a comment on the price charge per unit of running water and electricity used that “the owner of the house to which we attach our community running water and electric system charge us arbitrarily. He/ she never lets us know of the total amount (in unit) of the running water or electricity that the whole community uses. He/ she just tells us that we have been charged by 20 Bath per unit. Sometimes he/ she just demands that we have to pay this or

that total amount of money without informing us how many units of running water/ electricity our community use and how much per unit we have been charged. Lung Pichet (Uncle Pichet) gives words to the interviewer that “our community members can have direct access electricity and running water. The government agencies have connected running water and electric system and installed meter directly to each house. The new comers reconnect running water and electricity to the neighbors’ house. Electricity used is normally charged at 8 Baht per unity and running water at 22 Baht per unit.

## **2. The Homeless**

Community members of Bangkok-Noi and Talingchan Coordination Centers for the Homeless get access to running water and electricity through their coordination centers and their coordination center accesses running water and electricity through the house they have rented. Since they have installed only one central meter at the coordination center, the total price charged is divided equally for every member. Phi Kaek at Bangkok-Noi Coordination Center says that “we can have access to both running water and electricity. Formerly single member was charged 80 per month and a family 120 Baht per month. Currently it is divided and shared by every member equally.” Lung Yai at Bangkok-Noi Coordination Center says that “Formerly each one of us was charged by 80 Baht per month. Currently it is divided and shared by every community member equally.”

## **Group Formation**

Group formation of the displaced is more commonly found among the displaced who live in congested community and the homeless living in the coordination center than other groups. Their group formation is either formal or non-formal. Formal group formation is for the purpose of Saving for Housing among the displaced in congested communities. Non-formal group formation is generally for occupational purpose such as Three-Wheel Cart Group (Zaleng Group) among the homeless residing at the Coordination Center for the Homeless. In their daily life each of the Homeless live independently, with very little mutual support. In addition, the Homeless sometimes form a gang which eventually leads to conflicts, violence, and physical assaults between gangs.

### **1. The Displaced in Congest Community**

Lung Chai at Phimai Community explains the process of group formation and the election of the leader that “we elect the community leader by vote this year. The Four-Region Salum Organization teaches to

form a group. There are 6-7 groups. Each group promote mutual supports and saving.” His explanation is consistent with Pa Samorn’s account (at Phiman Community) “members in our community form a saving group of housing purpose. We plan that when we could save enough money we will buy a piece of land for the permanent settlement of our community. We do not have to encroach other people’s premise any longer. In our group we have elected president, deputy president, accountant, auditor, and administrative committees by voting during the community assembly. However, the researcher finds that there are still sub-group formations and conflicts among sub-groups in their communities. The most apparent conflicts between sub-groups are between the group of original members and a group of new settlers. In this community there is a formal leader of the whole community and a non-formal community leader of a sub-group. In Phiman Community there is a clear bifurcation between the innermost community (original settlers) and vicinity community (new settlers). These two groups have separate community events and always set obstacles/ conditions to block members from the other community to join. Phi Amorn gives an explanation that “community members living at Lung Chai’s Zone will not get involve in any community activities initiated by members of the innermost community (original settlers). Members with these two sub-communities hardly get involve or interact with one another. In case there is an utmost emergence only. That is the reason why I do not have name list of community members in their sub-group who are in need of assistances and those who need to register for their official house number from the MBA. We are completely separated. We do not care for the well-being of each other. Whatever activity we want to do, we have to use our own budget. It is a budget from our Three-Wheel Bicycle/ Motorcycle Fund (Zaleng Fund). When they get financial support or raise fund, they do not share with us. Whatever support we need, we have to raise fund by our own. When they have started their Saving Scheme for Housing, they do not allow us to join nor share their fund with us. They limit participation to their members only. When there is a whole community event, we sometimes work together but without commitment.

