



Role of the Elderly in Local Development in Ban Kasem Area, Kasem Sub-district, Trakan Phuet Phon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province

Jiraporn Sonsong, Prakasit Sweddham, and Chuthamas Chumph*

Bachelor of Public Administration Program, Ubon Ratchathani Rajabhat University, Thailand

*Corresponding author e-mail: chuthamars.chom@gmail.com, ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4130-6236>

Received 01/08/2021

Revise 20/08/2021

Accepted 09/09/2021

Abstract: - The elderly is considered one of the personnel that the state needs to take care of as they used to be developing the nation. Developing the elderly to be valuable to society is therefore something that must always be done. This research aims to study the role of the elderly in the development of local communities in the area of Ban Kasem, Kasem Subdistrict, Trakan Phuetphon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province. The sample used in this study was randomly selected by 117 males and females aged 60 and over. The research tool was a questionnaire about the living conditions of the elderly. The data were analyzed using the statistical values used in the analysis consisting of percentage, mean, and standard deviation. The results of the data analysis revealed that occupation, education level, and congenital disease affect the role of the elderly in the development of the local community, and the factors that cause the elderly to play a role in community development include meetings to express opinions on organizing Make merit, traditions, villages, and be able to pass on the cultural heritage of the village to future generations, preserving culture for future generations.

Keywords: Role of the Elderly; Local Development

Introduction

Thailand has stepped into an Aging society, considering the definition that an aging society is a society with more than 10% of the population aged 60 and over or having more than 7% of the population aged 65 and over. Thailand has been an aging society since 2005, because at that time Thailand had 10.4% of the population over 60 years old, and it is estimated that in the next 20 years, Thai society will be completely an aged society (Aged Society). Considering the population aged 60 years and over more than 20% or the population aged 65 years and over 14%, it is estimated that in 2028 Thailand will have 23.5% of the population aged over 60 years, in general, Thailand will It has progressed from an aging society to a complete aging society in just over 20 years.

The term “elderly” became widely used after the World Assembly on Aging held in Vienna, Austria on 26 July – 6 August 1982, the term “elderly” was defined. that those who are equal to or over 60 years of age, both male and female, are called elders (Pokakul, W., 1998). Although the General Assembly of the United Nations has determined that people aged 60 and over are considered elderly by the same standard worldwide and as a criterion for retirement. But because of the difference according to social conditions and the elderly, the average life expectancy is higher. Studies have shown that European and American countries have determined that people aged 65 and over are elderly, categorizing the elderly into 3 groups: (1) young-elderly old), (2) the elderly (old), (3), and the late elderly (old-old). The grouping was not divided by age, but by their ability to help themselves. For example, the elderly who can do things on their own, have good health, have appropriate activities, are classified as early elderly people, despite their old age. On the other hand, older people who are younger but in poor health, have less activity in life, and are highly dependent on others are classified as the late elderly.

For Thailand, it is now also suitable for the age criteria set by the United Nations to be 60 years old and retired, with birthdays within 30 September of each year being the criteria for retirement. At present, Thailand is facing the same increasing number of elderly people like other countries around the world. Looking back at demographic data from several institutions,

[1]



studies indicate that the proportion of the child population has dropped from 40% in 1990 to about 25% in 2000 and is expected to decrease down to 22% and 20% in 2010 and 2020, respectively. Meanwhile, the proportion of elderly people increased from 5 percent to 9 percent, 11 percent, and 15% in the same period. The data is consistent with the 2004 National Research and Development Institute estimates that the proportion of the elderly population increased rapidly and steadily to 10.4% in 2004. And it is expected to increase to 11.7% in 2010, which means that within 6 years Thailand will enter an aging society and may face severe aging problems (Yodphet, S. 2005).

