

การวิจัยและพัฒนาเพื่อการแก้ไขปัญหาความยากจนของชุมชน ในแหล่งอารยธรรมตามวิถีเศรษฐกิจพอเพียง

Research and Development for Poverty Reduction of the Community
in the Place of Civilisation with the Philosophy of the Sufficiency Economy

ณัฐกิตติ์ อินทร์สวารรค์*
Nattakit Insawan*

ABSTRACT

This research aimed to study the community's context in the place of civilisation in Nonsung district in Nakhon Ratchasima province for setting up an effective plan for poverty solving based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. This research indicated that the target population was very poor and the community's problems were unfortunate circumstance in agricultural land, natural disaster; flood and drought, popularity and attitude for unsuitable careers, supported by government; a lack of budget, solving without sincerity, and misunderstanding of community's context, unfortunate rules/regulations for developing and absolute poverty solving, and lack of knowledge; a leader of community, a local authority, and an administrator lacked understanding of poverty solving in a local area. In this research, the researchers suggested 4 strategies of the effective plan for poverty solving based on the sufficiency economy as follows; Management of Community's Natural Resources and Environment, Community's Business Support for Poverty Solving, Development of Local Administration for Poverty Solving, and Increases of the Poor's Efficiency and Potential. As a result, the community has a plan to poverty reduction at the community level as a system, participate in resolving and encourage the use of local resources effectively.

Keywords : Poverty, Place of Civilisation, Sufficiency Economy

บทคัดย่อ

การวิจัยในครั้งนี้มีวัตถุประสงค์ในการร่วบรวมความบริบทชุมชน ณ แหล่งอารยธรรมอิสลามในนนสูง เพื่อเป็นแนวทางในการกำหนดกรอบการพัฒนาแผนปฏิบัติการในการแก้ไขปัญหาความยากจนตามหลักปรัชญาเศรษฐกิจพอเพียง ผลการวิจัย พบว่า (1) ประชากรในพื้นที่วิจัยมีระดับความยากจนในระดับ “รุนแรง” (2) ปัญหาที่พบในชุมชนประกอบด้วย ปัญหาด้านทรัพยากรสิ่งแวดล้อมที่ไม่เอื้ออำนวยต่อการเกษตรกรรม ปัญหาภัยธรรมชาติ เช่น เกิดดือทกภัยหรือน้ำท่วมและภัยแล้ง ปัญหาด้านค่านิยมและทัศนคติต่อการประกอบอาชีพที่ไม่เหมาะสม ปัญหาด้านการส่งเสริมจากหน่วยงานภาครัฐ ขาดงบประมาณ การขาดความจริงใจจริงจังในการแก้ปัญหา การขาดความเข้าใจปัญหาที่แท้จริงในบริบทชุมชน รวมถึงระเบียงข้อบังคับที่ไม่เอื้ออำนวยต่อการพัฒนาและแก้ไขความยากจนอย่างแท้จริง และปัญหาด้านการขาดองค์ความรู้ ผู้นำชุมชน ผู้นำท้องถิ่นและผู้บริหารระดับบุนยังขาดความรู้ความเข้าใจในการแก้ไขปัญหาความยากจนที่ลงลึกระดับพื้นที่ โดยแนวทางในการแก้ไข คงจะต้องมีการดำเนินการโดยร่วมมือกัน 4 ด้าน ต่อการแก้ไขปัญหาความยากจนตามหลักเศรษฐกิจพอเพียง ดังต่อไปนี้ ยุทธศาสตร์ที่ 1 “การบริหารจัดการทรัพยากรและสิ่งแวดล้อมชุมชน” ยุทธศาสตร์ที่ 2 “การส่งเสริมเศรษฐกิจชุมชนต่อการแก้ไขปัญหาความยากจน” ยุทธศาสตร์ที่ 3 “การพัฒนาระบบบริหารจัดการส่วนท้องถิ่นต่อการแก้ไขปัญหาความยากจน” ยุทธศาสตร์ที่ 4 “การเพิ่มประสิทธิภาพและศักยภาพของคนจน” ซึ่งจะส่งผลให้ชุมชนมีแผนการแก้ไขปัญหาความยากจนในระดับชุมชนที่เป็นระบบ มีส่วนร่วมในการแก้ไขปัญหาและก่อให้เกิดการใช้ทรัพยากรท้องถิ่นอย่างมีประสิทธิภาพ