## **2. The Homeless**

The homeless living at Coordination Center for the Homeless elect a leader to represent them in their interactions with outside organizations and to monitor an order of the center. The coordination center assigns an NGO official to facilitate the election of a group leader, to give advice and counseling, to assist group leader to represent community members and to monitor an order in the center. The homeless also use the method to elect their leaders at the Coordination Center for the Homeless. Lung Dam, the leader of the homeless explains how the homeless elect their leader thus: “The NGO official who has

been assigned to be a mentor gives an advice to group members of how to conduct a meeting, to nominate a candidate, and to cast vote. The candidate who receives majority support is entitled to be group leader. I have been elected to be a leader, a representative, a coordinator with outside organizations and foundations for the homeless.

## Community Activities

The displaced always organize and join the communities activities with the displaced who live in congested community since their members are fewer than other groups of the displaced. Their joint-community activities results in greater benefits: more budget, space and activities. They organize community activities on Father's Day, Mother's day, and children day. Their community activities include community cleaning and stage shows by children. The budget for community activities are collected from community members and fund raising. The homeless organize their community activities at the Coordination Center for the Homeless. The community activities include walking coffee. Members of the community carry coffee to the houses of the new comers to start a dialogue and to build friendship. Sometimes, community members carry coffee to the homeless in public premise. Coffee enables them to start a dialogue, to build friendship, to introduce the Coordination Center for the Homeless, and to persuade them to move to live at the coordination center.

### 1. *The Displaced in Congested Community*

Lung Chai at Phiman Community gives an account of their community that "We organize community activities on New Year's Day, Children Day, Father's Day, and Mother's Day, and monthly community meeting at the community hall. We always start our community activities by singing Ma Ha Racha Song and paying homage to the king and queen. After that community members are invited to do community service activities as cleaning canals, cleaning drain system, and tree planting. Budget to support these activities are collected from each community member around 100-200 Baht or in accordance to their willingness and fund raising. Agenda of the monthly community meeting is on the direction and strategic plan of community management." Lung Pichet at Orn-Nuch 14 Rai gives an explanation of his community activities that "We do not have many community activities. We combine our New Year's Celebration with children day. On that day we offer food to monks, give children candies and toys. The budget to support our community activities comes from a collection from each family according to their willingness."

## **2. The Homeless**

One of the most important community activities of the homeless is 'walking coffee' and meeting with new community members and/or the homeless living outside the community. Lung Dam, the leader of the homeless gives an explanation of their regular activities that "We have walking coffee activities on Wednesdays and Saturdays. We divide into teams and each carries coffee with them. We offer coffee to the homeless and start a dialogue on their daily life, introduce coordination center, and attract them to move to live at the center. Coffee is a medium of a dialogue and recruitment of a new member to the coordination center. In addition to coffee we offer them medicine and brochure of our monthly activities." The homeless, most of the times join political rally. Phi Kaek gives an account of their participation in the political rally that "we join political demonstration. We also have walking coffee activity for recruitment of new members. We carry coffee with us and as soon as we see a homeless, we approach him/ her, offer him/ her coffee, and start a dialogue. We talk with them on their daily life and attract them to move to live at coordination center. The budget for coffee, transportation, and others is sponsored by coordination center. We have joined 3-4 demonstrations organized around the statute of King Rama V by NGOs' requests. They offer each of us 50 Baht for transportation and meal box. Normally we join them during daytime and return home in the evening.

## **Community Problems**

The most common problem of the displaced is the lack of evidence to prove their identity such as Household Registration book and citizen identification. The lack of these two important evidences rid the displaced equal opportunities and access to public services such as education for their children, running water, electricity, medical services, and opportunity for occupation. This problem also results in mental problems. They are insulted by the passerby and their children are insulted by friends at school. The homeless living in the coordination center are satisfied with their living condition and perceive that they are free from problems. Common problems of the homeless loitering in public premises are: lack of access to public medical services, utilities, food, and security of life and property.

