



การพัฒนาระบบจิตอาสาของเยาวชนโดยชุมชน*

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บทคัดย่อ

การวิจัยเชิงคุณภาพนี้มีวัตถุประสงค์เพื่อศึกษารูปแบบการพัฒนาระบบจิตอาสาของเยาวชนโดยชุมชนโดยใช้ทุนทางสังคมและศักยภาพของชุมชน ภายใต้บริบทของสังคมและวัฒนธรรมของพื้นที่ ใช้วิธีการวิจัยเชิงชาติพันธุ์วรรณา แบบวิพากษ์ (Critical Ethnography) แบ่งระยะของการศึกษาออกเป็น 3 ระยะ คือ 1) เพื่อศึกษาและทำความเข้าใจบริบทของชุมชนตามบริบทของสังคมและวัฒนธรรม 2) เพื่อศึกษาข้อมูลสถานะ ศักยภาพ และระบบจิตอาสาของชุมชน และ 3) การพัฒนาระบบจิตอาสาของเยาวชนในชุมชน เก็บรวบรวมข้อมูลจากผู้ให้ข้อมูล 2 กลุ่ม ประกอบด้วย ผู้ให้ข้อมูลหลัก จำนวน 42 คน และผู้ให้ข้อมูลทั่วไป จำนวน 19 คน โดยใช้วิธีการสังเกตแบบมีส่วนร่วม การสนทนากลุ่ม และการบันทึกภาคสนาม และการวิเคราะห์ข้อมูลโดยใช้การวิเคราะห์เชิงเนื้อหา

ผลการวิจัยพบว่า 1) ลักษณะกิจกรรมอาสาของเยาวชน แบ่งออกเป็น 5 ลักษณะ ได้แก่ กิจกรรมอาสาต้านสังคม ด้านเศรษฐกิจ ด้านสิ่งแวดล้อม ด้านสุขภาพ และด้านสังคม 2) เหตุการณ์หรือสถานการณ์ที่นำไปสู่การทำกิจกรรมอาสา คือ จากปัญหาและความต้องการของพื้นที่ นโยบายของพื้นที่และนโยบายของชาติ การทำกิจกรรมทางวัฒนธรรมของชุมชนร่วมกับผู้ใหญ่ และการร่วมกิจกรรมของชุมชน 3) กระบวนการในการพัฒนาระบบจิตอาสาประกอบด้วย 6 กระบวนการ ประกอบด้วย การให้ความรู้และพัฒนาทักษะ การเปิดโอกาสให้ร่วมทำกิจกรรมอาสาร่วมกับผู้นำ การยกย่องชื่นชมเมื่อทำดี การมีพ่อแม่ ผู้ปกครองเป็นแบบอย่างในการทำกิจกรรมอาสา การฝึกการช่วยเหลือผู้อื่นในชุมชน และการสนับสนุน ส่งเสริมให้ร่วมกิจกรรมของชุมชน 4) กลไกสำคัญในการพัฒนาระบบจิตอาสา คือ การทำงานร่วมกันระหว่าง 3 องค์การ (องค์กรปกครองส่วนท้องถิ่น โรงเรียน และ กลุ่มจิตอาสา) การมีกลุ่มจิตอาสาทำงานในชุมชนเป็นต้นแบบ มีกลุ่ม องค์กรทางสังคมสนับสนุน และส่งเสริม และ 5) 6 บุคคลสำคัญที่ให้เกิดกระบวนการพัฒนาระบบจิตอาสา

ผลของการศึกษานี้สามารถให้ข้อเสนอแนะแก่ องค์กรปกครองส่วนท้องถิ่น หน่วยบริการสุขภาพ ในระดับกระทรวง และระบบการศึกษาทางการแพทย์

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Volunteering Spirit in Youth: A Community Developed Model*

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Abstract

The purpose of this qualitative study aimed to study model to build volunteer spirit in youth by using community capacity in a socio-cultural context. This study employed critical ethnography method divided into 3 phases: 1) exploring the community to understand its socio-cultural context, 2) studying the community status, community potential and community voluntary system situations, and 3) developing system of youth volunteerism. Participants were divided into two groups including forty-two key informants' and nineteen general informants. The data were collected using participant observation, in-depth interview, focus group discussions, and field note and analyzed by content analysis.