This year 2021, Thailand has stepped into a fully aged society (Aged Society) and it is estimated that the proportion of elderly people over the age of 60 will reach 20% of the total population of not less than 13 million people, and it is estimated that in the next 20 years or 2040, Thailand will have 20 elderly people. Millions or 1 in 3 of Thai people are elderly and the elderly is 80 years old and over, there will be up to 3.5 million people (Kayadee, B. 2021)

The status of the elderly in each society depends on the attitudes of most societies towards the elderly. For Easterners, especially Chinese society, the elderly is respected and valued as opposed to Westerners who glorify young people, and have the attitude that the elderly are incapable of events and incompetence. Most of the elderly are left to help themselves rather than to be cared for (Chan-em, S.1994).

However, most societies do not overlook past experiences of the elderly to make the elderly a valuable resource to society as mature persons and givers of experience. This can be seen from the fact that there are not many elderly people who are still able to carry out activities that are beneficial to the nation and society as a whole, especially the leaders of many countries in the world who are old such as President Ronald Reagan, the leader of the United States, Mr. Deng Xiaoping, former leader of the People's Republic of China, etc. At the World Assembly of the Elders in August 1982 in Vienna, Austria, the selection of leading persons based on qualifications, qualifications, and merits were selected as 4 elderly people, able to have Thai elderly people. Recognized as a social and humanitarian leader, Her Royal Highness Princess Srinagarindra Boromrajaonani (Rattanakorn, P.2012)

Therefore, the elderly plays a very important role in community development and must persuade this population to participate in community development activities more, because the community development philosophy is to allow all groups of people to participate. Community development is a process aimed at promoting the well-being of the people (Thimkhum, T.1885). To persuade the public to take part in community development activities, Thaiyaphirom, T. (1883) gave the following approaches: public relations through mass media, crowd-based educating, and educating. individual understanding. If these methods can persuade more older people to participate in community development activities, it will help the community development process to achieve its goals better and faster. From the observations of the researcher, it was found that the elderly in Ban Kasem District, Kasem Subdistrict, Trakan Phuetphon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province, had a group of elderly people forming several groups such as the elderly club, exercise group, conservation group, and inherit local wisdom, etc. In addition to meetings to discuss the management and activities of the group that exists regularly, those elderly people also participated in various activities such as joining together for the benefit of society, etc.

All the above mentioned from the beginning, whether it is the importance of the elderly, the increasing number of elderly people, social changes, the importance of determining the role of the elderly group, from the perspective of the elderly themselves, and the view of the general public, it all motivates the researcher to study the role of local elders in local development. Therefore, the researcher is interested in studying the role of the elderly in Ban Kasem District,



Kasem Subdistrict, Trakan Phuetphon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province towards community development this time.

Objective

The purpose of this research was to study the role of the elderly in the development of local communities in the Ban Kasem area, Kasem sub-district, Trakan Phuetphon district, Ubon Ratchathani province.

Research conceptual framework

In this study, the researcher was interested to study the role of the elderly in Ban Kasem, Kasem Subdistrict, Trakan Phuetphon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province towards community development. By studying how the individual characteristics of the elderly in Ban Kasem District, Kasem Subdistrict, Trakan Phuetphon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province affect the role of community development, which can be formulated as a conceptual framework in this research as illustrated 1.

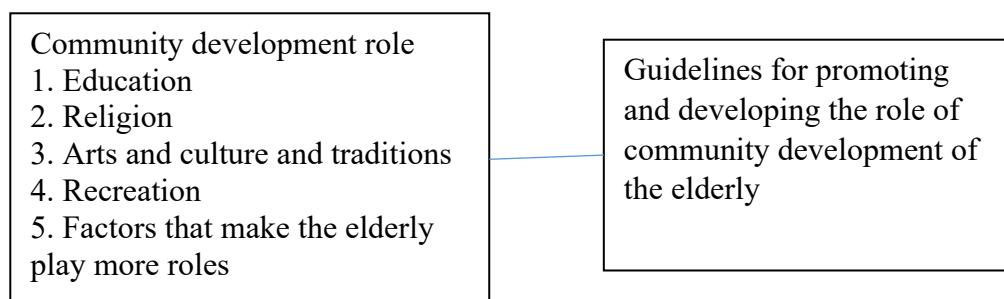


Figure 1 research conceptual framework

Methodology

The study, research, study on the role of the elderly in the local development of Ban Kasem, Kasem Subdistrict, Trakan Phuetphon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province, the study participants carried out the following steps:

The sample included both females and males aged 60 years and over who lived in Kasem Village, Kasem Subdistrict, Trakan Phuet Phon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province, totaling 117 people.