### **1. Displaced in Congested Community**

Main problem of the displaced living in congested communities is a lack of evidences to prove their identity. This problem triggers other related problems as inaccessibility to education, basic medical

services, public services, and occupation. Lung Chai of Phiman Community enumerates the problems in his community thus: "Our most common problem is the lack of Household Registration Record. When the District Office refuses to issue the Household Registration Record for us we are unable to request for running water and electricity. We have to either reconnect water and electricity from a house nearby or rent a nearby house for the purpose running water and electricity. We have to attach our children's name in other people's Household Registration Record so that they will be eligible for admission to school. It is of no connection if we have a connection with the owner of House Registration. If not, we are charged. The second most serious problem is a lack of housing. We want a house on a piece of land that belongs to us or the one that we can lease for a long period of time. We do not want to encroach a public nor private premise. Our existing community is always flooded when it rains and we have great difficulty to get in and get out of our community. Phi Amorn of Phiman Community has given the information concerning their family and community problems that "our family problems are: housing, income, and occupations. When we are unemployed, we are penniless."

## **2. The Homeless**

The homeless residing at the Coordination Centers for the Homeless at Bangkok-Noi and Talingchan report that they do not have any serious problems since they have permanent housing and sufficient public services. Phi Kaek at Talingchan Coordination Center says that "We do not have any serious problems. We are satisfied with housing and have sufficient income." Yai Lek (grandma Lek) at Bangkok Noi Coordination Center reports that "we are happy living here. We do not encounter any serious problems." Phi Mee at Talingchan Coordination Center reports that "it is fine to live here. We do not need to sleep at Sanam Luang. We have running water and electricity. We have jobs and can earn sufficient income."



# CHAPTER 5

## THE PREVENTION AND PROBLEM SOLVING OF THE DISPLACEMENT IN THAILAND: THE CASE STUDY

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### Case Study: The Prevention and Problem Solving of the displaced in Thailand

#### Community Organizations Development Institute (Public Organization)

The Community Organizations Development Institute (CODI) is a public organization under the supervision of the Minister of Social Development and Human Security. It was established through the issuance of a Royal Decree in accordance to the Public Organization Act of 1999. The enactment was announced in National Analects on the 23th of July BE 2543. CODI has mission to support and assist community and community network in regards to their occupation, income increment, housing and environmental development, and quality life enhancement of the people living in urban and rural communities. The philosophy of the institute is wholistic, integrative, and participative development for sustainable security of civil society.

#### Vision

A public organization for society's fundamental strength through the power of community organizations and civil society

#### Mission

1. Support and assist community organizations and networks in improving the careers, income, housing, and standard of life of their members.
2. Provide financial support to community organizations and networks.
3. Assist in the development of community organizations and networks, and coordinate with governmental and private agencies for that purpose.

4. Strengthen cooperation between community organizations and networks at the sub-district, provincial and national levels.

### **Operation Procedure**

1. Establish a city-level coordination with local governments and community leaders

CODI attempts to coordinate with local governments such as municipals, administrative organizations and other related units to provide information for an understanding and active participation of community members at the outset of the program implementation.

2. Organize city-level meeting

City-level meeting aims at providing information and directions of the development and operation plans at provincial, regional and national level to community leaders, representatives and/ or leaders of communities for their comments and opinions.

3. Organize community-level meeting for the election of community leaders and committee members

Community-level meeting is to pave way for the operation of Baan Mankong Collective Housing Program by providing information to members of community organizations.

4. Nominate a committee for Baan Mankong Collective Housing Program

The order to nominate committee members for the operation of the Baan Mankong Collective House Program at community level must include members of related organizations, parties and networks such community organizations, local governments, local schools, other local parties, and networks. This phrase is of most importance since it is an innovative attempt to draw a multi-party linkage between a community, local governments, and organization to establish a mechanism for effective operation of the program. The selection of appropriate committee members must be conducted with great care.

5. Establish working procedure for the committee of Baan Mankong Collective Housing Program

Committee members have to formulate their working procedure for the operation of the program such as committee meeting agenda, community survey, plans for solving housing problems within the framework of Baan Mankong Collective House Program, project development, budget plan, and community design plan.

