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The Study on the Opinions Toward the Community Environment of People Living in Lang Wat Klang Na Community in Bangmod, Thung Khru, Bangkok, Thailand

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Abstract

This research aimed to study the opinions of people living in Lang Wat Klang Na community in Bangmod, Thung Khru, Bangkok, Thailand toward the community environment in 5 areas, i.e., community physical environment; safety in life and property; relationship in community; rights, roles, and respect among community members and between the members and the officers; and people and community's potentialities developments. Tools used in this study were 28 questionnaires. The population were 66 households in Lang Wat Klang Na community. The samples were 40 households estimated by Yamane table at 95% confidentiality with margin of error +/-10%. The results of the

study were that the opinion towards the 5 areas were 3.04, 3.12, 3.55, 3.39; and 3.8 respectively. All the opinions were in medium levels, except the last one was high level. The lowest opinion toward the community physical environment was shown that people needed to have their physical community improved firstly. Meanwhile their highest opinion on people and community's potentialities development need was their most concerned.

Keyword: Community environment, Community physical environment, Safety in community, Relationship in community, Potentiality development need

1. Introduction

Bangkok has been growing rapidly through recent decades. There have been massive migrations of people from rural area and neighbour countries to the city to find jobs and better lives. This movement has caused various urban problems, such as, uncontrollable growing of the cities, inadequate land using in the centre zone, overcrowded population, congested traffic, insufficient public transportation, flood, land subsidence, inadequate tap water, poor garbage management, insufficient housing for the poor, increasing slum, and decayed environment. All these problems have affected the quality of people's lives living in Bangkok. (Bangkok Information Center)⁸⁷

The physical problems affect various social dimensions, such as, relationship between neighbors, cooperation among community's members, harmony in community, and people's discipline and responsibility. These problems need great effort of the governmental organization to manage. Meanwhile, the Bangkok Metropolitan's structure is centralized, fragmented, and closed system.

Besides that, business organization and public sectors had no chances to join the development. The Bangkok cannot lead public sector to push laws that decentralizes power to local community. (Department of Strategy and Evaluation Bangkok Metropolitan, Faculty of Political Science Chulalongkorn University, 2013) All these problems are hindrances of communities' potentiality, which finally affects the country to grow up as a developed country. Therefore, it is necessary and urgent to study, understand, and improve the situations.

In this study, the researcher aims to study the opinion of people living in Lang Wat Klang Na community in Bangmod, Thung Khru, Bangkok, Thailand, which situates on the southern part of Bangkok. In previous time, it was an agricultural area, which produced food and fruit for the Bangkok. But today the erosion soil and uncontrollable growth of Bangkok made this area to be the new real estate area for the well-off newcomers and decayed community for the former and poor newcomers. Nowadays this similar situation spreads across Bangkok that the former and

impoverished people living in the old community have to endure physical and social decayed environment.

2. Objective of the Study

To study the opinions of people living in Lang Wat Klang Na community towards physical environment in community; safety in life and property; relationship in community; rights, roles, and respect among community's members and between the community's member and governmental officers; and community and people's potentiality development.

3. Approach of the Study

The tools used in this research were questionnaires. Population in this study were 66 households in Wat Klang Na community, Bangmod, Thung Khru. Estimated by Yamane at 95% confidence with margin of error +/-10%, the samples were 40 households. One questionnaire was completed by one dweller from each household. The data was analyzed by percentage and average.

The meanings of the average were interpreted as follows:

4.51 – 5.00 the opinion was at the highest level.

3.51 – 4.50 the opinion was at high level.

2.51 – 3.50 the opinion was at medium level.

1.51 – 2.50 the opinion was at lightly level.

1.0 – 1.50 the opinion was at the lowermost level

4. Result of the Study

4.1 General Data of the Samples

The 40 samples were 57.5% females and 42.5% males. The people aged between 51-60, 41-50, and 20-30 years old were 35, 25, and 22.5 percent respectively. Their domiciles were in Bangkok, Northeastern, and Northern provinces, which were 60, 20, and 10 percent respectively. Their rights in living places as owners and renters, were 72.5 and 5 percent respectively. Their incomes, lower than 10,000 baht, between 10,000-15,000 baht, and between 15,001-25,000 baht were 47.5, 25, and 10 percent respectively. Their education, lower than secondary school, secondary school, and bachelor degrees were 14, 8, and 7 percent respectively. Their careers, workers, temp workers, and vendors were 22.5, 8, and 4 percent respectively. Their commutes by bus, minibus, and motorcycle taxi were 35, 25, and 20 percent respectively. Their roles in the community, sometimes joining the community activity, frequently joining the community activity, and being the community committee were 40, 35, and 12.5 percent respectively.

