

Research Topic : Village History : Ban Nam Leang, Amphoe Moun, Nakhonsrithammarat
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Abstract

This particular study of the history of Nam Leang village, Nakhonsrithammarat is part of a comparative study of changes in village in the northeastern, northern and southern Thailand, resulting from the introduction of various forms of modernization : road, electricity, and new technology over the past 20 years. The project concentrates on certain aspects of change, namely, occupation, land tenure, leadership, organization and system belief and ritual.

The findings from Nam Leang village can be summarised as follows.

Occupation

A number of new occupations have arisen such as wage-labour, small-scale contractor (spraying weeds, tilling farmland by using a hand-held tractor, taking passenger in and out of the village). These new occupations occurred after modern technologies were introduced into the village.

There is a tendency for the new generation of villagers of leave the traditional occupation of farming. Various reasons are given such as a long period of time before crops can be converted to cash, low return for their yields thus low income while goods are expensive, limited amount of land. Besides, the the younger generation are more highly-educated and tend to be absorbed into urban occupations such as government officials, bank employees, business employees etc.

Land tenure

Owing to the tradition of providing a piece of farmland for married children, land gets divided and becomes fragmented. Some villagers have become indebted out of high cost of children education,

investment in agriculture, consumer's goods and lost their land as a result.

Leadership

The village headman, Phu Yai Ban, is elected by the villagers. A number of villagers say that honest people are not suitable for this position. Village monks also function as informal leaders. In this village they were the ones who brought new technologies.

Group organization

Most of the village organizations were initiated by government agencies. They receive different degrees of interest and cooperation from the villagers. Popular organizations are customers of the bank of agriculture and cooperative group.

System of belief, value and ritual

It is found that the world-views of the older and younger generations differ markedly. The younger generation tend to place emphasis on material gains, pleasure rather than traditional values such as gratitude and paying respect for age.

The ritual which strongly persists is the merit making festival of the tenth lunar month. Beliefs in the supernatural are still prevalent

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