6. Conduct community survey

The committee has to complete community survey within a month. The community survey must include information of the number of community members and families, housing security status, land ownership, public services and utility, community organizations, saving cooperative, and housing development mechanism.

7. Develop city development plan

The analysis of the summary of each community survey will contribute to the development of mechanism and city development plans within a three-year period. An overview city development plan enables the government to determine development and housing security plans for the poor, allocate budget for community development and land purchasing, set directions for development plans, and develop a network of community development experts, solve community problems at the root-cause, and create success in community development.

8. Establish and promote saving cooperative

Saving for housing is a gateway to housing ownership and an effective method to develop fund for housing and for sustainable community development

9. Formulate development plans for ready community

Development plans must start with a community that suffers serious housing problems and that are ready to learn and participate in development scheme. A success story of a certain community serves as an example and a driving force for other communities.

10. Construct

11. Maintain the community order and well-being after construction

## **Baan Mankong Collective Housing Program**

The Baan Mankong Collective Housing Program was launched as an effort to solve the housing problem of the Thai people living in congested communities. The program is operated by the Community Organization Institute (Public Organization under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security) in collaboration with Community Organization Network, local governments, central and regional community development organizations. The program was initiated in January 2003, as part of the governmental efforts to address the housing problems of 200, 000 the country's poorest families.

### **Rationale and Operation**

The rationale and operation of **The Baan Mankong Collective Housing Program** is unique in that every step of the operation: survey, selection of model community, improvement plan, land purchasing plan, saving for housing plan, housing design, and construction must be operated by the community for the housing security and welling-being of the community. Housing improvement is diversified in forms and purposes to address the problems and needs of community members. The fundamental aim of the program is to collaborate with all related units and organizations, private and public to address community needs and problems as a whole.

Solving problems of congested community is difficult and complicated. The problems are deep-seated, of long historical background, and widely expansive—covering every part of the country. For sustainable success of the problem solving, there needs an efficient and effective mechanism, multi-party cooperation, and networking of communities sharing similar problems.

**The Baan Mankong Collective Housing Program** is not only a mega-program to address congested community housing problems, but is also an active movement for the housing of the people living mega-cities. The operation of the project needs thousand people of different backgrounds and expertise. It needs a coordination in housing design, financial management, change in rules and regulations, state assistance, land management. The coordination among people of different expertise, different governmental units, public and private developmental organizations, and network can prove the sustainable success of a the deep-seated and complicated housing problems of poor people in congested communities.

# CHAPTER 6

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

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The displaced who suffered from flood, landslide, relocation due to arson, dam construction, mega-construction projects does not suffer for a long period of time as two groups in this research since they can access assistances and donations in terms of food, clothes, medicines, and other house-hold items from Royal families and businesses easily. Government agencies provide them temporary shelters during the early phase and permanent housing in self-sufficient community soon after. Some members of the displaced of these types can have better living condition with the compensation they receive.

Groups of the displaced mentioned in this research are cases study of those who are driven to displaced condition/ status due to poverty and unemployment after financial and economic crisis in 1997-2000. Some of them were laborers in housing projects who became penniless after being unemployed and were unable to return to their hometown. Some found shelters in unfinished houses inside construction site, others build their own shelters on unoccupied premises. Their main occupations were garbage collection for sales, secondhand items trade, and labor work for daily wage.

The second case study is the group of the displaced who live their life around Sanam Luang and Klong Lord. These people sleep under trees around Sanam Luang at night and wander about Bangkok city during the daytime to collect garbage or buy used items for sales. Causes of their homelessness are: unemployment; fear of disgust by family members due to unemployment, disgusting diseases; imprisonment experience; or aspiration free lifestyle. This group of the displaced uses coffee as means to approach and attract new members. Existing members carry coffee with them, offer coffee to prospective members, sit down for a discussion and persuade him/ her to be new member. Their group formation increase their negotiation/ demanding power for supports and assistance from government sector. BMA (Bangkok Metropolitan Administration) including all of its 50 district administration has a policy to disregard the existence this second group of the displaced and ignore duties to provide them with assistances.

