

DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES FOR ELDERS' WELFARE ADMINISTRATION IN BANGKOK.

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ABSTRACT

The research objectives represented 1) to study the nature of elders' welfare administration in Bangkok and 2) to illustrate development guidelines for elders' welfare administration in Bangkok. The qualitative research approached on in-depth interviewing through questionnaires. The population consisted of operators who operated with elders' welfare in Bangkok. The sample selection represented purposive sampling on 15 districts from 50 districts. The in-depth interviewing was made for data collection. The data analysis was obtained with classified relevant contents in and reduced unrelated issues for summarizing them and answering research questions.

The research finding found that 1) the intense needs of elders' welfare service represented the welfare in term of hygiene, welfare, life safety and amusement 2) the characteristics of welfare service consisted of five elements of freedom, participating, care, self-satisfaction achievement and admiration 3) the aspect of elders' quality life activities that aimed to develop the elders' quality life with three elements of social and mind adaptation, saving behavior and learning behavior 4) the successful promoting factors with three aspects with strenuous community, organization and network, involved development community with clearly supporting policies and clearly organizational supporting and promoting policies 5) the development guidelines of elders' welfare service in lower Northern with six aspects 5.1) elders' activities learning development to retired behavior 5.2) the aspects of welfare service 5.3) the potential of elders' club 5.4) the organizational potential and elders' health networking 5.5) the potential of health networking on temple and monks 5.6) the goals of quality of life and development on healthy communities.

INTRODUCTION

According to the regulations of the Ministry of Interior on the criteria in paying allowances for the elders of the Organizational Local Administration 2552 B.E. enforced the payment of the allowance for the elders of the local administration office which according to the regulations of the Ministry of Interior within November of every year, the people who endured sixty years old and older in the next fiscal year came to register and request for living allowance towards the local administration office in which they were domiciled at the local administration office or the determined place, the proportion of the elder population of Thailand increased continuously due to the average life of the population increased. (Office of the Economic Development Board and the National Society (2003). The data also indicated the tendency of the elders to continuously increasing. The female elders had the increasing number and proportion more than the male elders population due to the average life of the female population was longer than the male.

Therefore, the change in the size and proportion of the elderly population was not the area of the demographic impact only but also affecting other systems, including politics, economy and society of the country, because there were many problems of the elders, physical, health, mental, economic, social, etc., such problems had a direct impact on the

elders and the communities where the elders lived (Direk Patmasiriwat, 2007). The population structure changing approached the aging society and became intensely interesting issues among government, private sectors and academics because it received a broad impact, both of the macro-level including the effects on the country's GDP, per capita income, savings and investments, the state budgetary investment and the micro-level including product, market and various services especially in finance and health. The preparing of changes, The act of the planning and procedure for decentralization of local administrative organizations in 1999, influencing with administrative organizations. The local government had to adapt many new initiatives.

Especially when the Elderly Act 2003 enabled, it stipulated the rights that the elders legally granted such as medical services, educational services, careers, social participation and personal development in various fields, facilitation and safety in the building, transportation and other public services, public transportation, exemption of official place visiting fee, the assistance in case of abused action, neglect, accommodation, clothing, allowance, funeral service, these rights stipulated in the law in order to prepare the Thai society to step into an aging society. Social Welfare represented a system that provides services to people to meet needs for society, economy, education and sanitation. The social welfare was divided into three types of services which were 1) Social Insurance 2) Local assistance and 3) Social Services as following, education, housing, employment, income and social and recreation service (Sasiphat Yodphet, 2006).

One issue that was widely discussed represented elders were increasingly evacuating the family because of the rapidly changing economy and social and made the increasing of pressure on family members to take care of the elders. The finding found that the pattern of the family changed from an extended family to an isolated family, the family size became smaller, members of the family who was the practical age had to go to work in other places far from home and scattering.

These social changes produced the impact on the servicing, social welfare of government agencies especially the government agencies that were closest to the community, such as the local administration organization represented an agency who played a role to provide social welfare services for the elders in the community.

The overview of social welfare services that the local administration organization provided to the elders in general, found that the allowance for the elders in health care and medical care, social security including various rights having many limitations and problems. That made the operation unable to meet the requirement and solve the problem of the elders in the community completely and thoroughly, lack of the welfare management system and creating importance for the elders.

Research objectives

1. To study the nature of elders' welfare administration in Bangkok.
2. To illustrate development guidelines for elders' welfare administration in Bangkok.

LITERATURE

The studied guidelines of welfare service in country and abroad found elders' welfare in the most countries were similar that represented to promote the quality of life, well-being and health but emphasized on the various measures like Japan, to emphasize long-term care that was not a care in a hospital or a nursing home but encouraged care at home. Singapore was distinct in its role of being a supporter and collaborator of many parties, extremely private organizations and the local sector who executed the elders; welfare work to be strong, Australia and England, they did the same that focused on the income security of the elders by

promoting employment in accordance with the potential. Almost countries promoted various types of saving to prepare for the elders, in conclusion, every country was trying to develop to be suitable, convenient, rapid and accessible like Singapore, England, Japan, the United States who were indifferent in promoting financial security after retirement, promote the pension funds management and support appropriate savings with sufficient income after retirement (DSS Publications-The Changing Welfare, 2001 referred to in Wanphasri Thanyarat and Phongphan Arunsaeng, 2002).

There were two types of pension systems: the state pension represented a specified rate of payment for all workers. The pension would obtain a fixed rate and for men matured 65 years and women matured 60 Years regardless of whether or not retirement. The second type of pension system represented the second-retire pension, a compulsory savings to obtain more pensions operated by the government and the private-sector (Wannapha Sithirat and Phongphan Arunsaeng, 2002). For the operational concept of the elders of Singapore that was clearly visible in 3 frameworks, which were 1) Heart-ware emphasized on adjusting the society's attitude towards elders represented the need for people to think and understand that age remained not an obstacle to performing anything. The elders were still knowledgeable, capable and worthy of encouraging activities that were beneficial to society. 2) Soft-ware emphasized capacity building for the elders in activities, allowing the elderly to participate in social activities such as encouraging the elders to be volunteer, conducting a group of friends to help friends and promotion of a multi-purpose center to provide a variety of integrated services in the community 3) Hard-ware emphasized on building housing, transportation management, construction of various services which was conducive to life and participation in activities and services of elders by themselves based on the concept of ageing in place. (Wanphasri Thanyarat, Phongphan Arunsaeng, Phenchan Lertrat, and Pornnipa sombat, 2002)

METHODOLOGY

The qualitative research approached on in-depth interviewing through questionnaires. The population consisted of operators who operated with elders' welfare in Bangkok. The sample selection represented purposive sampling on 15 districts from 50 districts. The in-depth interviewing was made for data collection. The data analysis was obtained with classified relevant contents in and reduced unrelated issues for summarizing them and answering research questions.

RESULTS

The interviewing results of elders' welfare requirements found that there was a requirement for health and welfare of safety in life and properties, for other aspects such as recreation that was important for the state of mind and should be provided continuously with the club participation, providing knowledge that was necessary to be a quality elderly person, appropriate career, activities, information, elderly club, public facilities arrangement, parks and recreation, monthly subsistence allowance, traditional funeral service. For the residential supporting, elderly groups had low demand in soft loan housing project than other services because they could live with their family. For organized activities for quality development of elders' life found that most elders joined with the recreation and social activities like participating in various associations, religious affiliation, social volunteering for society.

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