คำสำคัญ : ความยากจน แหล่งอารยธรรม เศรษฐกิจพอเพียง

Introduction

Poverty was marked as an important problem for the country development by Thai governments. According to the government under Police Lieutenant Colonel Thaksin Chinnawat as a prime minister, the Thai Civil Service had been reformed since 2001 and the government announced the policy at the end of the election on 6th February 2005 that the government needed to solve the problem of poverty. The government had an arrangement with other countries, called Millennium Development Goals or MDG, for the elimination of poverty and starvation. It was believed that this arrangement would show the concrete elimination of poverty and starvation. The local and nation administrators were entrusted with organizing the new beneficial plan for the poor and community. Lack of efficient rules/regulations, active performance, co-operation, strong local government, and information

of poverty of the Thai Civil Service, however, was the problem for concrete poverty solving. Office of the National Economics and Social Development Board announced clearly on the announcement Number 10 (2007-2011) that a sustainable community management would be used for poverty reduction, called Sufficiency Economy. According to Sufficiency Economy, the community could be a prestige community, have a freedom of management, meet the requirements of the community, and also solve the problems by itself. Therefore, to be a strong community based on Sufficiency Economy is a very important basis for eliminating poverty especially in suburban communities which poverty was found most, stated by Office of the National Economics and Social Development Board (2003).

The research concept of this research, "Research and Development for Poverty Reduction of the Community in the Place of Civilisation with the Philosophy of the Sufficiency Economy", based on 3 social phenomena as follows; 1) Poverty, national problem 2) Sufficiency Economy, speech of His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej for applying to the ways of Thais' lives, and 3) Strong Community Management, ways of developing with appropriated methods to the different communities. These 3 social phenomena were integrated as an issue of this research and then became an independent variable, a method, a research instrument of the research which based on Sufficiency Economy, and a result of the research which would be a way of poverty solving of the place of civilisation in Nonsung district in Nakhon Ratchasima province as shown in Figure 1 Integration of Poverty, Sufficiency Economy, and Strong Community Management



Figure 1: Fundamental Concept for Poverty Solving
based on Community's Phenomenon

Objectives

To develop an effective plan for poverty solving based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy with 4 capitals as follows; Human Capital, Social Capital, Natural Resources and Environment Capital, and Financial Capital for poverty solving in the place of civilisation in Nonsung district in Nakhon Ratchasima province.

Methodology

1. Concept

According to an issue and objectives of the community's context in this research, the concept of the research was to develop the effective plan for poverty solving based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and the concept of community's development and management, consists of Human Capital, Social Capital, Natural Resources and Environment Capital, and Financial Capital, which the community could apply for its context. The community in Nonsung district in Nakhon Ratchasima province has its own identity, tourism and ways of life, so it has adapted its Capital Base for Development of Community Enterprise, Tourism, Environment, and A Leader of Community. (4 Capitals for Community Management in Nonsung District in Nakhon Ratchasima Province)

