

The Development of Social Capital in Pathum Thani Province towards Sustainable Development Based on Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

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Abstract

After becoming Thailand's national agenda since the Ninth National Economic and Social Development Plan (2002-2006), social capital is promoted as one of community development approach. With the implementation of the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016), social capital becomes significant in social institutions strengthening for locality to reach sustainability. The objectives of the research were as followed; (1) To study and collect information of social capital in Pathum Thani Province area, (2) To analyze conditions of social capital in Pathum Thani area, (3) To study problem and constraints of social capital in Pathum Thani Province toward sustainable development according to sufficiency economy philosophy, (4) To study effective process to develop social capital in Pathum Thani Province toward sustainable development according to sufficiency economy philosophy, and (5) To make guidelines for social capital development in Pathum Thani Province toward sustainable development according to sufficiency economy philosophy. Qualitative approach was used as research method for studying, data collecting and documentary analysis on social capital in accordance with Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. To test creditability of data, data triangulation was employed as tool. The research found as followed that: 1) People in Pathum Thani have strong social cohesion and networks in knowledge capital and wisdom of the village philosophers and community-based and career-based leaders that are the starting point of social networks both within and outside the community emerging to daily living culture of each community and locality, 2) People have the principles of effective community management by introducing the "Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of King Rama IX" to use in the life of the community. 3) To build a good relationship between the people in the community and the leaders in the community for coexistence will create a network and good relationships that accelerate the benefits of participating in activities for engagement creation. 4) Good knowledge, perseverance and patience, mindfulness and intelligence, and harmony of local wisdom combined with academic principles, careful planning and practice enhances appropriate processes for the development of social capital for sustainable development through moderation and the building of immunity to sustainable development in accordance with the philosophy of sufficiency economy. 5) The development of social capital in Pathum Thani Province towards sustainable development must focus on strengthening the people's capital of different areas, economic capital, natural resources and environment which are combined and inter-related for the benefits of development leading to strong community development and emphasizing on community support and the power of the community in developing countries.

Keywords: Development, Social Capital, Sustainable Development, Sufficiency Economy

Introduction

Since the Ninth National Economic and Social Development Plan (2002-2006), "social

capital" has been defined as a national agenda. The Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) is the main body for the development of a social capital development strategy. The Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board has brainstormed from experts, academics and other stakeholders in the development field to create and process knowledge about social capital concepts in order to have a clear in the direction for the country. The brainstorming has mentioned the concept and pointed to the importance of social capital to help develop the community in the event of economic crisis. What remains and can continue to flourish for the people of the local grassroots level, the state and the world is the "social capital" which is the legacy of the Thai society for a long time. This "social capital" has not gone, Thai people can find and redevelop in development. This social capital is diverse especially the value of wisdom, group collection, brotherhood/sisterhood, local royalty, active participation and energy to help each other. These are what we called "Social capital" (Nakabutra, 2002:7)

The concept of social capital has been linked to knowledge management, which leads to learning to develop communities, organizations and countries for sustainable development. It is found that the concept of social capital in the context of Thailand the close relationship between people and nature, people in the community and people with the supernatural through the process of inheritance comes from transfer of existing knowledge to local communities then developing the knowledge to improve them. The skill and expertise are created to solve the problem and develop their living suitable for the period which leads to the birth of wisdom. (New knowledge), and continue to develop indefinitely that will be a guarantee of development leading to sustainability. (Office of the National Education Commission, 1998). In addition, the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016) has promoted the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy which focuses on solving fundamental problems of Thai society including the inequality of the people in society, the ability to make people in rural areas benefit from the development, a career that generates enough income, having a life with dignity, and for those who are less fortunate or those who do not own capital can live in the society with pleasure and have income without debt while having knowledge and health. All of this approach is done by the co-working among the public, private and public sectors.

At present, economic growth, production and consumption make these things begun to be obliterated. Along with the new economic and social development, these social capital must be developed, promoted and rehabilitated so they can be with the community. This direction is in line with the 11th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2012-2016) that emphasizes the development of social institutions to be strengthened and sustainable. It also corresponds to the government's four-year government policy that requires people in society to participate in education and learning, religious advocacy, arts and culture. For the above reason, the researcher is interested in doing research on this subject in order to get involved in promoting and developing social capital to remain sustainable with the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy.