The results indicated that 1) Characteristics of volunteer spirit activities in the community consisted of five scenarios: sociological, economic, environmental, health-related and political characteristics 2) The Events causing contributing the development of volunteerism including problems and needs in the community, national and local policies, cultural practice, and community activities. 3) The development process of youth volunteering spirit had six processes including; providing knowledge and skills, providing the opportunity to work with leader, Praising when doing good things, Having parents and adult as role model, assisting other and Encouraging joining the community activities. 4) Mechanisms that build community volunteer spirit development; Cooperation of the three sectors (local administrative organization, school, and volunteer group), having a group of volunteers as a role model, having social enterprises as a supporting and reinforcing the occurrence of systemic 5) six key actors who work for development system of youth volunteering spirit.

These findings could be applied to social groups, local administrative organizations, primary care units, health promoting hospitals, and educational nursing institutions for building volunteerism community.

Keywords : volunteering spirit, youth, community development

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Introduction

In an era of globalization, according to competitive economic situations and an abrupt change of social dynamics, most Thai people tend not to take others for granted and merely pursue wealth, benefits, and power rather than morality. Subsequently, Thai society has been gradually lacking compassion, merit, and morality. Social problems have also occurred in this time namely, corruption, crime, illegal drugs, and robbery and family problems: true reflection of the selfishness of people in society. According to the morality lacking atmosphere, it affects to youths. The researcher who studied about youth in current time said that at the present, youth lacks individual responsibility and social solidarity and as a result, it causes social problems such as illegal drugs, brawls in public, unsafe sex, unwanted pregnancy, smoking and drinking. This comes from the lack of individual responsibility and social solidarity¹.

Many organizations attempt to resolve such issues by creating the policy of educating children and youth, training parents and increasing in school curriculum on campaigns that seek to instill morality and ethics to children. According the attempt to try to solve the problems, it causes the gap which is the program or manages to overcome youth's problems that still cannot manage solutions to meet the needs of young people in the area and truly make a difference^{2,3} To improve or even to correct the current social situation, the term "volunteer spirit" has been raised and promoted by many organizations because the "volunteer spirit" concept means that individuals are supposed to be giving rather than taking. With the volunteer spirit, individuals are willing to offer others help with their responsible ideology; which can be considered similar to the concept of public mind and public consciousness^{3,4,5}. Volunteerism is an important, and increasingly popular, mechanism for young people to bring about positive with them and positive change in society and it is

becoming more and more relevant as a mechanism used to engage young people to be good citizens in global peace and sustainable human development^{6,7}. Developing volunteering spirit can be done by cultivating and supporting responsibilities in youth. Responsibilities namely: self-responsibility and social-responsibility are a caring attitude for oneself and others. The volunteering spirit supports self-regulation, so the participants can be responsible for themselves and their behavior^{8,9,10}. The volunteers are a group of youth that are willing to improve themselves. The volunteering spirit is a requirement that is helpful for every social community. With the supportive development from family, peer group, community and even all people around the world, the volunteering spirit can be relatively effective. Furthermore, the youths also bring direct benefits to their communities through volunteering. When presented with images of young people doing community services, the opinion of adults might be changed. They encourage positive citizenship among the youth and the adults in the community and encouraged the youth to be more engaged in their communities. In 2010, the government declared a year of giving and volunteering and pushed it as the national agenda. The Tenth National Economic and Social Development Plan (2007–2011) and the guidelines for the development of children and youth to have a good mind related with Thai government also play a role in raising knowledge with morality among Thai children^{11,12,13} and adolescents by passing the National Education Act and Amendments B.E. 2542 (A.D. 1999) (2nd Edition). The act stated that it desired Thai citizens are human beings with inclusion of physical health, mental health, knowledge, merit, and morality^{14,15,16,17}. Therefore, cultivating the youth with volunteer spirit is an important thing that requires the cooperation of family, school and community and support for building volunteering spirit in youth voluntary activities supported by person, group or organization



in the community such as head of the village, teachers, temple and community organizations. The four major organizations in the community that should work together, including head of the village, community administration, and community health care service and community members.¹⁸ These four major organizations work as the network to develop the community to be the community healthy strengthening. On the other hand, the community also learns from the youth volunteer activities^{18,19}.

The purpose of this research was to study the model to build volunteer spirit in youth by using community capacity. To obtain knowledge about the development of the community on volunteering spirit in youth based on postmodernism and interpretative philosophy, multiple methods to understand process and mechanism are required. This study will present the knowledge or the guidelines for developing youth volunteering spirit in the community in order to develop youth to be good citizens and create strengthening community.

Research methodology

Design: The researchers decided to use critical ethnography for understanding the nature of developing community volunteering spirit in youth by using community capacity.

