

## Panel 29 : Research Group on Wellbeing and Sustainable Development

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# The Role of Employments: Home-based Garment Workers Livelihood Strategies in the Lao PDR.

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## Abstract

This article was examined how home-based garment worker various proactive roles of employment-activities associated a means of living. Building on previous livelihood strategies are particularly valuable in the Lao PDR. An exploratory qualitative method was used for examining in-depth interviews with 15 KIs representing distinct groups. From the data processing was performed thematically coded three distinct: categories, summaries and syntheses. Thematic analysis was used to determine the five-grouped various roles of employment, but continue to increase with activity. In order to address as (1) low-status (2) immediate-status (3) high-status (4) single-earner and (5) dual-earner. We found that the increased dual-employments are highly status to continue proactive in economic activities. However, it is affected by low-activity prior employment was negatively besides work status. We recommend that are consistent with the action the role of employments associated with high-status and highly involved livelihood strategies. Existing policy and implication to improve the workers were employed in the informal household economy of the Lao PDR.

**Keywords:** The Lao PDR, the role of employments, home-based workers, livelihood strategies

# The security dynamics of drought-prone community in upper Chi watershed

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## Abstract

Although many communities in Upper Chi watershed always experience the continued drought on a regular basis, but the communities can exist all along. Therefore, this research aims to study the adaptation for security of drought-prone communities in upper Chi watershed. The qualitative method was used in this research. Data were collected by in-depth interviews the 50 people, which is the key informants consist of community reader, local scholars, the chief executive of the Sub-district Administrative Organization (SAO), group and network committees and the farmers who live in drought-prone communities in the Upper Chi Watershed. The data was presented by using content analysis, descriptive and tables. The results show that even Non Sila Community frequently experiences continuous drought and the natural resource decreases and degrades, but the community can adapt itself to security by working on farm and off farm. Some members have to work outside the community and some still work in the community and in the agricultural sector as usual. The division of work causes the community to earn revenues both in agricultural and non-agricultural sector. So adaptation is the process of obtaining the security of drought-prone communities in upper Chi watershed. The security consists of: 1) economy consists of production, consumption, distribution, selling the goods, management the debt, saving and investment. 2) Society consists of; leniency, harmony, cultural and traditional inheritance, social group/organizations and networks and participants. 3)The food consists of obtaining, consumption, transformation, availability, abundant and diverse, accessible, utilization and valuable and safety. 4)The natural Resource consists of the resources allocation, monitor, conservation and recovery.

**Key words:** The security dynamics, drought-prone community, upper Chi watershed, wellbeing Self-reliance.

## Introduction

Security is the ultimate goal of human life. But nowadays it is challenged by the several disasters which from the human-actions and natural treats. Especially the natural disasters which results from climate change making the world face serious problems, such as earthquake, flood, tsunamis and drought, etc.

For Thailand, the natural disasters have tent to occur more frequently, such as drought, which it tends to be more severe and long-lasting. Especially in the Northeast, where experiences the drought most of the country. Considering the deeply level found that the Chi watershed which covers the most of areas in the northeastern, 14 provinces or three in four of regions, is the most drought, by considering the rainfall average found that the rainfall is the lowest average of the region, 1195 mm. per year. (Department of Royal Irrigation. 2009). So communities in that area are so vulnerable to drought which may affect the community security. Especially the communities are in the upper watershed, because that area is under the rain shadow zone. So the rain falls less, it's not falls so long-time, so long time it falls once, some years or some areas it's not falls consecutive 6-7 months, the rainfall declines less than 1,000 mm. per year in some areas and in the rainy season the rain leaves the row for 15-20 days. (Center of Geoinformatics for the Development of Northeast Thailand. 2007, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. 2010). That situation makes the communities in the Upper Chi watershed always experiencing the drought every year. Some communities experiences the drought 1-3 times per year, which is the most severe drought and drought has repeat occurred consecutively six times in around 10 years. (Office of Natural Calamity and Agricultural Risk Prevention. 2013). So the drought may affect the communities' security in the upper Chi watershed every time.

However, even though many communities in Upper Chi watershed experience the drought continues. But many researches such as Theerasawat, S. (2003), Thongyou, M. (2005), Prakongsri, P(2008) ., the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. (2010), Kerdsuk, V. & Kerdsuk, V., (2010) shown that many communities in upper Chi watershed can survive by management adapting by using the managerial resources or funds available in the community and wisdom. These findings are consistent with the concept of disaster management of the IPCC. (2012) pointed that the ability to adapt as a result of the strength or special features of the resource or capital of the community will be used to manage or reduce the risk or consequences of the disaster. Therefore we can say that adaptation is a process to achieve the communities security in the Upper Chi watershed experiencing drought continues.

So, the research questions are as follows: why can communities in upper Chi watershed survive amid severe and increasing drought throughout? How can these communities securization? We believe that results of this study can be taken as a guide to develop and maintain the security form of drought-prone communities in upper Chi watershed and can present the policy to the relevant departments such as Office of Social Development and Human Security and Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board including local authorities, such as TAOs., Municipal and so on.

## **Research Objective**

To study the adaptation for security of drought-prone communities in upper Chi watershed.

## **Research Methods**

The qualitative method is used for his research. Unit of analysis is community. It is Non Sila community which is the only one community for studying. Data were collected in the community and household level by in-depth interviewing 50 key informants consist of; the village headmen (1 person), community leaders (3 persons), local scholars (5 persons), religious leaders (1 person), village council (10 persons), network council (5 persons), the board of chief executive of the Sub-district Administrative Organization (SAO) (1 person) and farmers (24 persons) who have lived in Nonsila community where has faced the drought continues annually. The key informants were selected by purposive with the following qualifications: 1) who have lived in the community for 30 years to see the transformation of communities 2) who have a role in the community development for setting the guideline for development the community security. The semi-structure questionnaires were used for interviewing. In during collection the data we have observed the key informants' behaviors by participant and non-participant observation. Then we analyzed the data by classification, group, table, coding and meaning. We checked the validity to confirm its reliability by examining the data from more different sources and interviewing many key informants for cross checked the reliability of data. The results were presented by descriptive based on the reality of social phenomena from interpreting, meaning, following the concepts and theories and presented by descriptive analysis and table to clearly understand.