The tools used in this data collection were the questionnaire on the roles of the elderly and the questionnaire on the guidelines for promoting and developing the roles of the elderly.

Data Collection Method: In this study, the researchers conducted data collection from August to September 2019. The following data were collected: (1) Secondary source studies are research from books, journals, articles, and research findings related to how to implement the role of the elderly in local development. (2) The field study will collect data from the questionnaire through reading aloud and the student will fill out the questionnaire himself and use closed-ended questions and at the end, there will be suggestions and comments. Additional comments. (3) Collect all the questionnaires that have been answered for further data analysis.

The statistics used in the data analysis in this research study, the researcher uses the following statistics: percentage, mean, standard deviation.



Results

1. General information of the respondents from the villagers of Ban Kasem, Kasem Subdistrict, Trakan Phuetphon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province found that Most of the respondents were female, with 70 or 73.70 percent. Most were in the age range of 60–65 years, with 37 people or 38.90%. The most marital/living together were 53 persons or 55.80%. The highest number of graduates were 79 people or 83.20%. Most occupations are farmers with 77 people or 81.10%. And 95 Buddhists, or 100.00 percent, respectively.

2. The results of the data analysis revealed that occupation, education level, and chronic disease affect the role of the elderly in the development of local communities. Factors that make the elderly play a role in community development include attending meetings to express their opinions on organizing merit-making in village traditions and being able to pass on the cultural heritage of the village to future generations. Preserving culture for future generations.

3. Suggestions for problems and obstacles of the elderly in the operation are as follows: I would like the relevant agencies to promote the employment of the elderly, such as small hire activities for the elderly, organize activities for the elderly to have the opportunity to meet and exchange experiences with each other in a manner Schools for the elderly organize activities to transfer experiences and wisdom of the elderly to their children about the conservation of arts, culture, and the environment. In addition, relevant agencies should take serious action in promoting career development for the elderly “retirement is power”. The communities or related agencies should come in to promote exercise and health management for the elderly in a manner that prevents illnesses for the elderly to be healthy according to their age. And the requesting to the government is responsible for the elderly welfare policy to increase the living allowance for the elderly according to the economic conditions and the cost of living.

Discussion

The results of the data analysis revealed that occupation, education level, and congenital disease Affects the role of the elderly in the development of the local community, and the factors that make the elderly play a role in community development include attending meetings to express opinions on organizing merit-making, village traditions, and being able to pass on the cultural heritage of the village to The younger generation has preserved the culture to be the treasure of the next generation. The roles of the elderly in the community include admonishing children in the right direction, participating in school maintenance activities in the village, and joining the meeting to comment on the village tradition merit-making.

The results of this research are consistent with Pattarakantakul, P. (2001) to study participation in social activities and mental well-being of the elderly, the sample consisted of 200 elderly people who were members of the Elderly Club in Chiang Khong District, Chiang Rai Province. The results showed that the elderly had a moderate level of social activity participation scores, with the most social activities being religious activities and the least participating in physical activities. And participation in social activities was positively correlated with the mental well-being of the elderly at a moderate level. Similarly, Silavaravej, P. (2002), a study of the facts of the elderly in Kanchanaburi, found that the sample in the study preferred to use the word “elderly” more than other words such as “elderly” and “elderly”. Because it is a polite word and does not stigmatize the elderly. Most of them think that aging is not the same as a disease concerning the issue of changing feelings of obligations, because being an elderly person most have a bad feeling because the mind still wants the same status and role, has physical health problems so must work lightly. Being an elderly person is an obstacle in life and therefore is prone to illness, as well as having to depend on others for money and daily supplies regarding feelings about the status and role of being an older person.

