

## Abstract

This is a study of the impact of a development project on a Northeast Thai peasant community. My purpose is to examine how a peasant community has been effected by the development project. Data and arguments are derived mainly from a field research on Ban Isandaeng in the Northeast. Participant observation, structural and non-structural interview, including documentary research laid the foundation of my analysis.

From the study, it is found that the village economy has changed dramatically over the years. In the past villagers earned their living from subsistence agriculture. In recent years, however, many villagers have turned into wage labourers working in industrial factory that was established in the village by the project. While per capita income has increased, the growing wealth has not, however, been equally distributed. The poor in general do not benefit from the development project. In addition, internal conflict and factionalism have increased. The traditional system of community spirit, agricultural self-help groups and the practice of labour exchange have disappeared. The villagers are dominated by the ideology of consumerism, instigated through modern communication and mass media especially radios, televisions and movies. Capitalism, market system, trades and urban and international culture replaces the folk culture. The community has become increasingly dependent upon external forces.

Marriage has increasingly become a personal affair. Young men and women tend to marry outsiders. Divorce rate is increasing. The importance of religion has been replaced by consumerism and materialism.

The village's power structure including the village headman, various kind of committees including the school and its teaching staffs are dominated by the officials of the development project. They are not free to make decisions. They have to obey the command made by representatives of the project.

The development project is planned from the top. People cannot participate in the project. They work in accorded with the authorities' command. All resources are from the outside, so the villager has lost its self-reliance and become increasingly dependent upon external forces, especially the Project and the market mechanism.