Research Objectives

1. To study and collect information of social capital in Pathum Thani Province area.
2. To analyze conditions of social capital in Pathum Thani area.
3. To study problem and constraints of social capital in Pathum Thani Province toward sustainable development according to sufficiency economy philosophy.
4. To study effective process to develop social capital in Pathum Thani Province toward sustainable development according to sufficiency economy philosophy.
5. To make guidelines for social capital development in Pathum Thani Province toward sustainable development according to sufficiency economy philosophy.

Conceptual Framework

In this study, the researcher gathered the factors and variables from the background and the importance of social capital that considers as an important capital which enhances the good life of people in society and supports economic development, society and the rule of the country for a long time especially those that enhances service efficiency and production processes in the economy, resolves the economic and social crisis situation in which capital, natural resources and economic capital are constrained and solves problems with reviving the Thai people and Thai society back to their original status which requires social capital to support. For example, during the 1997 economic crisis, many thinkers and experts estimate that The Thai society continues to exist because of its many social capital, which is a well-connected network, is based on the uniqueness of Thai identity with the monarchy is the center of the whole nation, and being strong kinship and community systems based on a generous-minded and amicable culture. If Thailand can bring the existing social capital to preserve, develop and utilize properly, then it will develop people in the country to be happy and the nation will be balanced and sustainable. (Puang-ngam, 2010) Social capital development is based on co-operative thinking based on trust and the good culture of Thai society through the relationship. The main components are people, institutions, culture and knowledge as a force in the community and society. The four main components play a role and are linked to social capital. The conceptual framework for the analysis is as follows.

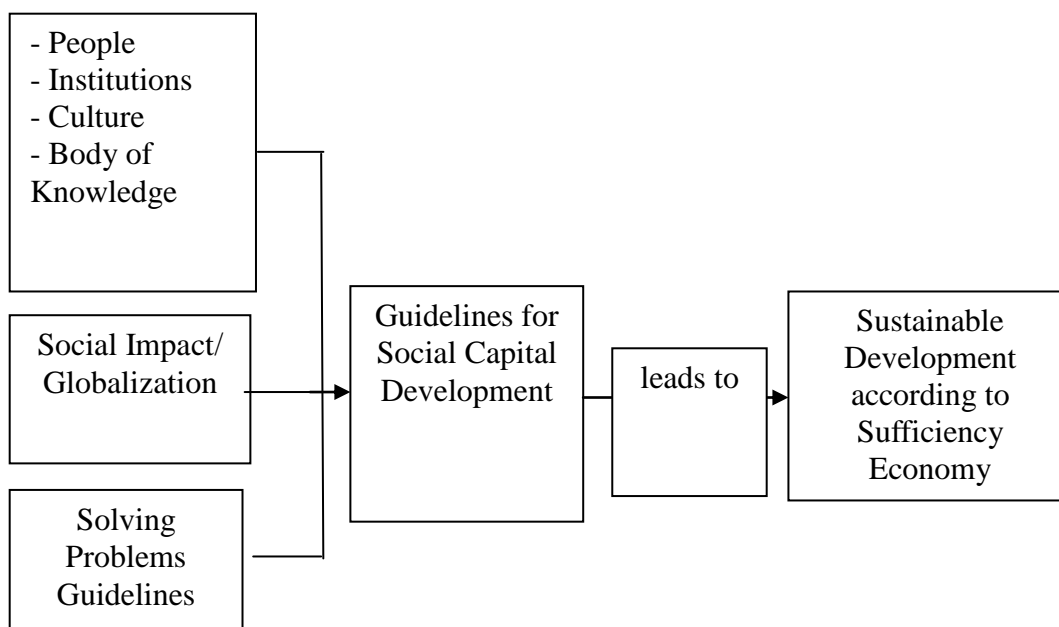


Figure Framework Analysis

Method

This research used qualitative approach to study, collect, search and analyze documents related to social capital, sustainable development in accordance with Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. Data analysis is to construct abstract conclusions based on many concrete facts, in other word, it is to construct most of the truths based on multiple sub-components. Inductive analysis is done only when there are enough sub-data that the researcher will be able to analyze the linkage of the subset of data. An inductive analysis of this research will start since the researcher has made a temporary conclusion from each field record and linked the temporary conclusion including the creation of that conclusion and test temporary

conclusions in data analysis. This research used data triangulation as technique to test the creditability of data consisting of data, investigation, methodological and theoretical triangulation.