## **Results and Discussion**

### **Results**

The findings are presented in two parts; 1. The context of drought in community 2) Adaptation for security of drought-prone community in upper Chi watershed follows;

#### **1. The context of drought in community**

Non Sila community is in Tombon NongKha, KasetSombun District, Chaiyaphum. It is the one of communities in upper Chi watershed that experiences the drought continues for a long time. Non Sila community located in the slope from east to west. It located between Phukatea and Pukhieo. PhuKatea is on the east and PhuKhieo is on the west. The Topography characteristic of that area make Non Sila community is in the rain shadow, less wind, dry weather, ground floor, mostly bedrock or mountain rock. The study found that a drought can divide in four categories by using the concepts of Department of Water Resource (2553) 1) Meteorological drought was found that there is less rain, the rain is not fall long time and a little bit. The rain had continued left for 15-20 days in rainy season. 2) Hydrological drought was found that the amount of runoff in rivers, reservoirs and wetlands is withdrawn. 3) Drought agriculture was found that agricultural production is damaged or incomplete. Many plants wither Dry dead and impacted many pets dawn and died. 4) Socioeconomic drought was found that it affected the livelihood of the community in the economic and social which causes of depression and anxiety, as well as the lack of good relationships in the community

#### **2. Adaptation for security of drought-prone community in upper Chi Watershed.**

Adaptation is process of creating and maintaining the traditional ways of community on the economy, society, food and nature, as follow:

##### **2.1. Economy**

Adaptation for security on the economy consists of;

1) Production following (1) production in agriculture sector, it's the cultivation and animal husbandry. For cultivation; the community plants the rice, jute, cassava, sugarcane and vegetables such as lettuce, parsley, onion and garlic etc. In the past the community planted the crops by using the rain and canal mainly and used the labors in household-man and animal-later the

community dug the pools and drilled the groundwater, and used the walking tractors for labor. Since 2011 to nowadays the community plants the rice, chili and sugarcane only. The vegetables are grown less. The labors are only man and machines. And animal husbandry; consists of fish, ducks, chickens, turkeys, geese, pigs and cattle. The community feed the fish, ducks, chickens, turkeys, pigs and geese for the food and cattle for food and labor, sometime they were sold. (2) Production in non-agricultural sector, it's the employment and trading. For the employment; it's consists of 1) employment in agricultural sector such as farming, growing the jute, cassava, sugarcane and saw etc, these activities were hold on near community or in the province such as Jod and KhongKha village etc., and other province like KhonKhaen, Chantaburi, Nakhonratchasima and Pechaboon etc., 2) employment in non-agricultural sector for examples construction and factory, most community's members work in Bangkok and its perimeter. For trading; in the past the community sold wild goods such as bamboo shoots, mushrooms, sweet leaf, marmot, chipmunk, squirrel and lemurs etc; and the community sold the wickers such as the baskets, rice boxes and wool beanies. Moreover the community weaves the mats and cloths. But nowadays the trade was gone away.

Table 1: shows the table of work and income

<b>Working</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Household</b>
Employment on agricultural sector such as farming, jute, cassava and sugarcane etc.	270-300/a person/day	almost
Employment on no-agricultural sector such as construction and factory etc.	250-300/person/day	almost
Planting the jute	14,000-16,000/year	about40 - 50
Planting the cassava	24,000-32,000/year	about60 -70
Planting the chili	7,000-24,000/year	
Planting the sugarcane	210,000-810,000/year	More than 80%
Selling the wild products such as bamboo shoots, mushroom and sweet leaf etc.	4,500-5,000/month	almost
The woven products; basket and rice container	4,000-8400/month	9
Wool hat	12,000-15,000/month	12

2) Consumption; in the past the community consumed almost productions from their available and natural produce. Because there are many and abundant natural resources. The community has the inherited knowledge and skills which help it can product the productions such as rice, mats, pillows, splash, rice container and baskets etc, including the food and vegetables that the community can grow and get from the natural such as Lettuce, celery, onions, tomatoes, ginger, galangal, lemon grass, mango, tamarind, coconut, fish, shrimp, oysters, crabs, birds, frogs, kiet, bullfrog, and so on. Later the natural resources degraded and decline. The community faces the drought increase. The cultivate products and the food increase. The community consumes the goods from the markets more over. Otherwise the community has more income so lets him consumes the goods from the markets further. Nowadays the community can consume the necessary goods such as food, clothing and medicine etc, and luxury goods such as radios, TVs, refrigerators, mobile phone and cars, etc.

3) The distribution, it was found that there are three characteristics: (1) distribution of agricultural products, it appears on the form of the exchange of goods between the members in the community and other communities, and the sharing the goods to relatives and neighbors such as food, plants and rice. (2) The distribution of labor, in the first period the distribution of labor in the agricultural sector in the community and nearby communities. Then the labors have spread outside the agricultural and community over more. (3) The distribution area of Agriculture, it found that the community has spread the cultivation of the variety by growing the rice in lowland areas and enough water. And crops in upland areas where floods do not reach.

4) Selling goods, it found that community has sold the goods to merchants / vendors who came to get the goods in the community. Most of merchants/vendors came from KasetSombun and NongBuadang District. Sometimes members of community have buy the goods from neighbors and then brought to sold to merchants/vendors in their district. But sometime the members have reunited to sell to merchants / vendors directly, because they can receive over more 0.50 satang per kilogram. The most price of products based on the market.

