

# **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF SOCIAL CAPITAL AND CULTURAL CAPITAL OF BAN HUAY PONG LAO KAREN COMMUNITY, MAE KI SUB- DISTRICT, KHUN YUAM DISTRICT, MAE HONG SON PROVINCE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research aims to study the management of a sustainable community economy in the social context and culture capital, and the context of social and cultural capital in the community. The research data were collected by the research methods of qualitative research, document analysis, and field study. The primary data were collected through in-depth interviews, focus-group interviews, and non-participant observation. The result showed that the community has a self-sufficient way of life and has the main income from relying on natural resources around the community with faith and respect. Living and occupation with high kinship and high trustfulness are also found. Moreover, we found that community leaders have a strong competence with faith. There is a tradition and culture that is intimately tied to nature.

**Keywords:** Sustainable Community Economic Management, Social Capital, Cultural Capital

## **INTRODUCTION**

Past country development does not focus on development based on social capital and cultural capital, but rather on the development of a capitalist economy that focuses on consumption. As a result, people in society are unable to adjust their thinking in time for changes. Causing a state of social and cultural backwardness. As a result, society and culture cannot determine the direction of the economy. And it is the cause of the destruction of the strength of the society and traditional good culture. Including the widespread destruction of the local natural resources environment of the country.

According to Zipco leader Zunderlal Pahukuna, there is only one way to resolve life and development crises. "We must return to the roots of Eastern culture and society with an emphasis on nature restoration. This means that nature, society, and culture must be brought back to the economy. By creating sustainability through development" (Preecha Piempongsarn: A New Way of Development Methodology of Thai Society Studies 2006)

Therefore, community economic management under the context of social capital and cultural capital according to tradition and traditions that are tied to or attached to nature is a concept that is consistent with Thai society. And it can be considered an important concept that

will drive it to be part of the sustainable management of the national economy. Coupled with an emphasis on social capital cultural capital and sustainable resource management of the nation in the future, especially the Karen community of Ban Huai Pong Lao, Mae Ki Sub-district, Khun Yuam District, Mae Hong Son Province. Which has a long history it has outstanding social and cultural capital. There is a management and development that is unique to the community itself. Especially sustainable community economic management under the context of social capital and cultural capital. There is a total population of 344 people with a total of 127 households. The majority of the population is Christian. Most of them are engaged in farming. Farming and hire

From such importance, the researcher, therefore, chose to study the issue of sustainable community economic management under the context of social capital and cultural capital. Of the Karen community, Ban Huai Pong Lao brings the information obtained from this study to take advantage of the development of the Karen community at Ban Huai Pong Lao and other communities in similar contexts, with

## OBJECTIVE

1. To study sustainable community economic management under the context of social capital and cultural capital of Ban Huay Pong Lao Community, Mae Ki Sub-district, Khun Yuam District, Mae Hong Son Province.
2. To study the context of social capital and cultural capital of the Pga K'nyau community in Ban Huai Pong Lao.

## METHODOLOGY

Sustainable community economic management under the context of social capital and cultural capital of Ban Huai Pong Lao community research this time Qualitative research was used, consisting of processes and in-depth interviews with community leaders. Residents provide important information. (Key-informant) combined with the use of observation by the researcher. Focus group discussion and literature review from the document (Suphan Chantawanich, 2018). In addition, the researcher also used other research techniques. Accompanied to help strengthen the research to be more comprehensive, such as the Triangulation Technique for data verification. Rapid Rural Appraisal (RRA) techniques for identifying key informants (Beebe, 1987, P.49) are as follows:

### ***Research process***

1. Document studies and Literature reviews such as books, textbooks, research reports, theses, and meeting minutes. Government annual reports, articles, and other relevant and reliable academic reports.
2. Field study using both participant and non-participant observation methods. Structured and unstructured interviews in-depth interviews and small group discussions

### ***Key-informant***

The researcher has assigned key informants. (Key-Informant) by using accelerated survey (RRA) techniques to determine the qualifications of informants. To obtain key informants

according to the qualifications that have been set before, such as being a community founder, village leader, elder, village philosopher spiritual leader executive of relevant government agencies, etc. For the accuracy of the data and to prevent bias (Bias), resulting in a variety of data consistent with the research objectives. By grouping informants into 4 groups with person total of about 31 people.

#### ***Data Collection Method***

The researcher collects data by himself by studying and researching information Literature review from documents and field studies through periodic visits to the community. Introduction and familiarization with the community through participation in activities. Introduction and objectives to informants. Importantly, before every interview, data collection is done along with a preliminary analysis of each issue. Sound recording and take pictures while doing it. When receiving permission each time and there is a way to verify the accuracy of the data by using the Triangulation Technique to verify the data obtained from individuals. Different times and places coupled with simultaneous observation of the community context

#### ***Data analysis***

The researcher uses data analysis methods along with data collection according to qualitative research principles by using data obtained from focus group discussions. In-depth interview Formal and informal interviews Participant and non-participant observations are validated using a triangulation technique for verifying data obtained from individuals. Different times and places were then analyzed to link the consistency of the logical content with the theoretical concepts together with the context of the community and relevant research from the literature review from various documents to obtain the results. Study according to the objectives that have been set