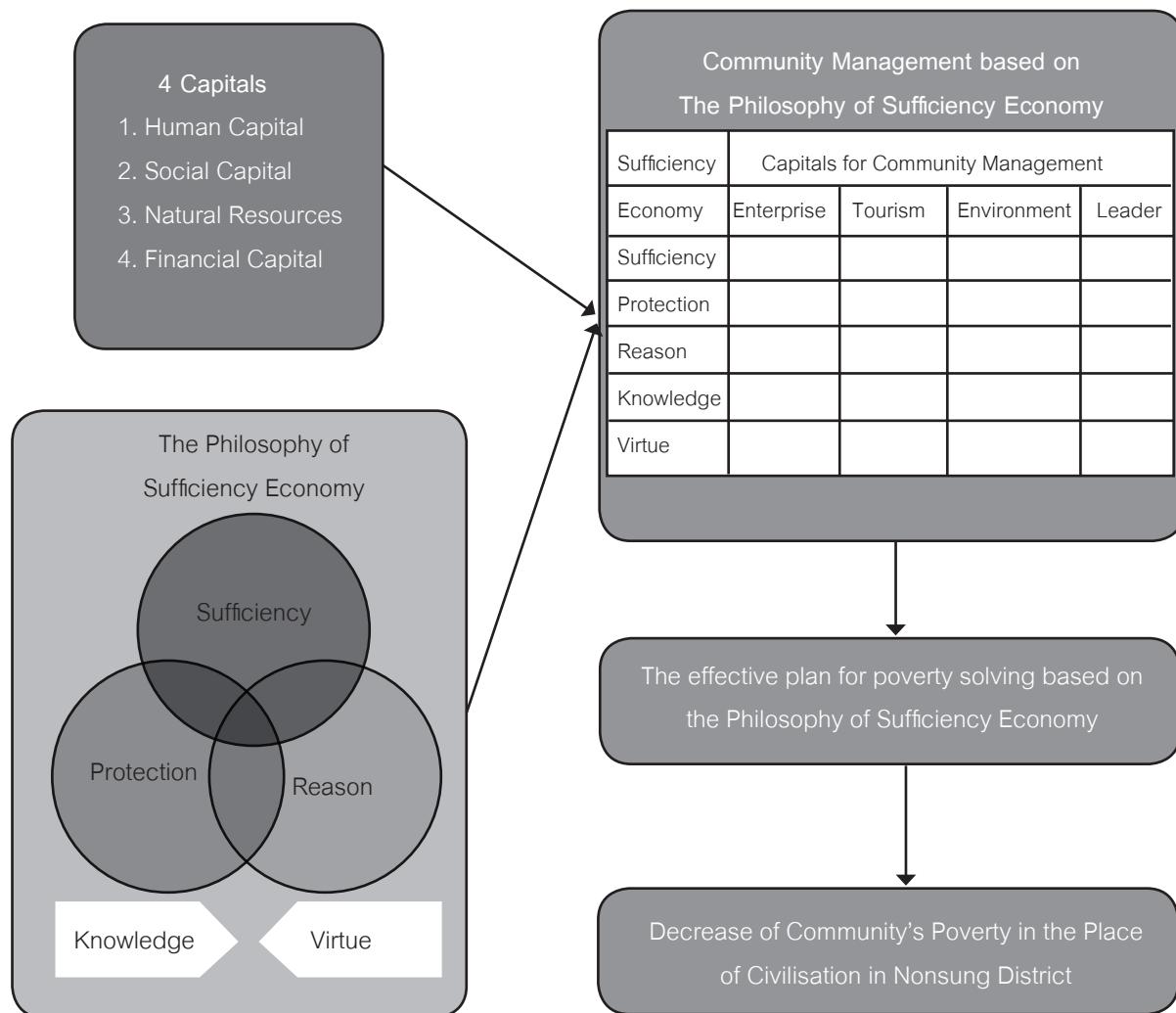


Figure 2: Concept of the Research

2. Population

A variety of the populations of the research based on a variety of the needed basic information of the research; tourism, tourists' behaviour, community enterprise potential and a leader of community potential, and also community's resources and environment. It consisted of

2.1 The 3 places of civilisation in Nonsung district in Nakhon Ratchasima province; Baan Thanprasat, Non U-Lok, and Baan Nonwat

2.2 Enterprises and a network of community enterprise in the places of civilisation

2.3 Tourists and tourism associates such as home-stay enterprises, restaurants, and accommodation.

2.4 A leader of community, a local administrator, and local wisdom elite.

2.5 Related government sector and local authorities.

2.6 Communities in the places of civilisation

3. Research Instruments

A researcher designed a variety of the research instruments of the research based on the variety of the populations. It consisted of

3.1 A questionnaire for interviewing of tourists behaviour

3.2 An interview form for interviewing a leader of community, enterprises, and community enterprise.

3.3 An observation form of tourism potential, environment potential, and community enterprise potential.

3.4 Meeting

3.5 A seminar for exchanging experiences

3.6 Applying experiences from visual education

4. Places for Data Collecting

This research is qualitative research. There are a variety of tools and population research in 3 places

of civilisation in Nonsung district in Nakhon Ratchasima province; Baan Thanprasat, Non U-Lok, and Baan Nonwat. These sampling is the purposive sampling because the researcher is already complete demographic data.

5. Data Analysis

This research was studied as quantitative research and qualitative research so the research consisted of statistical analysis and descriptive analysis. Statistical analysis, based on information from a questionnaire and observation form of potential, was used as data analysis for quantitative research and descriptive analysis, based on information from the interviews, a seminar, and a meeting, was used as data analysis for qualitative research.