5) Management the debt; found that the community has how to manage their debts by borrowing the money from other sources for give the first creditor or installment. Some households have money from selling the goods and receive the money from their grandchildren who works on other province. Some households have extra works then take the money for play.

6) Saving: found that there are three savings following; (1) self-saving, (2) saving with the groups (3) saving in the bank. In the past the community' members had all saving by themselves. Later about 1986-87 they divided the cost into 2 groups, one about 70 % for playing on diary and second group which had about 30 %, had saved with the banks and groups. But nowadays they



almost have the savings with the banks and groups more than more. They have, especially, saving with the banks. After they can sell the crops or/and earns.

7) Investment: found that in the past the community has a little bit investigation. Usually the community only invests on the farm, such as buying the jute and cassava seed for selling, buying the buffalos and the crows for agriculture and food, the agricultural tools for examples, plows, hoes and shovels, etc. Moreover, the community buys the plants seed such as beet seed, shallot, garlic and coriander, etc. Later until nowadays the community more invested on the agriculture like, pooling, groundwater dig, sugarcane planting, buying the tillers, buying chemical fertilizers, pesticides and supporting their descendants for study on the diploma and bachelor of art.

## **2. Society**

Adaptation for security on the society consists of

1) The leniency it found that there are three characteristics: (1) goods sharing: they shared the food; including rice, fruits, vegetables, bamboo shoots, mushrooms, fish, frogs, and textiles; pillows, mats, clothes etc., and plants seeds; mustard seeds, flax seeds, onions etc. also the Federation of chicken (2) lending the tools /equipment used in agricultural /equipment for the food; spades, rakes of swing, gun typically looking, and (3) agricultural worker sharing.

2) The harmony: it was expressed through these activities, there are two types; first, it is the development activities, such as building the temple, construction the streets, cleaning the streets and community, etc., and traditionally activities associated with religion such as MagaBuja day, Visakha Puja day and Asalha Puja day etc., and activities concerned with Heat 12 Clong 14 such as Khoawsak Bun and Bhaved Bun etc.

3) The cultural and traditional inheritance: found that it was expressed through these processes (1) conservation; it was processed by three social institutions: school, temple and community, they always do activities related with religion and tradition such as Khow Pan Sa, Ook Pan Sa, Visakha Puja day and Maga Puja day etc. (2) recovery; found that many activities was recovered, for examples: Bun Bang Fai, sharing the money to the temple for pay for the utilities and wearing the white on Buddhist holy days. (3) Reestablishing; found that the community has reestablished many activities related tradition and religion, for examples; the project of summer novices, Father's Day and Mother's Day and washing the PraThongkum image who was the holy monk of community.

4 (Social group/organizations and networks: Previously, the community gathered informally for self-management, such as the integration of organizations and networks. The feature of this integration was formed by the good relations of the community, both formal and informal, and the social network of the community was also an important factor of self-reliance of the community.

5) Participants; found there are five characteristics: (1) a joint planning and decision making, the first community to take action either. Community meetings have discussed before, both as an informal discussion group leaders. The elders in the community, etc., and a joint meeting between group leaders and community members. The combined Plan and decide together the guidelines make it clear, (2) co-operation. The community practices successfully. The community has acted together like some food, rice, fish, pillows, mats, the money donated to support Employee or (3) get together after the community has already taken. The result reflected the community shared responsibility of both the beneficial and adverse effects (4) evaluate the community plan and decide together the community has assessed in a manner that is reflected in a manner of speaking about issues that either. In unofficial talks as the group's senior leaders, the temple committee and the group is officially the Committee. The Committee and the discussion on the agenda of urgent or (5), co-edited the community together after the evaluation is completed, if the results are not satisfactory. The community got together to resolve improved further

### **3. The food:**

Adaptation for security on the food consists of;

1) Obtaining and production: found that obtaining the food has 4 processes (1) the cultivation; the community plans almost the rice for the food, subordinate plants are vegetable garden such as cabbage, kale, celery, cabbage, morning glory, onions, garlic, galangal and lemon grass, etc., the community, moreover, also plants the mango, tamarind and coconut. (2) a natural resources; forest, soil and river, which these resources provide a variety of foods, such as Bullfrog, frogs, fish, shellfish, insect, ant eggs, mice, squirrels, birds, cassia and mimosa, etc. (3) feeding the animal, consists of ducks, chickens, pork, fish, cows and buffalos (4) the exchange of food between the community and outside the community, (5) buying the food from the market.

2) Consumption the food found that the most self-produced food was consumed more than 90% and remain sold. There are 3-4 items/menus for meal in each time consists of the rice which is the main food and other menus such as chili, fired fish, fired fogs, vegetables, Lap, Kloy, Pla, Asparagus soup, mushroom soup and curry vegetable etc. later since 2007 most foods was brought from the market because the sauces of food were destroyed and drought.

3) Transformation: found that there are two characteristics: (1) transformation for eating in each time which is the menus such as spicy, chicken soup, boiled, grilled, fried, etc. (2) preserving; the preserved menus consist of pickled fish, pickled bamboo and Mum.

4) Availability. Food sources of the community in the first period are divided into three categories. 1) Food sources from nature. The food was taken from PhuKhieo Forest, HuanaPlairai Forest and PhuKrate Forest (community forest). 2) Food sources from the community. The only food that the community could produce was rice. 3) Food sources from the sharing of community members. 4) Food sources from a network of community.

5) Abundant and diverse. The study found that the food in the community is rich and diverse. It can be classified by types of food sources as follows. 1) Food from forest such as bamboo shoot, mushroom, sweet leaf, birds, rats and fruits. 2) Food from paddy fields or ground such as crab, grasshopper, rat, cricket, insect and frogs. 3) Food From water sources such as fish, crab, clam, frog, water insect and tadpole.