Setting and key informants: The study was conducted in December 2015 to October 2016 at one municipality located in Sra- kaew province. It is the setting for actual research in this study because this community has various social capitals and strengthening in community management. Wang Nam Yen is the one of healthy community with the strengthening of the community system in Thailand under the support of Thailand Health Promotion Foundation. So, the community has systematized strategies according to their needs and this community is widely known in the eastern area of Thailand. The community has started

to organize the activities for youth for more than 10 year. The community also has good health policies to promote youth volunteers, which is driven from the community system. There are groups of youth volunteers that are working in order to help people in the community. The community members are very kind and helpful. The participants were divided into two groups, forty-two key informants who involved in developing community volunteering spirit in youth including 1) Key informants who involve developing community volunteering spirit in youth including youth group, families, peer group, and community member or officers of the local organizations, community leader and village header and 2) nineteen general informants consist of Community organization, civil groups, community member who got help from youth volunteer group such as elderly people, vulnerable people. The data obtained from the two participant groups was analyzed in the research.

Ethical considerations was obtained from the KhonKaen University Ethics Committee in Human Research. An information sheet, invitation letter, and consent form were sent to all participants directly with a clearly explanation about purpose, methods, procedures, potential risks and benefits of the study. Participation was voluntary and written informed consent was obtained. Participants were free to withdraw from the study at any time.

Data collection: The data were collected using participant observation to understand lifestyle, beliefs and behaviors from scenario. In-depth interviews were used to understand the perception and the meanings of youth volunteerism, civil group, families and community organizations about youth volunteer spirit in the community and the process or the mechanism to develop community volunteering spirit in youth. Focus group discussions were employed for discussing and sharing opinions about youth volunteer spirit and the process or the mechanism to development community volunteering spirit in youth. Multiple data



sources in the same study for validation purposes were used^{2,4}. There are three types of data triangulation; time, space and person (Data Triangulation Technique) Many data collection methods were employed in this study (Method Triangulation). Trustworthiness; to enhance the trustworthiness of the findings, credibility, dependability, and conformability were established^{20,21}. These included participant observation, in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and document study. All of the data obtained from these methods were then reconfirmed by the key informants and debriefing with the advisor having experiences in qualitative research.

Data analysis: Content and Thematic analysis was applied to analyze the data. The analysis and synthesis process were immediately conducted at the completion of each individual interview and focus group discussion session. For The data gathered from in-depth interview, the tape recorder was heard and transcribed carefully. All of the transcriptions were then read several times and the key words or terms throughout the transcription were highlighted and noted. The coding then was made. The focus group data was also analyzed in the same format. The final emerging themes and categories were established.²²

Findings

1. Sociocultural context of the area

Wang Nam Yen Municipality is located in Wang Nam Yen Sub-district, Wang Nam Yen District, in the south of Sa Kaeo Province consists of 10 communities, 19 villages with a total population of 21,300 people; 8,609 households. Most people do agriculture and grow rice, corn, cassava and sugar cane by using foreign workers together with machines. The largest number of population in the district are in the age range of 40-44 years old (8.81 percent). They are mostly Buddhists. Important traditions, important days of religion, beliefs and the local traditions initiated by the local residents include parade of relics on Songkran festival,

eating charity on Mother's Day, and activities on National Children's Day. Wang Nam Yen Sub-district, there are 7 public schools, 1 private school, 5 Child Development Centers, 1 Center for Non-formal Education and Informal Education and 5 career colleges. There are 10 temples in Wang Nam Yen Sub-district and 3 Buddhist monasteries. Wang Nam Yen have 601 social capitals driving the health can be classified into in five aspects including social potential, economic potential, environmental potential, health potential and political potential. The activities of society capital work in 6 levels including: individual's level, group and community organization level, organization level, village level, district level and network level. All Community potential related with youth care and volunteerism in term of direct and indirect activities.

2. The incidents and event causing youth volunteerism

From the analysis of events causing the youth's voluntary activities, it can be classified into 4 Characteristics which are 1) Problems and needs in the community such as the elderly and disable people have been abandoned, teenage pregnancy, risk behavior, waste in school. 2) National and local policies to inculcate moral values, ethics, and a sense of social responsibility into the youths such as ministry of education's policy has guided schools to teach students about desirable characteristics, School's policy promote policy to inculcate moral values, ethics and volunteer activities, 3 Municipality's development plan in accordance with national development plan focuses on youths' development for inculcating moral values, ethics, a sense of social responsibility, and values of being good citizens. 3) Cultural practice. Being a good role model of our adults or parents has promoted voluntary activities and has created awareness of volunteer spirit in the youths. Community leaders 4) Cultural activities Voluntary work will be undertaken when there are festivals, ceremonies or activities in the



community. The volunteer or community leaders will then persuade the youths to take part in the activities.