Table 1 : General data of the samples

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Sex				
Male	17	42.5%	42.5%	42.5%
Female	23	57.5%	57.5%	100.0%
Total	40	100.0%	100.0%	
Ages				
Lower than 20 years old	2	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%
20-30 years old	9	22.5%	22.5%	27.5%
31-40 years old	4	10.0%	10.0%	37.5%
41-50 years old	10	25.0%	25.0%	62.5%
51-60 years old	14	35.0%	35.0%	97.5%
Over 60 years old	1	2.5%	2.5%	100.0%
Total	40	100.0%	100.0%	
Domicile				
Bangkok	24	60.0%	61.5%	61.5%
Northern provinces	4	10.0%	10.3%	71.8%
Central provinces	3	7.5%	7.7%	79.5%

Northeastern provinces	8	20.0%	20.5%	100.0%
Total	39	97.5%	100.0%	
Missing	1	2.5%		
Total	40	100.0%		
Rights over living place				
Rent	5	12.5%	13.5%	13.5%
Owner	29	72.5%	78.4%	91.9%
Others	3	7.5%	8.1%	97.4%
Total	37	92.50%	100.0%	
Missing	3	7.5%		
Total	40	100.0%		
Incomes				
Lower than 10,000 baht	19	47.5%	51.4%	51.4%
10,000-15,000 baht	10	25.0%	27.0%	78.4%
15,001-25,000 baht	4	10.0%	10.8%	89.2%
25,001-35,000 baht	3	7.5%	8.1%	97.3%
35,001-45,000 baht	1	2.5%	2.7%	100.0%
Total	37	92.5%	100.0%	
Missing	3	7.5%		
Total	40	100.0%		

Education				
Lower than secondary school	14	35.0%	36.8%	36.8%
Secondary school	8	20.0%	21.1%	57.9%
High school	6	15.0%	15.8%	73.7%
Bachelor degree	7	17.5%	18.4%	92.1%
Others	3	7.5%	7.9%	100.0%
Total	38	95.0%	100.0%	
Missing	2	5.0%		
Total	40	100.0%		
Career				
Temp worker	8	20.0%	23.5%	23.5%
Worker	9	22.5%	26.5%	50.0%
Vendor	4	10.0%	11.8%	61.8%
Governmental officers	2	5.0%	5.9%	67.6%
Business	2	5.0%	5.9%	73.5%
Others	9	22.5%	26.5%	100.0%
Total	34	85.0%	100.0%	

Missing	6	15.0%		
Total	40	100.0%		
Commute				
Bus/ minibus/ motorcycle taxi	14	35.0%	38.9%	38.9%
Motorcycle	10	25.0%	27.8%	66.7%
Car	8	20.0%	22.2%	88.9%
Bicycle	2	5.0%	5.6%	94.4%
Walk	1	2.5%	2.8%	97.2%
Others	1	2.5%	2.8%	100.0%
Total	36	90.0%	100.0%	
Missing	4	10.0%		
Total	40	100.0%		
Role in community				
Being a community committee	5	12.5%	13.2%	12.8%
Constantly join the community's activities	14	35.0%	36.8%	48.7%
Sometimes join the community's activities	16	40.0%	42.1%	89.7%
Never join the community's activities	3	7.5%	7.9%	97.4%
Total	38	95%	100.0%	
Missing	2	5%		
Total	40	100.0%		

4.2 Result of the Study on People's Opinions on the 5 Areas

The sum average of the opinion toward the physical environment was medium level, 3.04. The opinion towards tap water quality was high level, 3.77. While those towards recreation places and affordable and qualified housing access were lightly level, 2.24 and 2.79 respectively. (See table 2)

Table 2 : Opinions towards the physical environment

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Inter-pretation
Tab water quality	40	3	5	3.77	.768	high
Clean and livable of the community	40	2	4	3.05	.504	medium
Garbage management	39	2	5	3.23	.742	medium
Waste water in canal and drain management	40	1	4	2.80	.883	medium
Air pollution	40	2	5	3.25	.809	medium
Health care system access	39	2	5	3.21	.695	medium
Affordable and qualified housing access	39	1	4	2.79	.801	lightly
Recreation places	38	1	4	2.24	.714	lightly
average				3.04		medium

The sum average of the opinion toward safety in life and property in community was medium level, 3.12. The opinion toward safety in travelling was medium level, 3.35. The safety from narcotic drugs was medium level, 2.55. (See table 3)