6) Accessible. Community can access to food at all times. No matters what happens, the community can manage to obtain food every time and every household. The processes of self-management of the community to access food are followed. (1) The community determines the rights together even the natural food sources in the community are divided into two parts. One is a natural food source which is the common property of the community including PhuKhieo Forest, PhuKrate Forest, Bak Too Canal, Chan Taew Creek, KudSae Creek and NongBua Pond. These natural food sources can be accessed by every household in the community at any time. Another is a natural food source from private property including farm, field and Hua Na Plairai Forest. (2) Sharing and exchanging food of the community. It is a way that the community can access to food. (3) Producing food-finding equipment (4) Setting schedule for food finding (5) Reserving food sources of the community together.

7) Utilization and valuable. Previously, the community produced and found food on its own. Most food was in the natural system which was various enough to consume because natural resources were abundant. Importantly, those natural resources were safe, non-toxic and nutritious. Later, the community used more chemicals in agriculture and the community experienced drought. It reduced the variety of food and reduced nutritional value. Food, such as frog, fish, frog and shell, was decreased. The community members bought food from the market and the food was not various. Sometimes the food was not fresh and it resulted in decreased nutritional value. Some community members consumed instant food and canned food.

(8) Safety: In the past, food of the community was mainly from natural sources. The agriculture of the community was in natural way so the food was safe and non-toxic. Since the community began farming using toxic in 1987, food in the community has been mixed with chemicals including insecticides, chemical fertilizers and pesticides. In particular, current agriculture uses a lot of chemicals so the food system of the community is at risk. The fact that community members mainly buy food from the market also causes a great risk to the food of the community.

#### **4. The natural Resource:**

Adaptation for security on the natural resource consists of;

1) The resources allocation. The community allocated natural resources in two parts. (1) Personal natural resources. The land, in particular, is divided into two types. One is for housing and another is for farming. In the past, the land for housing was divided into three parts. The first part was for building a house. The second part was for growing vegetables. The third part was the courtyard. Today, most of the community members do not grow vegetables any more. For the land for farming, in the past, the community members liked to grow rotated crops. They grew rice in the rainy season, vegetables in the dry season, and jute and cassava in the upland areas. Now the community shifts to grow sugarcane instead of rice, jute and cassava. The forests are used for raising animals and finding food. (2) Mutual natural resources. The community demarcates some natural resources as sharing areas. Water sources are used for food source, farming, animal husbandry and household use. The forests are used as a food source for humans and animals and used in religious rites.

2) Monitor; found that the community monitored the natural resources on formal and informal. The formal monitor: the community organized the committees for monitor the natural resource such as forest committees etc. And the informal monitor; the community's members observe the change of natural resources such as weir overflow and wildfire etc. They will warn other by telling each other.

3) Conservation; found that the community conserves his natural resources by different zoning for co-using such as Padhin forest for ecotourism, community forest, public forest and sanctuary zone etc. The community can conserve his natural resources as well by zoning so that.

4) Recovery; found that the community has the activities for recovery the natural resources continuous such as the community grows more than 10,000 trees for forest recover

around the area of Padhin forest, community forest and public forest etc, besides the community takes the water hyacinth out the canals.

In summary, in the past the community could security because there are abundant and divers natural resources and the community could access and use them for livelihood. Then the community experiences the more drought and the natural resources has withdrawn. The community can't access and use extreme the resources on somewhere like in the past. So the community has adapted to change by cropping for more sell. Moreover the community has worked more off-agriculture and outside. So the community has more income and plays for daily. These processes result to livelihood of the community from the past to nowadays. These adaptive processes make the community obtains to the security since the past to nowadays.

## **Discussion and Conclusions**

### **Discussion**

The adaptation for security of a drought-risk community in Upper Chi Watershed are different due to the self-adaptation of the community towards internal factors including droughts and external factors including markets, capital, policies and new technologies so the community remains stable. This is consistent with the findings of Young, C., D., Soto, D., & Brown, D. (2009) and Braatz, S. (2009) show that building security by adaptation can reduce the risk of communities in vulnerable areas. Even the community adapts itself to the outside by working outside the agricultural sector more, the community still mainly work in agricultural sector and create more revenues within the community. This is consistent with the study of Theerasasawat, S. (2003) that the households in Northeastern community adapt themselves by working outside the agricultural sector to increased revenues. The study of Thongyoo, M. (2005) also mentions that households in the Northeast of Thailand adapt themselves to survive by dividing economic activities, continuously growing rice and keeping agricultural land. However, the community still focuses on economic issues in terms of revenue in cash used in daily life. This is consistent with the study of Mingthiphon, O. (2552) that the community has economic security in monetary value. Increasing money will help the community reduce insecurity in other aspects especially when the community experiences drought and the price of goods is volatile. The findings are consistent with the study of Lackstrom, K., Brennan, A., Ferguson, D., Crimmins, M., Darby, L., Dow, K., et al. (2013) show that the drought affects the price of goods. Thus, money is an important factor in achieving security in other aspects because the drought affects the food system of the community. Communities must adapt to a new system. The community has to create new food system by buying more food from the markets. The result of the research is consistent with the study of Devereux, S. (2007) that people

who cannot produce enough food will be pushed into the market to buy food. The price of food is not fixed and sometimes it is expensive. As a result, it is difficult for the community to access to food.

## **Conclusions**

The results show that even Non Sila Community frequently experiences continuous drought and natural resources, which are the important living capital, has decreased and degraded, the community still survives. It can adapt itself to both drought and the decline of natural resources in the community, which are the internal factors, and the flow of capital, market and technology, which are external factors, and the community still works in agricultural sector as before. The community works outside the agricultural sector more by dividing work in the household. Some members have to work outside the community and some still work in the community and in the agricultural sector as usual. The division of work causes the community to earn revenues both in agricultural sector and outside agricultural sector. The community can hold on firmly to the present. The adaptation of the community is seemed to be dynamics. In Phase 1, the community began to settle mainly by farming in the community. Later in phase 2, the community began to develop to the outside by working outside the community. In phase 3, when more capital, market and technology flow into the community, it see them as an opportunity and a benefit to itself so it is fully open to the capital.

