

General Problems and Needs for Being an Owner of Residence and Arable Land of People Who Live in Wang Sombun, Sa Kaeo, Thailand

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Abstract

This article was part of the research of the problem-solving model for the rural residence and arable land in subdistricts: the case study of Wang Sombun Subdistrict, Wang Sombun District, Sa Kaeo Province. The data collection was conducted by 4 methods; (1) reviewing of related literatures, (2) focus group, (3) in-depth interviewing, and (4) organizing the community forum. According to the general problems found, they were summarized into 10 issues; (1) not having title deeds or land, (2) not having enough water resources for agriculture, (3) the pollution caused by sugarcane and charcoal burning, (4) the decreasing of the crop price and the lack of the market supports, (5) having unstable jobs and incomes, (6) the lack of the good basis of public utilities, (7) the informal debt, (8) the decay of residence, (9) drugs, and (10) the replacement of local workers by migrant workers. Regarding the needs for owning a residence and arable land, it can be categorized into 4 issues which are (1) the needs for obtaining land and title deeds, (2) the needs for stable residences, (3) the needs for repairing residence, and (4) the needs for having enough water resources for carrying on the agriculture.

Keywords: Arable Land, Rural Residence, Owner of Residence

Introduction

According to the CS Global Wealth Report, 2018, Thailand has become the most unequal country in the world. Considering the assets holding, it appears that only 1% of Thai people would possess wealth or have 66.90% of assets, especially hold the title deeds and residence. This means that people, who are excluded from that 1% of holding assets and wealth, are the large group of people who are agriculturists with no title deeds (Thairath Online, 2018). From the report of the solutions for the arable land and residence problems by the local community under the project of supporting the solutions for the arable land and rural residence problems in 2015, it was found that according to 149,246,428 rais of the agricultural areas for the land ownership, agriculturalist could obtain the land ownership with only 71, 581, 682 rais. On the other hand, there were agriculturalists who could not own 77,664,746 rais of land. This could be a serious problem for developing and upgrading the people's life quality (Baan Mankong Office, 2016). Although the economy of Thailand has developed under the system of

capitalism for a long time, it still could not move from the outer capitalism to be the central capitalism country, which can become a leader. Besides, Thailand has faced the severe economic problems oftentimes. This caused the damage to the household economy. People at the grassroot level have to change their ways of life from production for self-sufficiency to production for sale, which needs the producing factors such as capital, land, labors, and machines. Essentially, Thai agriculturalists have faced with the problem of inadequate factors of production since the past in every dimension, especially capital and land. This can be counted as the structural problem accumulated from time to time (Tatyalapha and Khotcharit, 2017: 301)

Sa Kaeo is a province that most of the population have encountered the lack of residence and arable land, especially Wattana Nakhorn District, Khoksung District, Wang Namyen District, and Wang Sombun District. Regarding Wang Sombun District, most of the land belonged to Agricultural Land Reform Office, which agriculturalists were allowed to use the land without holding the title deeds. From the survey conducted by the committee who requests for the title deeds of the arable land and residence for people who live in Wang Sombun and Wang Thong Subdistrict, Wang Sombun District, Sa Kaeo Province (2014: 23), it was found that there were 1,356 families who asked for the ownership of title deeds and residence with 1,880 land parcels, totally 15, 693 rais in Wang Sombun Subdistrict. This situation was the reason for conducting the research project called “the problem-solving model for the rural residence and arable land in subdistricts: the case study of Wang Sombun Subdistrict, Wang Sombun District, Sa Kaeo Province”. This article was part of the research project. The presentation mainly focused on the details of general problems and the needs for obtaining the residence and arable land ownership of people who live in Wang Sombun Subdistrict, Wang Sombun District, Sa Kaeo Province. The full research presentation will be composed and reported next time.

Objective

To study the general problems and needs for the residence and arable land of people who lived in Wang Sombun Subdistrict, Wang Sombun District, Sa Kaeo Province.

Research Methodology

This article was part of the qualitative research which consisted of 4 stages as follows;

1. Data Collection. This was conducted in 4 methods which are (1) reviewing of related literatures such as text books, research reports, thesis, journals and magazines, (2) focus group by brainstorming ideas from the community leaders and people who had Problems, (3) in-depth interviewing by using the open-ended questions about general Problems and the Needs for Residence and Arable Land in the areas of Wang Sombun Subdistrict, and (4) organizing the community forum for listening to stake holders’ opinions such as local people and leaders who drive the residence and arable land problems in Wang Sombun Subdistrict, representatives of organizations who involve with the matters such as Community Organizations Development Institute, and Community Organization Councils.

2. Data Analysis. This was conducted by organizing, interpreting, and analyzing all the information gathered. The analyzing procedures were divided into 3 steps as following. (1) Analyzing information collected from literature review. This step analyzed the information under the framework concerned with general problems. They were divided into 3 dimensions which were community physical dimension, economic dimension, and social dimension. (2) Analyzing the information collected from the fieldwork, focus group, in-depth interview, and arranging a community forum by using the community research instrument of Komart Juengsatiansub (2016: 129) such as geo-social mapping and time line (Bualek, 2014: 160).