[4]



Nowadays, the elderly expresses their satisfaction and dissatisfaction with the elderly. The satisfactory reason is that being an elderly person is a social status that does not take responsibility for important matters. The reason for the dissatisfaction was because of not working, resulting in no income. Like the results of a study by Punmeng, J. (2004), a study of the adaptation of the elderly in poverty in Phetchabun province found that the elderly should have enough knowledge to be used to teach their children and future generations. Counseling in the village on various ceremonies. Older people should be invited to participate and if they have regular and frequent discussions with other groups such as seniors, children, and younger generations to exchange ideas or get information. From the television, radio, broadcasting tower in the village. This will have an impact on understanding and accepting life changes. The elderly will be able to accept the circumstances they encounter. In addition to receiving information from the media such as television, radio, broadcasting towers in villages, exchanging experiences among the elderly in the community has a positive effect on changing their outlook on life. For example, the elderly understand that their children need to work outside the home to earn money to support the family, and the elderly are determined to take care of themselves to prevent serious illness.

Recommendation

Finding using recommendation

The research on the role of the elderly in local development in Ban Kasem, Kasem Subdistrict, Trakan Phuetphon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province led the researcher to have some suggested information that may be useful as follows.

1. Should create awareness of helping each other as well as cultivating support in the community such as cleaning campaigns and maintaining local order.
2. The elderly should be encouraged to participate in stimulating the youth to receive knowledge and cultural experiences of their locality.
3. The awareness of good news should be promoted by the monks to make some elderly people become more devoted to Buddhism and want to participate in religious activities.
4. Should encourage the elderly to be creative in organizing recreational activities in groups of friends of the same age.
5. Recreation should be promoted promptly, promotion of exemplary use of useful time, and participation in village development.
6. Kasem Subdistrict Municipality should promote the role of the elderly in the local development in education, participation in schools, integration of missions, and the promotion of learning for the elderly.
7. It should be encouraged that the competent elders, most of whom are old and in poor health, can pass on knowledge to the youth as appropriate for their physical condition.
8. Children and youth should be encouraged to be interested in learning knowledge from the elderly in areas such as religious education, arts and culture, and recreation.

Further research recommendation

There should be more research on the role of the elderly in other areas by a comparative study of the role of the elderly in other areas with different predominance and inferiority, as well as the study of problems and obstacles of the elderly. to other developments and to propose solutions and recommendations that relevant agencies can use for further use. And there should be a study on the satisfaction of the elderly towards local development around Ban Kasem, Kasem Subdistrict, Trakan Phuetphon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province to assess and adjust the community development of the elderly further.



References

Chan-em, S. (1994). *Psychology in daily life*. Bangkok: Thai Wattana Panich

Kayadee, B. (2021). *Full aged society*. Thai Post, 19 May 2021 [Online]
<https://www.thaipost.net/main/detail/103356>

Pattarakantakul, P. (2001). *Social Activity Participation and Psychological Well-being of the Elderly*. Master of Nursing Thesis (Geriatric Nursing): Chiang Mai University

Pokakul, W. (1998). *A collection of abstracts, research, and thesis on the health of the elderly in Thailand, 1987-1997*. Bangkok: Institute of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Medical Services.

Punmeng, J. (2004). *Adaptation of the elderly in poverty in Phetchabun Province*. Phetchabun: Phetchabun Rajabhat University.

Rattanakorn, P. (1992). *Their hearts, our hearts, 1982*. Bangkok: Local printing house

Silavaravej, P. (2002). *Status and Roles of the Elderly in Kanchanaburi Province*. Kanchanaburi: Kanchanaburi Rajabhat University.

Thaiyaphirom, T. (1883). *Community Development: How to Mobilize Community Participation*. Magazine, Department of Public Welfare.

Thimkhum, T. (1885). *Community Development*. Bangkok: Odeon Store Publishing House,

Yodphet, S. (2005). *Elderly caregivers in the family*. Bangkok: Thammasat University, DOI:
https://doi.nrct.go.th>ListDoi/listDetail?Resolve_DOI=