## **Suggestion**

1. There should research the ability to adapt to the community's drought in the deep. To determine the factors and indicators of its ability to adapt to clear. It was informed that community drought is capable of adapting to any level. Because each community has the ability to adapt different.

2. The relevant departments of social development, such as the Social Development and Human Security (Burma.) Office of the National Economic and Social Development. Department of Community Development, the study should be applied to such a policy to encourage the development or adaptation of a community that suffered drought. They should support the drought-pone community in economic group such as knitting wool hat group, Textile Group and OTOP group etc. Because these groups can receive more earn, they can compensate the other security. The local and regional authorities, such as TAOs. Municipal and District Office, etc., should be the result of such a study to determine the application or development.

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# Social Capital and Informal Learning of Urban Poor

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## Abstract

This article is part of the study in dynamics of educational inequality of the urban poor and appropriate management guidelines. The purpose is to study social capital affecting informal learning of people living in slums along railway line sources close to the main city in the new economy of the region, Thailand. By the way, the study of documents and in depth interviews.

The results of the study found the first issue, education is a key factor in the development of the economy and access to power is important to national development. Thailand government, higher invest spending on education through the development of much more accessible to all groups studied thoroughly. But in practice, there are some groups that do not have access to education until the end of compulsory education under the National Education Act defined.

The second issue, survive the society has changed over the years. The struggle to gain economic, social opportunities and quality of life occur not only in the education system, but for people living in slums, informal learning is a method that enabled him to survive and become self-reliant also.

The final issue, the informal learning of the people living along the railway have quality different depending on the social context and the social capital that is a condition resulting informal learning. To include human capital, social capital and physical capital of living space. Especially, the capital, causing inequality to access informal learningis financial capital, human capital and physical capital.

**Keywords:** Urban Poor, Informal Learning, Social Capital, Railway

## 1.Introduction

Human resources are the backbone of the country development. And education is an important tool in the potential development of people. People can create a knowledge-based skill that is essential to their survival. Are ready to fight for themselves and to engage in social work profession. Because today is changing rapidly and progressively more. Be the social-economic competitive intelligence. Use the knowledge base to work. We must give priority to developing education. Especially the modern society is the "Knowledge is power". Learning has become an important and necessary for everyone to be multiplied. The person who access to knowledge has become more advantageous. Therefore, equality in education is what has been defined as a core policy of providing education. Which equality rights are defined by the public to be educated equally in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand. And National Education Act of 1999, and as amended (No. 2) Act 2002. Substantive law consistent with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand said that education must provide individuals with equal rights and opportunities to receive basic education, not less than twelve years, the state must provide both the quality and without charge. To provide a process Thai people and a Thailand social step into the future with stability. Because I believe that " Education cause person development, The person can develop the Nation ". A good education will make the quality standards on the quality would make progress as a nation.

A review of the literature found that Education and poverty are correlation significantly. The data from the northeast and the north, with a population aged 15 years over and 58 percent of the population 15 years over studies have only elementary education and under there and never learn. This makes it difficult to develop their skills in the profession to make money without destroying the life and better. And also the inequality of income distribution between the richest and the poorest has reached 25.2-fold difference. When comparing the income of graduates in higher education higher than high school graduates. We can be said that poverty is violence in a population with no education or education levels are low. The result of study the situation of poverty and income inequality in the country found that in 2009, be uneducated 22 percent of the poor all country. While 11 and 10 percent studies in pre-primary and primary education respectively. Which the population with higher education are more out of poverty, So raising the lower income groups, giving rise to promoting access to resources fairly. Creating educational opportunities of children and awareness information and increase occupational skills, Including welfare required by the fundamental rights to the target truly would be the one to reduce the gap between rich and poor and the disparity that exists. (Rattapipat, D.,2010; Ngamlamom, V.(n.d.). and The Office of the Nation Economic and Social Development Board ,2014)

Particularly among the poor who live in slums, who develop of a habitat of immigrants from the countryside into the cities, they living together in the wilderness or empty private or public sources, is housing. A price too high, they live in a big city with economic growth expanded. Most lack the skills to make a living, a group with less education, Occupational informal sector, Do not want to practice the skill more, Most earn low returns, There are no certainly income, There is a lack of occupation stability such as work as employee, ride the tricycle, sell food,waiter, ride themotorcycleor sell the recycle garbageetc.(Dhiravisit,A., 2007). Therefore providing education to people in underserved urban or urban poor is extremely important for the development of an enhanced quality of life and is a major factor in social mobility. People who have little access to the education system will have access to good jobs with high incomes and less good health than people with higher education. Especially in underserved urban or urban poor living in slums. (Rapeepat, A.,1999)and)Ngamlamom, V.(n.d.). However found despite recent government will give priority to education, To urge all groups in society have equal access to the educational system but it still has the problem of students dropping out of school without graduating. And as a result, a link to the educational level of the labor force in Thailand as a resource for developing countries, driven mainly just finished a bachelor's degree or less. The report by the UNESCO in 2011 found that state budget expenditure on education accounted for 24% of Thailand's budget or about 500,000 million baht per year, this is the second highest in the world. And the budget of Thailand for education at all levels of education in the Asean region with the highest budget up to 22.3 percent 19.8 percent, followed by Vietnam, Indonesia, the Philippines, 17.1 percent to 15.0 percent. And the countries with the lowest are Japan and Singapore 9.4 percent and 10.3 respectively.(Office of the Education Council Ministry of Education, 2013). But the problem still exists and is likely lower quality education to the majority of the budget allocation to develop otherwise, up to 95 percent of the budget.Actually just 5 percent of a quality educational experience.For that reason, the impact of failed policies in the 12 years of free education. And loan funds for education, the government will increase financial support to the students studying in compulsory education (Both general and vocational). To reduce the burden, and to charge the cost of education from a parent. And for poor households to get loans however, with only 5% of the education budget makes many schools to keep costs more. The budget for the lender failed to meet the required amount recovered adequately. So far there has not been a chance to recover. This is a burden that the poor could be studied. Poor households can not invest in education to compete with the middle class and the rich equally. The family will have a great potential to support their children to have a better education to students in the higher educational level. Children who come from families that are poor often have to leave school prematurely. Can not be enrolled in basic education up until the end of the middle school, which is even compulsory.