6. Results

The results of the research were summarised based on the objectives of the research.

Research Objectives		
Research Procedures	Research Objectives	
1. Population	Community, A leader of Community, Tourists and Research associates	Community, A leader of Community, Tourists and Research associates
2. Research Instruments	A questionnaire, an interview form, an observation form	Focus Group
3. Place of Data Collecting	The 3 places of civilisation	The 3 places of civilisation
4. Results	Community's context in 4 capitals based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy	An effective plan for poverty solving based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy
5. Conclusion	The results of the research were summarised based on the objectives of the research	

Table 1: A Summary of Research Procedure Based on the Objectives

Conclusion and Discussion

This research was found that the principal problem of poverty in the places of civilisation in Nonsung district in Nakhon Ratchasima province was human which is the most important part of developing the country. Therefore, if there was a policy of increasing people potential, poverty would be out of the community or an amount of the poor would be decrease and the country would be progressed. It was in the same way of researches on community potential in Thailand, in foreign countries, and also David Mathew's research which indicated that the most important part of community was human and human development; knowledge, skills, attitudes,

personalities, and leadership, was important for poverty solving.

According to the observation of the community on poverty, it was found that a level of poverty was in the highest level or the poor were found here most; 6.3 percent, when compared to other parts of Thailand and it was 21.3 percent when compared to other parts of Nakhon Ratchasima. The approximate wage per month was 2,226 baht per person or 6,670 baht per family. Therefore, the gap of incomes was in a high level and a level of poverty was in a serious level as well. Reasons of being poverty have been shown in Figure 3 A Summary of Reasons of Being Poverty in Nonsung District