Table 3 : Opinions towards safety in life and property in community

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Inter-pretation
Safety from criminal's threatening	38	2	5	3.26	.891	medium
Safety in traveling	40	1	5	3.35	.834	medium
Safety from conflagration	40	1	5	3.13	.883	medium
Safety from narcotic drugs	40	1	4	2.55	.932	medium
Safety from industrial chemical leaking	39	1	5	3.33	.955	medium
average				3.12		medium

The sum average opinion toward relationship in the community was high level, 3.59. The relationship among community's members was high level, 3.63. The other two questions, feeling of being a part of the community and cooperation of the people in doing community's activity were also high level, 3.59 and 3.55 respectively. (See table 4)

The sum average opinion towards rights, role, and respect among community member and between the community and the governmental officer were medium level, 3.39. Respecting each other and being respected by governmental officers when contacting the office were high level, 3.58. The

lowest opinion in this area was the process of solving people's and community's complaints, which was medium level, 3.00. (See table 5)

Table 5 : Opinions towards rights, role, and respect among community member and between the community and the governmental office

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Inter-pretation
Being careful not to infringe neighbors' rights	40	1	5	3.50	.961	Medium
Respecting each other	40	1	5	3.58	1.010	High
Following the community rules	40	2	5	3.55	.749	High
Being respected by governmental officers when contacting the office	40	2	5	3.58	.712	High
Process of solving people's and community's complaints	39	1	4	3.00	.725	Medium
Asking for community's comments to solve the community's problems by the officers	40	1	4	3.17	.781	Medium
Giving useful information by the officers	40	2	4	3.37	.540	Medium
Giving people chances to take part in assess the governmental community development project	40	1	5	3.40	.744	Medium
average				3.39		Medium

The sum average opinion towards individual's and community's potentiality development was high level, 3.87. All opinions in this area, i.e., needing for useful knowledge to develop oneself and community, needing for the community school's quality development, needing for community environment development budget, needing for laws knowledge involving community, were high levels at 3.98, 3.88, 3.83, and 3.80 respectively. (See table 6)

Table 6 : Opinions towards individual's and community's potentiality development

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation	Inter-pretation
Needing for community environment development budget	40	2	5	3.83	1.059	High
Needing for the community school's quality development	40	2	5	3.88	.822	High
Needing for useful knowledge to develop oneself and community	40	2	5	3.98	.800	High
Needing for laws knowledge involving community	40	3	5	3.80	.723	High
average				3.875		High

5. Conclusion and Suggestion

The result of the study showed that the samples' pleasant were lowest on —the physical environment, especially on —wastewater management and —clean and livable community. The Bangkok Metropolitan has launched at least seven wastewater projects, which can treat wastewater more than 992,000 cubic meters per day. (Bangkok Metropolitan, 2012) Moreover, it will open another five projects within 2020. (Quality of Life, 2013) Then, the problem of wastewater might not be the treatment but how domestic wastewater was gathered to the drain. People living in the community should participate in treating wastewater from their households. The Bangkok office should back a campaign for treating wastewater by community. Besides that, the office should concern on providing more accesses to affordable and qualified housing, including park and playground. Now it has a policy on developing livable communities, but it emphasizes only the center area of Bangkok and some long history communities.(M.R. Sukhumphan, 2013) Then it should expand the projects to cover all communities, especially the living places of the poor.

The second concern was —safety in life and property in community||, especially on —narcotic drug||. The drug trafficking was one of the most serious problems in Thailand. It was smuggled into the land from various foreign countries and with different types of drug, which made it difficult to detect and capture the smugglers. Moreover, some Thai officers involved in the smuggling. A report of the Special Committee suggested that the government had to develop communities' potentialities and strengths including a network of cooperation to fight with the problem.

(Special Committee on the Study of Prevention and Solving on Drug Problem, 2012) The samples' opinions toward —developing their potentialities and —relationship in community were in high and medium level respectively. Then the government might be the initiator of short-term and long-term projects to fight with the drug by helping the community to cultivate knowledge and set networks to prevent and solve the problems.

The third concern was towards —rights, role, and respect among community member and between the community and the governmental office. In this area, the opinion toward a process of —solving people's and community's complaints was lowest. While the government already has a plan to develop its services, i.e., No Wrong Door, One Stop Crisis Center : OSCC), e-Service, Web Portal, Service Level Agreement, and Smart Card (Office of the Public Sector Development Commission). However, these services give people yet chances to participate in developing their community. Therefore, the government should find channels to let people express their voices in solving community problems and even initiate projects and laws that are crucial to their community development.

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