Past guidance in support of education for the poor or disadvantaged people the opportunity to learn a variety of channels but it's still not successful enough. The action because the study looks redundant, the lack of unity in the policy implementation performance. Planning and management of inappropriate curriculum and teaching methods that do not truly respond to the needs of the urban poor. Then we can not afford to raise the living standards of the poor better. (Leksomboon, S, 2012). Though, the study will be part of helping to reduce poverty. Cause the ability to accumulate more wealth, have a steady income. But restrictions remain in charge. And time consuming to enter the education system. Poor families are intended to provide members of the household work for earners over the importance of education. Thus enabling the poor to study less and do not see the importance of education as they should.

The phenomenon suggests a problem of education going on. Access to education remains an issue of broader society, especially among Thailand's poor, lack of access. Therefore after the development of the education system, so it is important to continue to enhance self-reliance under the transformation of society and the economy but learning from birth until the end of his life, according to their interests and needs. Call this form of learning that "Informal Learning". For people who live in slums, informal learning is a method that enabled him to survive and support themselves under society has changed over the years. In order to get to the economic, social and quality of life. And the informal learning of the communities along the railway factors or conditions of any kind of capital that result in informal learning. What kind of capital and cause the disparity of informal learning.

## **2. Method**

This method is used to gather data in depth interviews. Using the Depth Interview Guideline and Participant Observation as a tool to gather information. Attend community events and lifestyle of the community. And Non-Participant Observation by observing the interaction of family members and the community.

### 3. Result

The poverty in line with the principle of development is to improve the capabilities and capacity of the poor to be self-reliant. Using the knowledge, skills and have knowledge in order to get free from poverty by promoting quality education for a better life. Because the people who are driving the development at all levels through the skills and knowledge necessary to build a career in the competitive environment and contribute to economic stability, political and social. We can not deny that education plays a role in the development of developing countries in various fields. Whether you're planning to drive the country to meet goals. So there is a tremendous need to keep focused and dedicated to the development of the education system. Because when a person with a good education. It has the potential ability of developing countries. Although Thailand has supported educational resources is relatively high in terms of the budget and extending education to remote areas in the distant boom. I believe that education is an investment for the development of a smart individual and socio-economic development of the country's progress. The report analyzes the situation of poverty and inequality in the year 2012 found that in attendance will be compulsory enrollment rates decrease as education levels rise. As follows 87.6 percent of elementary school, junior high school education, 67.6 percent, 55.1 percent and 28.5 percent of bachelor's degree. And cause students to drop out at the top, including as many as 39,700 poor people (Office of the Education Council Ministry of Education, 2009). Children who come from families that are poor often have to leave school prematurely. Can not be enrolled in basic education up until the end of the middle school, which is even compulsory. What makes these poor people have to bear the cost of higher education, compared to income of the poor are. Investment in education and can not compete with the rich, the middle class and equally so the disparity in access to education.

From the slums along the railway near the city's new economic zone showed that the population of 489 people, 190 of whom were men, 299 were women. Of these 489 were children between birth to six years old amount of 52 people, 7-34 years old amount of 217, 35-59 years old amount of 165 people and as seniors 60 years over amount of 55 people. The occupation of the people living in the community, most men are labor occupations. Such as laborer, taxi driver, tuktuk driver, ride the motorcycle. And most women are professional commercial communities within or outside the community. Such as wholesale the pickled asparagus, make the food for sale. Which is part of a lifestyle that has ties together to the bus station for the profession. It relies on the growth of the economy is. Some households do not have to trade outside the community, it is an open area in front of shops and restaurants. Targeting both in the community, employees working in a

department store and one-time customers. Can be sold from 08:30 a.m. until to 17:30 p.m. Some household income by creating a space for the community to rent daily and monthly basis.

The interviews showed that the target groups who live in such communities are not graduating high because the family is poor and there are many brothers and sisters. Specially, the age groups (46-59 years) and seniors (60 and over) in a study just completed the fourth grade because in those days to the end of compulsory education the fourth grade. Be able to read and write and subtract the number calculable. Can be used in everyday life. This is the last class of junior primary education (Grade 1-4). As senior primary education is Grade 5-7, junior high school is Ms. 1-3, And senior high school there since the Ms. 4-5 up. Then the entrance examination. Those days, most people let their children just finish school Grade 4. If you will need to further study must into the city, which is far more arduous journey. Therefore, the opportunity for access to higher education is less than the present lot. So, these people will have problems with the perception of information or opportunity to choose a job. This group of adults aged 25-45 years from now will not graduate because of a poor family. They see the importance of earning a more mainstream classes. And is caused by male students who are not interested in learning. Even at that time there will be scholarships for both public and private sector, but it is not enough. Once out of the education system, Most of the provinces to be persuaded of the known or the non-relatives or family members and relatives in order to a job. And the reasons for relocating to Khonkaen province since because a source of economic prosperity. Can find work more easily than existing residential areas. When settlers arrived in the community already has a career as an employee, self-employed and do not work.