## **RESULTS**

Sustainable community economic management under the context of social capital and cultural capital of Ban Huai Pong Lao community found that

1. Sustainable community economic management under the context of social capital and cultural capital of Ban Huay Pong Lao Karen community the community economy is managed for subsistence mainly based on beliefs. The culture that connects and relates to nature and the environment concerning forests and rivers such as rice cultivation and animal husbandry

Rice cultivation of the Karen people in Ban Huai Pong Lao There is mixed forest farming in rotation. And rice terraces in upstream forest areas by releasing water natural nutrients in rice fields there is no use of any chemicals that harm nature. Rice derived from such cultivation will be truly natural rice and the area along the creek is a forest line to prevent the erosion of the river bank. Shifting cultivation Because of the rice terraces there is not enough space for growing rice. It is necessary to cultivate forests in the forest to increase the area for rice cultivation to be sufficient for the consumption of community members. Terraced farming on the hilly areas surrounding the residential community. Most of the rice fields have been passed down from generation to generation. On average, each family has holdings ranging from 2 rai to 8 rai depending on the size of each family member. Families with few members have a lot of land for farming

Cattle raising of Karen villagers in Ban Huai Pong Lao The animals are released to feed in the natural forest, during the rainy season, and throughout the planting season. Will keep an eye on it from time to time. After that, the villagers brought them back to raise them at the border between the village and the forest and farmland. Raising cows and buffaloes is a supplementary income occupation. Each family has a minimum of 5 birds and a maximum family of 35 birds. The nature of raising and selling depends on the family's financial needs. Or sometimes slaughtered for food and to control the cattle population. When there is not enough food in the forest for the number of cattle Ban Huai Pong Lao community will have very few problems with this issue. Cattle raising according to the wisdom of the Karen people has no cost for breeding and breeding in the forest. Will be natural

2. Social Capital Context Cultural Capital of Ban Huay Pong Lao Karen Community Found that natural ecosystems are managed with wisdom. mixed forest farming rice terraces, water management, and animal husbandry It is a lifestyle that depends on There is a harmonious and harmonious relationship between people and the forest. For example, Karen people believe that Rice terraces to store water will help produce more rice. Because such farming is dependent on the natural ecosystem. Get water from upstream forests get nutrients from mixed forest farms swerving farms used for animal husbandry and weed burning and characteristics of rice terraces the plot size is small depending on the slope of the hill. Serves as a good water storage dam Add moisture to the soil, making the soil moist. There is an accumulation of groundwater which is the habitat of small animals it is another source of food for the villagers in the community.

Ban Huai Pong Lao Community Forest, Mae Ki Subdistrict, Khun Yuam District, Mae Hong Son Province, located in a national reserved forest area. The area of Ban Huai Pong Lao, Village No. 4, Mae Ki Sub-district, Khun Yuam District, Mae Hong Son Province, with a total area of 6794 rai.

**Figure 1**

Rice terrace farming low slope



**Figure 2**

Karen weir does it periodically so that every plot of rice fields can use water.



**Figure 3**

Residential area





## CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

From this research the researchers found the following important and interesting points:

Sustainable Community Economic Management under the Context of Social Capital and Cultural Capital of Ban Huay Pong Lao Karen Community mixed forest farming step farming and animal husbandry It is a community economic management that understands and accesses the forest ecosystem. rivers and other natural resources until become wisdom, tradition, custom, and culture thus being able to live in harmony with nature like a large family so that the members of the village do not suffer earning income from raising natural cows income from hunting for forest products from the sale of souvenirs by the housewives group As a result, every family member in the community has no household debt. Until being awarded a certificate of honor Sufficiency Economy Village "Staying cool and happy" outstanding at the provincial level According to the 2016 Village Leaders Honor Program, this is in line with the idea of Sunderlal Pahukuna, the leader of the Zipco movement, that "There is only one way to solve life crises and develop. We must return to the original roots of Eastern culture and society with an emphasis on nature restoration. This means that nature, society, and culture must be brought back to the economy. By creating sustainability through development" (quoted in Preecha Piemongsarn: A New Way of Development Methodology of Thai Society Studies 2006 p.50)

In the context of social capital and cultural capital of the Ban Huay Pong Lao Karen community, community leaders, and belief leaders know there is a Karen ethnic network. There is unity because it is a community with high kinship. There are beliefs, traditions, and cultures according to the original way and strictly adhered to. And can maintain a community in the way amid the changes of external society this is in line with Pornchai's concept. Preechapanya and Warin Chirasukthaweekul Karen wisdom and the sustainability of upstream forest ecosystems such as Karen wisdom about grazing in the forest Karen Wisdom about Mixed Forest Farming Management of mixed farming ecosystems in rice fields (Preechapanya and Warin Chirasukthaweekul, 2001 p.10-15)

Recommendations: The community should work together with other ethnic networks to push forward Community rights for people to live in harmony with the forest under the context of social capital and cultural capital of the Karen community. And able to manage the community economy sustainably based on the belief and respect for nature in the Karen way of life

#### Figure 4

Received an award and a certificate of honor for the outstanding sufficiency economy village at the provincial level in 2016



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