For this step, the empirical information was analyzed and synthesized. The opinions of stake holders were collected, focusing on the interpret of words, conversations, and opinion exchanging. (3) Analyzing, connecting, and interpreting the information in an integrative way, aiming at analyzing the phenomenon, problematic conditions, and the Needs for Residence and Arable Land of the people who live in Wang Sombun Subdistrict, Wang Sombun district, Sa Kaeo province.

3. Concluding and Reporting. After the information was analyzed and synthesized, the findings were explored by descriptive statistics.

Results

General Problems of Wang Sombun Subdistrict, Wang Sombun district, Sa Kaeo Province

Wang Sombun Subdistrict was upgraded to be Subdistrict Municipality in 2007. It consisted of 17 villages and contained 98 square kilometres or about 61,250 rais. The population of this subdistrict is 10,520, 3655 households. The average population density was 106.67 square kilometres. The general landscapes consisted of plains with low and high hills. Its soil was considered as sandy loam. There were 2 main drainage patterns of natural water resources and river banks, creeks, and canals, which were counted as 14 places. Most of the population were agriculturalist and livestock workers. They planted corns, cassavas, sugarcanes, soybeans, rubber trees, palm trees, and longans. They raised dairy cows, eggs for egg production, local chickens, pigs, ducks, goats, and so on. The important business units in the municipal areas are 3 banks, 5 hotels, 6 agricultural industry, and 3 gas stations. The government's social services were 4 primary schools, 1 high school, 1 community learning center, 1 child care center, 1 police station, 1 health center, 1 hospital, 1 Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Center, 15 religious institutes or organizations consisted of 12 temples and monasteries, 1 shrine, and 2 churches. For transportation, there were highways consisted of 4 paved roads, 1 standard gravel roads, 24 concrete roads, and 6 gravel roads connected to villages and subdistrict. Every village had electricity (the Committee of the Title Deeds and Residence Driven Force of Wang Sombun and Wang Thong Subdistrict, Wang Sombun district, Sa Kaeo Province, 2014: 6-16)

From the data analysis of general problem studying in Wang Sombun Subdistrict, Wang Sombun District, Sa Kaeo Province, the problems could be divided into 10 issues analyzed by the local people's reflection. The problems could be identified as (1) people could not own title deeds, (2) there were not enough water resources for agriculture, (3) the pollution was caused by sugarcane and charcoal burning, (4) there were the decreasing of the crop price and the lack of the market supports, (5) people have unstable jobs and incomes, (6) people does not have the good basis of public utility, (7) people have the informal debt, 8) there was the decay of Residences, (9) there were drug Problems, and (10) there was the replacement of local workers by migrant workers.

According to Sopee Sripetch (2018), the former school director of Anuban Wang Sombun School, an important leader who drove the requesting for title deeds and Residence for people who live in Wang Sombun Subdistrict and Wang Thong Subdistrict, Wang Sombun District, Sa Kaeo Province, this leader reflected on the main problems of the local people as the following messages.

"...The main problems of the local people here are that they do not have title deeds because most of the land belong to Agricultural Land Reform Office, so we have joined our driving force to request for living land and Residence for years. The local people helped survey and managed the data for the numbers of households and areas for asking for the title deeds. We have been working on many activities". This was related to the data of the solutions for the arable land and residence problems of the local community. The data were collected by Baan

Mankong Office, Community Organizations Development Institute (2016). It was pointed out that Wang Sombun Subdistrict was a community which had the severe problem of owning living land and Residence. It was in the top 32 list of subdistricts which have the pilot projects for problem-solving on the land ownership in the forest areas, according to the project of supporting the solutions for the arable land and residence Problems in rural areas in 2015.

From the general problems appearing in Wang Sombun areas as summarized earlier, it should be noticed that the problem of having no title deeds or land ownership was in the top rank problems as being similar to all over the country, relating to the research of Living and Arable Land Management: the Case Study of Phuetudom Subdistrict, Lam Lukka District, Pathumthani Province (Tatyalapha and Khotcharit, 2017: 304). According to the research, it revealed that people lack of their residence and arable land and it was found that the residence and arable land belonged to the investors. On the other hand, the land of Wang Sombun District, Sa Kaeo Province belonged to the government organizations such as Agricultural Land Reform Office. As a result, people would claim their rights and pay attention to the problems. Besides, this problem could be related to other problems and affected to urgent problems needed to be solve immediately (Kalyanamitra, 2018:7).