Results

From this study, the development of social capital in Pathum Thani Province for sustainable development in accordance with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy is based on the people in the area, which is an important factor in sustainable development, leads to grouping, has effective management services, has potential leaders in communities and become self-directed learning communities. With this aspect, people in Pathum Thani succeed in managing social capital for sustainable development according to Sufficiency Economy Philosophy which will be described each step as follows.

1. On data collection of social capital available in Pathum Thani province, it was found that social capital causes the integration of groups for the benefit of the community. When a group of people come together and co-operate on the basis of trust and dependence on the same goal to create collectiveness. This phenomenon creates a stronger bond between the members of the community. It is said that the development of community-based social capital is the focus of community participation and people can learn in the way of practicality in the group process for creating a social capital or building a relationship of people in the community to be more cohesive. This is the foundation for the sustainable development and existence of social capital in the community. The social capital status of Pathum Thani Province shows that the most prominent social capital is the social network. The people of Pathum Thani are considered to have strong social groups and social networks with the knowledge and wisdom from the villager leaders of the community both within and outside the community. For example, the culture of the Mon community, Bang Prak community, Wat Hong Pathummawat community, and Ruam Jit Muslim community in Pathum Thani Province.
2. The analysis of the social capital in Pathum Thani Province showed that people in different parts have the principles of community management effectively by employing "philosophy of sufficiency economy of King Rama 9 to use in the community management to be sufficient, not extravagant and to make income-expenditure accounts within the household to control unnecessary expenses and to make people reduce their debt problems. Village meetings and regular community meetings are held monthly, so that people are informed and share information to help solve problems in the community with care thoroughly and equally.
3. The study of problems and obstacles to social capital development in Pathum Thani Province towards sustainable development in accordance with Sufficiency Economy Philosophy was found that social capital is accumulated by people in each community trying to solve problems within the community and uniting the community. But villagers are also experiencing problems of the environment within the community, poor living of people and with the exploitation of others. The problem is likely to be higher if it is not resolved directly by the people experiencing the problem. The method or approach to solve the problem is reduced or disappeared from the community and village. By starting to build good relationships between the people in the community and the leaders to live together in the community happily by starting to plan to do activities together with more people are expressing their opinions and learning in the community. This will create a good network and relationships. People are quick to see the benefits of participating in activities that create participation and share ideas leading to the development of social capital in Pathum Thani Province for sustainable development in accordance with the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy.
4. The appropriate process for the development of social capital in Pathum Thani Province for sustainable development under the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy found that the people of

Pathum Thani have an interdependent work process while live as family and help each other. They bring knowledge into the community and then use it together for planning, developing and problem solving in the community by employing "The Sufficiency Economy Philosophy" as a guide to self-reliance. The King's philosophy give people the best possible ideas to apply to their communities and localities and it is recognized that the most appropriate way to implement the philosophy of the economy is to have a sustainable and balanced development with responding to the changing of the economy, society, environment, knowledge and technology. It is a way to develop step-by-step self-reliance at various levels and to reduce the risk of natural or altered factors with moderation, good immunity, knowledge, perseverance and patience. The philosophy will harmonize local wisdom combined with academic principles together with careful planning and practice. Also, people should recognize virtue, honesty and should use wisdom and perseverance to live.

5. On the development of social capital in Pathum Thani Province towards sustainable development in accordance with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, it was found that the development of social capital in Pathum Thani Province towards sustainable development should focus on strengthening people's and community capital of society, economics and natural resources located in different areas of the province. Social capital building and enhancement should start from the moral quality of people, public consciousness and knowledge of change leading to strong community development and mutual support within the community and between communities to become development force of locality.

Past developments have led to decentralization of community and local participation in development by promoting the learning and community process in the development plan of the local administration and provincial development plan at all stages which is advancement of local and community preparedness, decentralization, local management continuously and thoroughly in order to strengthen the peaceful society. With the philosophy of sufficiency economy to drive development, the strategy and development approach will support the promotion of holistic knowledge-based activities. There is a process of learning and sharing knowledge of people in the community with social capital in resources and potential of the community. There is mutual interdependence both within and outside the community on the basis of respect for cultural diversity. It leads to peaceful coexistence, reconciliation, conservation, development and utilization of the existing biodiversity in a sustainable manner, and polluted-free environment. Knowing to the rapid change will help the immunity.