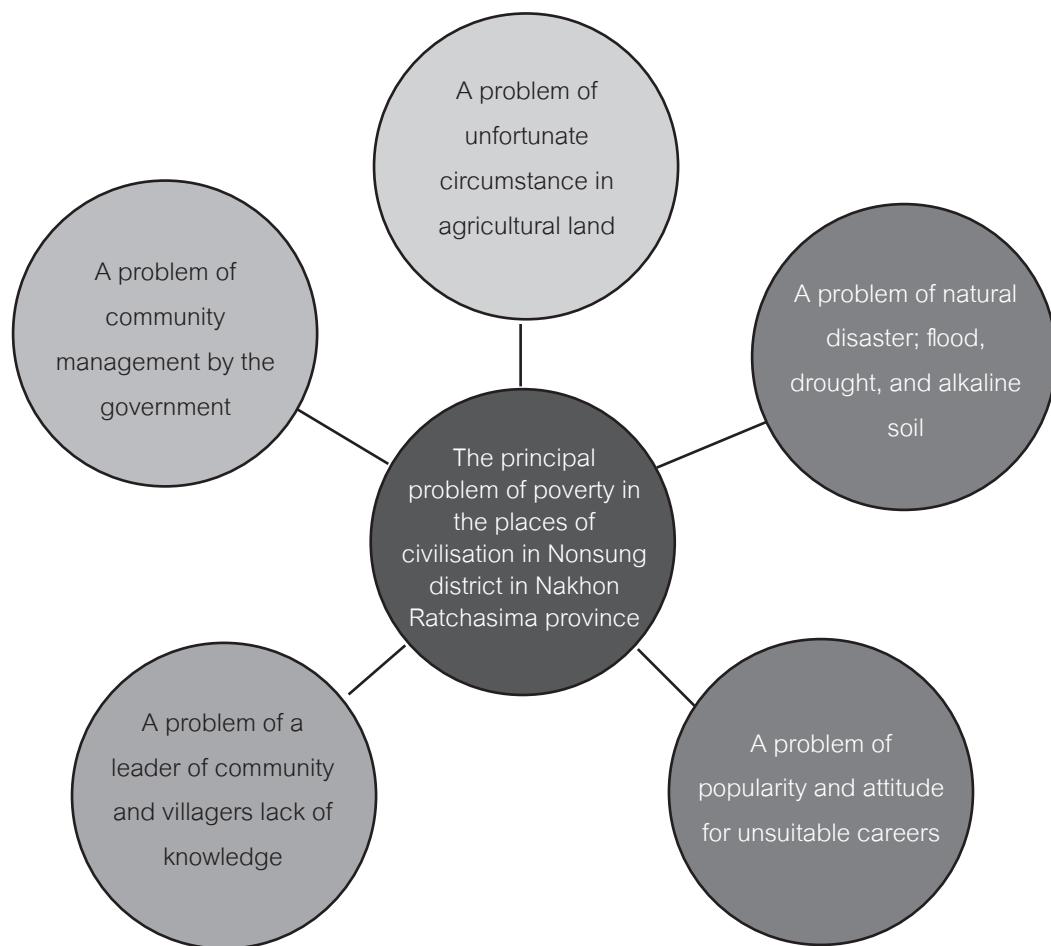


Figure 3: A Summary of Reasons of Being Poverty in Nonsung District

1. A problem of unfortunate circumstance in agricultural land such as alkaline soils, deteriorated soils, and soils were not suitable for planting.
2. Natural disasters such as a flood in October, once-a-year Thai jasmine rice harvest, in 2000. Moreover, the villagers, most of them were farmers, had much money owing on their harvest because of the flood.
3. A problem of social popularity and attitude for working. According to the data collecting, it was found that Thai jasmine rice was harvested once a year in this area by the villagers and then the villagers worked as part-time labour so they did not earn regularly during non-harvest (about 8-9 months). Although the government supported the villagers to do extra work, they did not do extra work continuously; they quit their works and returned to

harvest during the harvest time. Therefore, community enterprise could not be run continuously.

4. A problem of supporting by government and role of a leader of community for developing community such as a lack of budget, solving without sincerity, and misunderstanding of community's context, unfortunate rules/regulations for developing and absolute poverty solving

5. Lack of knowledge; a leader of community, a local authority, and an administrator lacked understanding of poverty solving in a local area. This meant communities had different contexts so the strategies of poverty solving could not be used for all contexts in the province.

Each strategy was suitable for some community's context. Therefore, the strategies of poverty solving should be developed in the early step.