3. The process of the development of system of youth volunteerism in the community consisted of six subsystems as follows.

Providing knowledge and skills: The youth would be equipped with knowledge and had a good attitude towards volunteer work. 1) It was about giving knowledge of volunteerism or creating or thinking method of the volunteer work. This was not only the knowledge or the meaning, but it was the way of thinking, expressing and understanding volunteerism and the attitude of the youth towards volunteer work such as the correct point of view and thinking method of volunteer work. It was to think of and help others without expecting anything in return. 2) Skills of taking care for others, the elderly care and child care such as home visits, health check, blood pressure measurement, or the knowledge of self-care for drug abuse prevention, risky sexual behavior, contraceptive protection for children and youth were needed. 3) Self-care: It was to allow young people doing volunteer activities to learn about self-care and cautions when doing volunteer work or providing care for others. 4) Appropriate expressions, 5) critical thinking, reflection and planning, 6) leadership skills such as listening to the opinions of others, 7) using public media: young people should be educated in choosing appropriate public media and able convey knowledge to children and youth in the area. 8) Analysis and use of data: It was the way to train the youth to learn about data collection and use of data in order to plan work and solve the problems.

Providing the opportunity to work with leaders: The development of children and youth volunteerism was to give them the opportunity to work with community leaders or volunteers in order to have the opportunity to learn the thinking process for planning and working. The activities that provided opportunities for youth participation included: 1) planning sub-district plan,

2) community meetings and 3) participating in volunteer activities.

Having parents and adults as role models: Being a role model in doing in volunteer work for the community and being the leaders of volunteer work of parents such as doing community activities with the community like preparing area for the traditional ceremony of the village and persuading children in the family to join the activities or being village health volunteers and working for the public, including visiting the elderly and the disabled.

Encouraging the participation in the community activities: It was the way to encourage young people to participate in community volunteer activities in order to allow them to experience volunteer work such as assisting community work, cleaning and monitoring mosquito larvae, waste management and tree planting, visiting the elderly, patients and friends.

Helping others: It was the activity allowing young people to participate in planning and implementing care for those who wanted help in the community by using the capital and the potential of community. 1) Activities for helping and caring for others were the activities allowing young people to help those who needed help. 2) Participating in community forum was done in order to listen to the problems and the needs of the community, especially those related to young people and to have guidelines on the implementation of volunteerism. 3) Participating in volunteer activities was to encourage young people to take action and learn from practices, so they can learn from those who they provided help and learn about volunteer work and feel proud of themselves.

Praising when doing good things: It was the process to reinforce volunteers to be proud of themselves and have self-esteem, especially young people having unruly behavior and sometimes feeling that they did not have value. But when they received compliments or blessing from the elderly whom they



provided care for, they would be proud and have self-esteem. It also created a movement in the community. They can be a role model for other young people and other people in the community.

4. Mechanism and infrastructure for building community volunteer spirit development

According to the analysis and the synthesis of the community volunteer spirit development system, it demonstrated the important mechanisms building the community volunteer spirit development as follows.

Cooperation of the three sectors: It was the cooperation of local administrative organization, school, and civil society. Working for developing the volunteer spirit of youth inclusively and effectively needed the cooperation of the three sectors which are local administrative organization, school, and civil society from the beginning stage of brainstorming, planning the policy and activities.

Having a group of volunteers as a role model: Children and youth were the people in the age of learning from external environment, learning through the model or the role model.

Social enterprises: Having social enterprises as a mechanism was the way to support and reinforce the occurrence of systemic volunteer spirit development since these social enterprises were responsible for being a model in working directly as volunteers.

Having Youth council which was the youth organization, was the center of youth in brainstorming, planning, and doing activities together by working systemically under the advice of adults which led to the volunteer spirit development of youth.

5. Key actors The key actors who work for development system of youth volunteering spirit included.

School included teachers and school directors had the important roles in instilling the volunteer spirit to the youth

Parents : They were the people who instilled the thoughts, morality and ethics to the youth. Being an

ideal was the role of parents in order to foster the culture of volunteerism from the early age to the youth starting at home.

Social groups such as the group of volunteers, occupational groups or the elderly association were the people sector gathering to build up and develop the volunteerism to the youth.

