

Rice Culture and Adaptation of Agriculture Production Mode: Thai Village's Resistance to National Family Planning Policy

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Abstract

It is known today that Thailand's Fertility rate is lower than replacement fertility level as a consequence from family planning policy which has promote use of various kinds of contraceptive for three decades. All research on Demography has mainly focused on the effect of family planning policy to population structure change. There is much concern on many following problems such as increasing elder population growth in contrast with less labor force, importing of move foreign labors to Thailand, public health problem, welfare for the elders problem and national security problem.

However, it is found that little research has focused on the impact of low fertility rate being lower than replacement fertility level to Thai rural village in cultural aspect.

The objective of this research is to study the cultural adaptation of Agriculture Production Mode of Thai rural village to family planning policy resulting in low fertility rate compared to replacement fertility level.

This research uses qualitative methodology to study one rural village in North-Eastern region of Thailand. Data is collected by various methods such as in-depth interview, participatory observation, biography, community history and kindred diagram.

The research finds that successful national family planning policy has resulted in small family size and decreasing amount of labor force in the village. When such labor force migrates to other places for working, then agriculture production mode dependant upon multi-generation labor is changing. Rice culture which is used to be main pole for villagers relationships, local wisdom transferring channel and local identity awareness has been effected then.

However, it is clear that Thai rural village adapts itself to the situation. There has been a change in production mode to use more technology on production and change of rice specie to compromise with amount of labor force existing in the family. Moreover, there has also been the renovation of many rice culture rites to do its socio-cultural function for community existence.