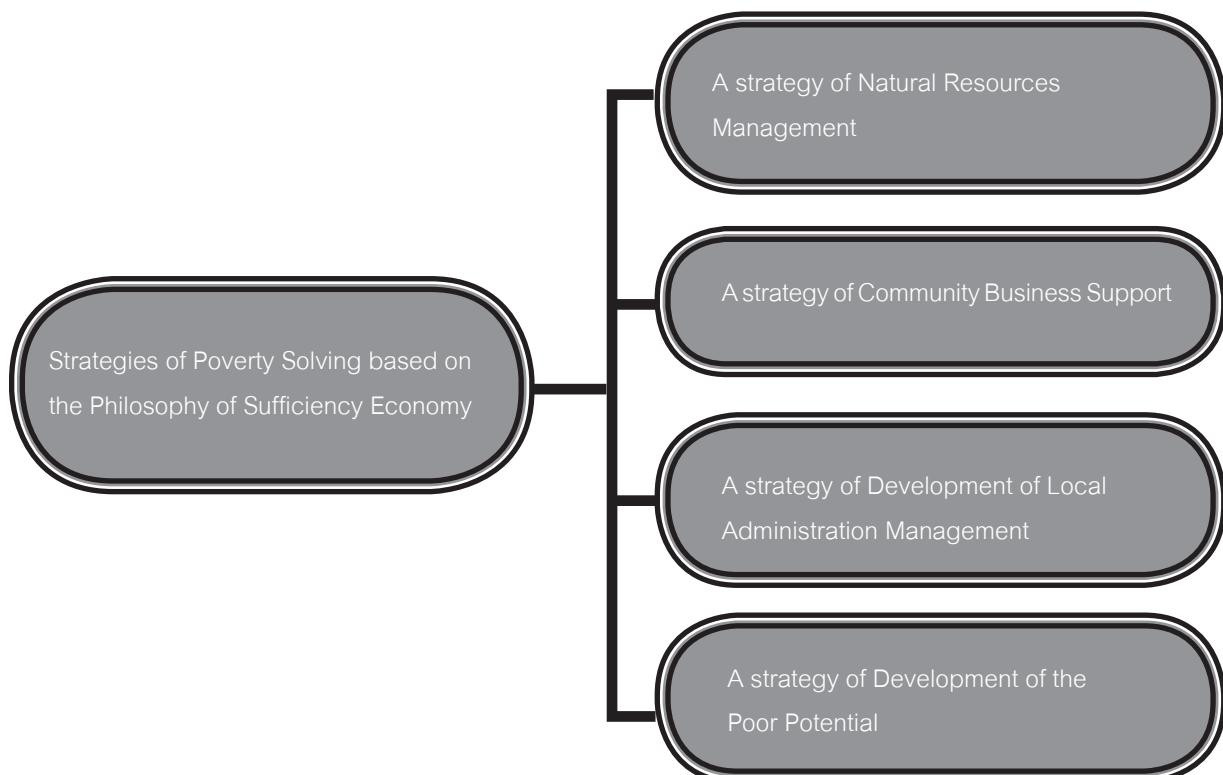


Figure 4: Strategies of Poverty Solving based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy

According to all problems above, the researcher emphasised on developing potential local resources to suit community's context for poverty solving based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. Moreover, the researcher emphasised on maintaining and inheriting local wisdom and also developed human potential. According to various activities from 4 mini projects, a summary of poverty solving based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy in the places of civilisation in Nonsung district in Nakhon Ratchasima province was shown as follows;

Strategy 1 Management of Community's Natural Resources and Environment

Community's natural resources and environment were principal capital or raw material for managing community to a strong community. According to the observation of the community, it was found that there were a lot of resources; archaeological sites, natural resources, art and culture resource, tradition resources and community' way of live, which could be added their values and increase the villagers' wages based on the systematic culture management which was under the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. This was in the same way of UNESCO's concept which stated that "understanding in community is to know oneself, world, environment, and also adaptation for making natural balance which gives happiness to human".

Strategy 2 Community's Business Support for Poverty Solving

To support community's business was a working potential support which emphasised on principal occupation and then a part-time job. This

support based on community enterprise and a network which emphasised on adding values to local resources, further developing of local wisdom, and getting less supports from outside the community. This strategy was under the concept of the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy.

Strategy 3 Development of Local Administration for Poverty Solving

An important part of poverty solving was civil service. Government sector was important for poverty solving. According to government policy, local administrator could organise the community by themselves. However, local administrator had to organise the community based on the community's context. This strategy was good governance, community's participation, which based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. Cohen and Uphoff also stated that participation in this way consisted of decisions, activities, benefits, and assessments.

Strategy 4 Increases of the Poor's Efficiency and Potential

To increase human potential was important to develop the community and the country. The community was villagers, a leader of community, local wisdom elite, and local administrators. All in the community had to know community's strengths, weaknesses, potential, and problems. Then, prepare the community for any changes by studying, learning from outside the community, co-operation, experiences exchanging from inside and outside the community. The poor could improve their potentials, skills, knowledge, and thinking for the elimination of poverty. This strategy was about knowledge and protection which based on the Philosophy of

Sufficiency Economy. Author Dunham (1985) and Peter Du Soutoy (1962) also stated that the community would be a strong community if the community took care itself in the early step and got supports from government sector or private sector sometimes.

Suggestions

According to 4 strategies of poverty solving, it should be used in practice; not just only a policy. The researcher summarises ways for poverty solving based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy according to capitals for developing as follows;

1. Development of Community Enterprise for Poverty Solving based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy

1) Exertion is more important than investment for developing production system, order, and production plan in community enterprise. Therefore, the strengths of community enterprise would be found after decreases in wages and cost of operations has been done.

2) The community should produce more various products; community and tourism, such as saucers, shoes, bags, and others which has the same method as hand-made mats.

2. Tourism Management for Poverty Solving based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy

1) The community should add values of community's products and tourism's products by making its own logo or identity.

2) The community should set visions, goals, and objectives of doing community enterprise clearly.

3) The community should develop administrative structure followed by setting up job descriptions and also community's evaluation.

3. Environment Management for Poverty Solving based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy

1) The community should have a connection between community and related persons in environment management. Moreover, all in the community should set up the administrative structure, set up rules/regulations, maintaining environment, protecting environment, and restoring environment together.

2) To earn from land reform is one of ways for poverty solving. The community should have its own co-operative or community enterprise and a connection with government or private sectors outside the community in environment management.

4. Development of a Leader of Community Potential for Poverty Solving based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy

1) A leader of community should be learnt in a learning process in order to apply information, news, and knowledge for poverty solving in one's community.

2) A leader of community should be skilled in a skill practice in order to solve poverty problem practically; to decrease expenses, to increase wages, and to have new opportunities.

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