The Needs for Residence and Arable Land of People who Live in Wang Sombun Subdistrict, Wang Sombun District, Sa Kaeo Province

From gathering information and opinions related to the methodology by analyzing and connecting the information to the problem contexts in Wang Sombun Subdistrict, Wang Sombun District, Sa Kaeo Province as was mentioned earlier, it was pointed out that the community had expectation for the supports form the government sector to upgrade their life quality in all dimensions. However, considering the particular issues from the general problems appearing in the community, it was revealed that the problems of the residence and arable land had an influence on people's thoughts. This could be identified that the solutions for the residence and arable land problems were the important needs which were 1) the needs for obtaining the ownership of residence and title deeds, 2) the needs for stable residence, 3) the needs for the residence repair, and 4) the needs for having enough water resources for agriculture. Considering the needs of people about having residence and arable land in Wang Sombun Subdistrict, some problems were solved, but this could not be solved completely as being seen from the examples provided by Community Organizations Development Institute in 2015. There were 207 funds over the country, which supported the land purchase for local people from each subdistrict. They could buy 354 rais, but this was not enough (The Committee of the Title Deeds and Residence Driven Force of Wang Sombun and Wang Thong Subdistrict, Wang Sombun District, Sa Kaeo Province, 2014: 20). Therefore, the needs of local people for the ownership of the residence and arable land in Wang Sombun Subdistrict still existed and this was one of the main needs as well.

It could be noticed that the effort of serving their Needs of people from Wang Sombun Subdistrict was driven in a concrete method. There was the gathering of the driven force groups to collect and manage information to request for title deeds and residence systematically.

It revealed that the general problems and the needs for the ownership of residence and arable land of the people who live in Wang Sombun Subdistrict, Wang Sombun District, Sa Kaeo Province were connected. This could affect the process of forming the driven force for problem-solving seriously and systematically. They did not wait for the supports from the government sectors only.

Table 1 Displaying the areas which provide the land funds and the amount of areas which were allocated to the local people from each subdistrict

Number	Provinces	Subdistricts	Land area (rais)
1	Nan	Buayai	42
2	Sa Kaeo	Nong Muang	27
3	Sa Kaeo	Wang Sombun	148
4	Sa Kaeo	Klong Kaituean	50
5	Sa Kaeo	Klong Hinpun	50
6	Sa Kaeo	Tubthai	20
7	Trat	Nong Khansong	12-3-80
8	Songkhla	Kamphaeng Phet	5

Source Baan Mankong Office, Community Organizations Development Institute (2015)

Conclusion and Discussion

People, who live in Wang Sombun Subdistrict, Wang Sombun District, Sa Kaeo Province, have settled down and made a permanent community for a half century. The development of the community has begun since Department of Highways, Ministry of Transport conducted the project of transportation routes to connect the borders of Prachin Buri and Chantaburi. Presently, the community was upgraded to Wang Sombun Subdistrict, which had more complex social, economic, and service structures than the past respectively. However, it still faced with the general problems in the community summarized in 3 dimensions, namely, physical issue, social issue, and economic issue. The problems could be divided into 10 issues identified as (1) people could not own title deeds, (2) there were not enough water resources for agriculture, (3) the pollution was caused by sugarcane and charcoal burning, (4) there were the decreasing of the crop price and the lack of the market supports, (5) people have unstable jobs and incomes, (6) people does not have the good basis of public utility, (7) people have the informal debt, (8) there was the decay of Residences, (9) there were drug Problems, and (10) there was the replacement of local workers by migrant workers. In addition, the revelation of the needs for the residence and arable land identified the important issues which are (1) the needs for living land and title deeds, (2) the needs for having stable residence, (3) the needs for repairing the residence, and 4) the needs for having enough water resources for agriculture.

To consider the information found, it revealed that the problems and needs were connected. This means that the occurred problems had an influence on people's needs. This might be followed by many reasons and factors. For this research, the basic notice for the concept of study in the future was pointed out that the problems might appear from these 3 issues which were (1) the development and inequality caused by the state authority, (2) the economic and social changes, and (3) the inequality of incomes and the invasion of the capital power group. All of these were extrinsic factors which could push people into the problem confrontation mentioned earlier (Tatiyalapha and Khotcharit, 2018). However, considering the movement groups which still act on the Problems, it revealed that people in the community realized the power of having a group power. They paid attention to the study of information, data collection, and the use of the data, and they also have the leaders who drive the team to meet the goals strongly. Moreover, they had the working teams which could focus in the goals clearly, focusing on the cooperation with the government sectors and seeking for supports from the associate organizations in order to solve problems and meet the expected goals. This could be a good example for other communities which have the similar problems and needs.

Suggestions

This article presented some content from the study in the research of the model for solving the local residence and arable land problems in subdistrict areas: the case study of Wang Sombun Subdistrict, Wang Sombun District, Sa Kaeo Province. The researcher team will present some other concepts next time. However, for providing more usefulness to people who are interested in this research, this article writing team would like to present the interesting suggestions as follows;

- (1) There should be the study of the roles of driven force leaders who play important roles on the activity implementation for building up more driven force to solve the community's problems.
- (2) There should be the study of the problem background by comparing the studied community with the near communities which have the similar Problems in order to find out important factors or shared factors. This will help to prepare a defensive measure for other communities which do not experience the problems.
- (3) The stakeholders who are related to the land problem-solving in each dimension, namely, government sectors, private sectors, or social sectors, can use these findings to analyze and compare the appropriacy for the useful application.

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