The leaders of the community consisting of a sub-district headman, the leader of the village, the members of sub-district administrative organization, the committee of the village, the religious leaders, and the local scholars were the leaders of principle in supporting the policy of volunteer development to the youths.

Local administrative organization was the organization in the local area having the important role in making policies about supporting the activities of the youth.

Youth Council was the organization inviting youth to do volunteer activities and it was the ideal of volunteer work of children and youth.

6. Characteristics of the volunteering work of the youth

Five characteristics of the volunteering work of the youth; 1) Sociological characteristics. The activities undertake in order to promote life skills, morals and ethics, sense of responsibility for oneself and community. Examples of youth volunteer activities in sociological characteristics are: Teaching morals and ethics to children and youth, making home visits to the elderly and the disabled people. 2) Economical characteristics. These are voluntary activities in which the youth volunteers have participated in order to earn some money for the elderly and the elderly schools including Fundraising campaigns for the elderly school, making income for the elderly with physical and/or mental impairment 3) Environmental characteristics. These are voluntary activities in which the volunteers have participated in order to protect the environment in the school, temple, and community, to keep places clean,



to manage waste, to save trees, as well as to inspect environmental factors causing diseases. 4) Health-related characteristics. These are voluntary activities related to both physical and mental health. These activities are taking care of the elderly, people with disabilities and poor people, teaching how to take care of oneself and avoiding risky behavior such as drugs abuse, sexual relationship, driving or using social media, making home visits to teen mothers and monitoring food safety in the community. 5) Political characteristics these are voluntary activities that promote political activities such as promoting election campaign, providing community forum for the villagers.

Discussion

Systematic process and a variety of methods are required for the development or the creation of volunteerism in youth. Social capital and the potential of the area at every level are utilized to promote the development of volunteerism in youth based on the nature and the characteristics of youth in that area. In the development process, providing knowledge for understanding, the development of youth attitudes toward volunteerism, providing knowledge on planning, analytical thinking skill, problem solving and teamwork are needed^{5,23}. The opportunity to work with leaders should be provided to the youth. They should also be encouraged for the participation in community activities in order to allow them to see the role model and learn volunteerism skills. Providing the opportunity for young people to plan and operate the work themselves by having advice from adults and the support from the community leaders, social groups and those involved in the community is the cooperation to create the development of youth volunteering systematically.

The study also found that the successful strategy is the cooperation of the three sectors, including local administrative organization, school and volunteer group which are the sectors that are relevant and close to the

youth. There is also the support from social enterprises which is the mechanism supporting and reinforcing the occurrence of systemic volunteer spirit development and there is a group of volunteers as a role model. These are the significant mechanisms leading to the volunteer spirit development in the community. The youth are the people who are in the age of learning from external environment, learning through the model or the role model. Therefore, having groups working as volunteers such as a group of civil defense volunteers, a group of public health volunteers, rescue volunteers, a group of safety and security volunteers as well as the leaders of the community, the village headman, and the sub-district headman who do a volunteer work for the community makes the youth learn and see the model of activity and work. The opportunity should be given to the youth to join the activities of these groups. Having Youth council which is the youth organization, is the center of youth in brainstorming, planning, and doing activities together by working systemically under the advice of adults leading to the volunteer spirit development of youth. According to the development of community volunteer system through the whole process, there are the main leaders in the development of volunteerism, including school referring to teachers, parents, social groups, the leaders of the community, local administrative organization and Youth Council. They are close to the youth and have different roles. In addition Awareness, self-responsibility and social responsibility, sensitivity, flexibility, respect and acceptance in others have been promoted²³ as in the area of the model in Fujieda city, Shizuoka Prefecture Japan which people have been cultivated with self-responsibility and social responsibility since in their childhood, in kindergarten, at home and community with the belief that when persons have self-responsibility, they will have social responsibility which is one of the qualifications of volunteers, development of religious beliefs are sources of the learning process to learn cultures and



ways of life including thinking methods and practices of each person. In addition, concepts or beliefs of each religion establish and strengthen interactions and linkages of people in a society. Work in partnership: Community is complexity and it includes people, organization, civil group, beliefs and culture, community development theory, connecting recipient organizations and institutions. The roles and the responsibilities of each section will help to develop the youth volunteer system in the community concretely in order to allow this research to be used as the guidelines for the development plan of the policy or the design of volunteer youth development which is consistent with the context of the area and can create systematic operation and make a difference to the youth who are the future of the country.

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