Conclusion and Recommendation

According to the study, people in Pathum Thani Province succeeded in managing social capital for sustainable development in accordance with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. The results will be discussed in the following areas:

1. On social capital in Pathum Thani Province, it was found that social capital causes the integration of people for the benefit of the community. The most prominent social capital is the social network. This is consistent with the research conducted by Uraivan Pongsajai (2002) which examined the relationship between the social capital in the community and the strength of the community organization and found that organizations are strengthened by social capital that are learning resources. Strong organizational groups have used the learning process to bring the best. Social capital, especially the existing capital in the community, has natural resources, soil, water, forests, people, culture, place of worship in the village, the center of religious ceremony. These are all social capital that is of great value to our daily lives and is an important factor in working groups or organizations.

2. The analysis of the social capital in Pathum Thani Province showed that people in different parts in Pathum Thani adopted the principles of community management effectively by the "philosophy of sufficiency economy of King Rama 9 ". This is in line with the research

conducted by Prapan Nukkratok (2014) on social capital and knowledge management for sustainable self-reliant community organizations in the lower northeastern region that were found to integrate social capital and knowledge management into community organizations in sustainable self-sufficiency.

3. To study the problems and obstacles to the development of social capital in Pathum Thani Province to sustainable development in accordance with Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, people in each community and community tried to solve problems within the community and to unite the community. But villagers are also experiencing problems of the environment within the community. The problem is likely to be higher if it is not resolved directly by the people experiencing the problem. The method or approach to solve the problem is reduced or disappeared from the community and village. Creating a good network and relationships is needed so people are quick to see the benefits of participating in activities that create participation and share ideas which are leading to the development of social capital in Pathum Thani Province to sustainable development in accordance with the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. This is consistent with research by Kawipat Sukcham (2004) that the study indicated that Community must be the main players in the operation. Participants must learn and understand the basics and background of the community for introducing new innovations with the traditions and culture of the community. This will enable the community to accept and implement effectively and continuously.

4. The appropriate process for the development of social capital in Pathum Thani Province for sustainable development under the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy found that the people of Pathum Thani had a dependable work process that helps to bring knowledge in the community, the philosophy of the economy is to be balanced and sustainable. The economy, society, environment, knowledge, and technology is the way to develop with moderation and good immunity, knowledge, perseverance and patience and harmony of local wisdom combined with academic principles, careful planning and practice. This is in line with the research conducted by Prapan Nukkratok (2014) on social capital and knowledge management for sustainable self-reliant communities in the lower northeastern region that social capital and knowledge management into a self-sustaining self-reliant community organization. Ban Nong Ya Rak is characterized by social capital and agricultural occupation. There must be transfer of experience to expand the network of social capital to enhance the trusted and accepted leadership role in community organizations.

5. About guidelines for the development of social capital in Pathum Thani Province for sustainable development in accordance with Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, the development must focus on strengthening people's capital. This corresponds to the research of Pisak Kalyanamitra (2015) on the development responds to the needs of both present and future human beings which is a combination of nature and quality of life starting with the development of quality people to be knowledgeable people. Public consciousness and knowledge of change can lead to strong community development. Also, this approach is accordance with Wachirawat Ngamlamom (2016) who viewed that the change to prosperity does not mean increasing the quantity of goods or the income of the people but relates to the satisfaction and happiness of the people.

For recommendation, the development of social capital should be designed consistent with the teachings of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej who taught everyone to be good and the way of life leading to self-reliance in order to live in a conventionally happy society. The recommendations are as followed;

1. To develop social capital through systematic thinking needed to develop the knowledge and attitudes of all relevant stakeholders, both local government and other stakeholders for mutual strengths and for creating sustainable and strong people-centred development.

2. The development of sustainable social capital must stimulate and promote the participation of all sectors. It must develop the ability to create knowledge that is conducive to civil society. The direction ahead requires the creation and accumulation of knowledge. It can be used as a basis for further learning in the future.
3. In the development of social capital to create sustainable development in accordance with the philosophy of Sufficiency Economy, it should start from the learning process to build knowledge, understanding and right living conditions of social capital to the people.
4. Network and cooperation from all sectors to develop knowledge continuously is needed for linking family, community, agency, religious institutions, government agencies, private sector and educational institutions to create a happy society and knowledge that will help connect the roles of institutions.

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