Although most people in the communities along the railroad could not finish compulsory education, according to the law, then set out to find a job to earn money. That did not mean that learning to live over the learning system only. According to the National Education Act of 1999 refers informal learning that, the study, to learn self-interest, the availability and the potential opportunities acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes of everyday experience in the family, community from the work, library, media and other in an environment of social environment people experience media or other sources of knowledge (Office of National Education. Prime Minister's Office, 1999). There are two forms: 1) The self-learning by researching the various media resources and local knowledge. 2) Learning from the teaching activities are organized by course, format, purpose. But the students are learning or not based on the interests and needs of the learners themselves. The existence of the people in the slums of informal learning caused by conditions or factors that lead to the ability to adapt to different situations that occur in daily life accordingly.

For people in communities along the railway. It is an interesting point to be used for informal learning in any form groups so they can live in communities along the railway. Factors or conditions that affect their ability to informal learning. The research was collected through in-depth interviews with 30 people found that people in the community are learning different leisure occasionally venture and each has. Some have been learned by observing, recognition of the family or peers. Some of the lessons learned from the process of work until they can develop their own and there is a major source of income to support their families. The interviews found learning the disposition of the community is based on the social capital as a link, causing access to informal learning opportunities. Such as "human capital" The case of Mr. Chai (assumed name) 53 year old he was graduated Grade 3, Currently he is owns a roofing contractor business to government agencies and private organizations. Such as welding the roof of the new bus station. Access to learning opportunities for welders of passion and a career as a mechanic can earn more than others. His father is a welder, so the chance to see his father again. Until graduation, went to work in a factory on the installation of mosquito wire screen doors. When working out as a team so he practice with the same agency as an expert. The factory is to test the expertise of a chief, Mr. Chai was able to pass on higher level coming. When out of work in this community have also been linked with the roof itself. He said that "Welder working interest throughout it is a job with a good income and unlike other jobs. Until I had an opportunity to work with a big head. I asked an intern at the time, did not interfere and this practice as well as expertise. When a person does not work adequately, the chief invited me to go to work. When I first saw my dad work. But do not practice and just never made it. As I learn new tools from the tool shop or sometimes ask people to do the same by asking about the use of new tools then I decided to buy used."

Mrs. Li (assumed name), aged 53 years old. It is one of the groups that do not have professional skills, but learning from her husband. Until now support their children to school Have money to buy housing rights today. Acquisitions and now it has turned into a heritage given to the eldest son and his wife have learned and to generate income for their families continue. She was starting out as a waitress in a restaurant, gas station. Until marriage to second husband who did take the garland for sell on the intersection. Thus helping her husband sell the garland until brother of her husband withdraw brought it for sale to them, Therefore, the need to make her learning and she sought advice from her husband's brother on the garland every step. Like, How are the garland, Where is the garden to pick flowers, Trading equipment and various techniques. Now, Mrs. Li was able to sell off the garland itself. As the second son assist in the sale of the intersection regularly. Their income from the sale of the garland alone and they can be purchased residence in the community for a hundred thousand. Today, Mrs. Li is still the main force in the garland. When asked to increase the number of garland sales per day. She refused because. "I do not have enough of their



own to sell” she said. As the garland of a third model it is characterized by a general sales and other sources and to remember that it was their own.

She said that “My husband and I had to take it, Good income, Do not sell enough, I have sold a third models of the garland. By observing how a truck like this and kind of like pickup trucks and sedans. Remember, sometimes the other. Now the garland has sold the business to his eldest son to inherit from me, Take it from me to sell and I had to go because he's my son, although less profitable. He'll have a family of his own anyway.”

“Social capital” Mrs. Sai (assumed name), aged 68 years old. She was graduated Grade 4. Originally she is a farmers, but also experiencing drought. She moved to Khonkaen to find work in the city with her husband. During the livelihood of the community was advised by colleagues to make a career. By pick the used garbage for sell by way of introduction, storage and sales. Until she was close to shopkeeper and have trust in each other to lend money to each day of the sale. Including advocating for her own children in the name of the census of shopkeeper, in order that the children named in the school district. She currently perform public health volunteer of community. Learning in the role due to her training meeting friends and networking go tell or recounted each other. Until they can transfer knowledge and information to the community.

She said that “I started as a volunteer from the community invited the president of the former community. Initially to provide training to five days and practice in the next 5 days. Staff of municipality teach first aid, preliminary analysis of the illness and take the blood pressure to them. Have a knowledge making it possible to introduce the community to speak with confidence. Volunteering, it makes me so honorably and make people recognize me more, I know other people outside the community also. A network dedicated to health with the doctor in the municipality and center hospital. The other thing I wanted to volunteer because of illness or free medical care. For example, when my husband was sick, the free medical care because he also volunteers as well. And now my life has life insurance, I know about insurance from work to public health volunteer. When I die, children will have the capital.”

Mr. Phong (assumed name), aged 44 years old and graduating class only Grade 6. Current occupation of land brokers and restaurant business is family. These two acquisitions are the main income of his family. He is vice president of this community. The beginning of a real estate brokerage is due to chance in finding vacant land to the people who come to buy. When the job ends, so that income. Generate interest in the study of a real estate brokerage seriously. As study by a group of friends made a career out of it before it made an estate agent all along.



He said that "It is the broker needs to learn a lot about the interest of capitalists, banks will recover. The first time I ran to my car to find land for sale in the province by myself. Sometimes it is not worth the waste oil to a plain but attractive, but now customers who saw me talking about Line application on cellphone, he said that I sent to the line to take a look about picture of the land. I do not take it then I asked my friend to teach me how to use it. This is very convenient not to have to run the car as it was then. Just send it to us to take a look. Line Group, a group of commercial land. Sometimes look for customers to help each other. I think it has the technology more convenient. I just have to keep on learning how to use all of it. It has much to learn and so on. According to the news all because of this profession, it requires knowledge still does not have it is constantly changing.