The displaced in Bangkok, in general live in either of the three kinds of housing conditions: temporary/ permanent houses in congested community, Sanam Luang Compound, and the coordination center for the homeless. Those who live in permanent/ temporary houses in congested communities have to build their own houses with any material available such as used plywood, announcement board, and recycle bricks. Those who do not live in any permanent/ temporary home live around Sanam Luang compound. They have to sleep under tamarind trees or beneath bridges during the night time. Those who live in Coordination Center for the Homeless live in a common/ open house in which there is no separate room for each family. They have to use common kitchen, toilets, and bathroom. Though living in Coordination Center for the Homeless is free of charge, it is very inconvenient and difficult to travel to earn for a living since it is very far away from the city.

**Main problems that the displaced face are as follows:**

1. Unhealthy housing condition: Their houses are too small for number of family members and are built from sub-standard materials. Their houses are neither rainproof nor wind proof. Since their communities are located in low land area, they suffer from flood in rainy season and after heavy rain.
2. Insufficient income: Their main occupations as garbage collection for sales, second items trade, and daily wage labor work generate very low income for daily survival only but not enough for house improvement and education. Insufficient income leads to other serious problems as crime and drug.
3. Unfair treatment due to the lack of identification card: Their lack of identification card leads to a lot of associated problems as inaccessibility to services provided by government such as medical services, public services, running water, and electricity. They have to purchase these government services for a registered house nearby with higher price plus service charge. If they want to have their children attend school for basic education, they have to pay to attach the name of their children in a certain household registration record. It is almost impossible for their children to attend college and universities due to the expenses.
4. Anathema labeling: Those who live in congested communities are disgusted and labeled as the poor. Those who live in a community in which there is a drug dealers and crime are labeled as either druggists or criminals.

Development to the cessation of the displaced status goes on in a very slow pace. Clear case study can be found in Orn-Nuch 14 Rai Community and Phiman Community. The development

of this community is supported by an NGO, The Four Region Slum Network and government sector, Community Development Unit of Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA). Development programs cover areas as career, housing and living conditions, mutual support among community members, community cooperative for saving and groceries. Development programs, especially in the case study of Orn-Nuch 14 Rai Community result in their secure occupation, saving, possibility of land and housing ownership, and cessation of encroachment practice. Currently, Orn-Nuch 14 Rai Community and Phiman Community have become strong communities whose members have secure job and enjoyed better living condition. Most of them have earned sufficient income to support education of their children.

There are other two sustainable development programs that focus on housing and public health of community members. Firstly, Baan Ua-Arthorn Housing Program in which Thai government builds affordable housing and condominium for the poor to buy with low rate installment. Secondly, Baan Mankong Housing Program in which community members collectively deposits saving for land purchase and housing construction. Government supplies them with materials, public utility system, common children playground, and other common properties. However, homeless displaced group cannot access the supports and public utilities aforementioned since they keep moving around Sanam Luang, Klong Lord, and Coordination center for the homeless. They cannot have saving and sufficient income for self-development and education of their children. They earn their living by collecting garbage, buying used items for sales, and sometimes daily wage. The MBA should have a clear policy and allocate budget for the development and improvement of their living condition instead of ignoring their existence. In addition, a clear policy to tackle their problems could be one of many solutions to the problems of crimes and drugs in Bangkok city. To be truthful, these displaced never demand for anything more than basic necessities that ordinary Thai citizens need to support the livable life such as public utilities, running water, electricity, identification cards, secure job, and other assistances leading to the cessation of their displaced condition.

Government should make a clear implementable policy for sustainable community development that cover programs and activities as mutual support among group members, community cooperative for saving and groceries, career promotion, secure incomes, and better living condition. These activities and programs enable communities to become strong and self-sufficient. Such development programs will eventually enable the displaced to have permanent housing, secure living conditions, sufficient savings, and income to support education of their children. The success of these communities' development programs would prevent the displaced mobilizing to cities. In addition, it is a permanent solution to other critical urban problems as drug rings, crime, slum and other congested/ slum community problems.



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