"Physical capital" Capital One is to encourage the community groups have the opportunity to earn a living or not. From the basic structure of the existing community. Such as this case Mrs. Sodsai (assumed name), aged 35 years old. When graduate Grade 6 she did not study then transferred to another provinces. Work as employee a maid to clean the house and babysitting to the homeowner. Baby skills never learned before, she must practice the culture of her boss. The learning that she was very much at home with her work is cooking. Because homeowners like to cook my own she had to help cook, Until she moved back to Khonkaen. She has put such knowledge to sell their food to income earners.

She said that when the family went to live with his grandmother. She taught me a lot of babysitting and cooking. When children grow up I help her at home send goods to customers, write bill cash, check inventory. Because it is a store building materials. But the choice to open a restaurant because I like to cook. The menu is something I have learned from grandmother of my work place. Isaan food is something that came from my mother. Personally I like to eat Somtum and observe craftsmen myself how much to put out delicious. Most customers are people working in the department with the community they come regularly. Sometimes it is called to order, or call to ask if this was what. As the new menu will also be asked if they have it. If I can do, I will. I've seen in the media on the web. Then it came out what to put. What kind of seasoning to taste."

Ms. Sroi, (assumed name) ages 60 years old, never learned. Can not to literacy, currently living to earn her the sale of community work as employee on laundry and employment to people in the community as well. When she abstained from the laundry is finished. She would spend the rest of the kitchen to make a salesuch as sweetor cook some corn or even to find dry twigs from different communities and in neighboring communities. Cut into pieces to be sold firewood to people in the community household.

She said that "I unschooled Reading it outis responsible for raising children and help parents make sweets to sell. Remember also learned from my mother. She will teach me how to do it. Sales or charge customers I remember how. When I grew up a little to get the bugs out watermelons for sale. Sometimes I keep an eye on the watermelons garden. Today, it's all work to make money. I have no more income but can give my grandchild there's money to go to school, for food 10-15 baht per day.

### **The inequality of access to informal learning**

Survive the society has changed over the years. The struggle to gain economic, social opportunities and quality of life. From formal learning. A method that allows them to live and support themselves. From the above study found that people in the community are largely informal learning from the people around them rather than learning from agencies or organizations directly. Despite the opportunity to access informal learning of the community under social capital, human capital and physical capital but those funds could become a cause of inequality to the informal learning of others as well. Such as

"Human capital" The interview was to tell me that sometimes an agency to support skills training to people in the community. But a group of people with a qualification grade 3 that can be trained. Including training, the participants were required capital investment for equipment or facilities. But it does not cost the same as so many people choose a career as a self-funding only. Such was the case of Ms. Porn (assumed name), aged 46 years old. She has opportunities to work as an assistant cook in a restaurant with be famous for a long time. She can be remembered from culinary techniques and experiences in that store. The self-confidence in her own skills and workmanship when leaving the shop, it does not come to pass herself off as a dream because of lack of funds to invest. And the loan to the bank, it is a big thing for her to do. Because she was fear of not being able to send money back and otherwise, it still costs a lot. Currently do in chicken toast sales have only her own capital. Many people lack the opportunity to informal learn according to the self-interest

Dao (assumed name) age 24 years old, graduated grade 2. Because she addicted to her friends. And the family is poor, so to earn extra money during the holidays. Seeing that they can earn, she is not to come out and work full time. Now she just had a baby when her children grow up she intended to study the aesthetic at the informal education center. So she like this and she have a friend who comes to successful previously. Although the non-formal education classes at the school will be more than that to us, but she has learned how to wash your hair only and she chose to study here

than just another reason alone that is “financial capital”. The beauty of the other proposals that she can do everything over the course of informal education center. The equipment in the open right away, but with a budget of up to tens of thousands of studies at her despair. And studying at the real possibility for her.

The case of Mrs. Soi (assumed name), aged 60 years old. Even with the “physical capital”. She is able to earn from employment, laundry and within walking in the community for sell goods. She can make money in order to support her lineage. But what makes her feel unequal access to informal learning is the lack of “human capital”. Because to poor families she had not had a chance to study as peers in that era. “The illiterate can not read and write cause me undergo trouble, Maybe I have to pretend to sign important documents I think. But if there I’ll give my daughter a check before. If I can read and write it may be more viable about my work. Although she has the necklace will feel that their human capital losses. And had the good fortune that resulted in physical capital, she still can earn money from the sale of the community need household. But “physical capital” is delivered as a restriction on her lack of career opportunities as well. From her daughter see that she has been laundry and most commonly used services. Reasoned that have a coin washing machine for service in this community. But when agency came down to see the contact area to install a washing machine, they were deny them by reason of this area is not safe for their machines. She said that “I understand him, he would not trust me. But allow me to buy their own I do not.” Even if the community will not have to depend on. Anyone looking to make a living as well. And the nature of the settlement of a community along the railway. It affects perception, or events that occur within the community, not thorough. The recognition of the community's most recognized news from a neighbor more recognition from the broadcasting tower in the community alone. For information outside the community will recognize from watching television and surfing the web on a mobile phone. So when households receive any news or information that is beneficial it will be to persuade or advocating sharing. For information about the neighborhood, proximity to preserve the rights that should be granted.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Learning does not end just education system. However, one can seek to learn to survive by learning what their interests and aptitudes. We called “Informal Learning” This learning, so it is extremely important to the people living in the slums struggle to gain economic and social opportunities and a better quality of life have the potential to survive and become self-reliant under social change at any time. The research was presented informal learning of a group of people who

live in communities along the railway. By the social capital is a condition that results in informal learning and human capital, social capital and physical capital. On the other hand, some funds have become a condition of inequality in access to formal learning of some people, including financial capital, human capital, physical capital. The nature of the settlement of a community that stretches along the railway and a two side of the tracks. Cause the news was not widely publicized to the community away. As a result of the difference in the chance of informal learning the disposition of the individual. And what should be studied in the future. How we do have access to informal learning conditions by reducing some of the costs. As a result of the disparity to learn by next step.

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