‘Khmu’ Livelihood in Bokeo Province, Lao PDR. ¹

Apisak Dhiravisit, Ph.D.² Khamjan Panyatong³
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University, Thailand

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research to 1) study the livelihood adaptation of Khmu ethnic 2) study the impact of the livelihood adaptation by using the qualitative research. With in-depth interviews and interviews 47 peoples, take data during the April - June 2011, and data analysis techniques to analyze the content.

The results of research showed that Sybounhueng village has 45 years old can be divided into 4 generation. First generation, it’s build a village (1966-1977) the previous it’s the pioneers in the area to be set by 7 Khmu families who coming to live in a military camp called "Parng" for security reasons. Community under the rule of the Mesaysavang village, it’s far about 3 kilometers. The second generation of self-government (1978-1985), a period to Mesaysavang separation to be a Sybounhueng village official, then they has been selected headman village, and the number of households increased 25 families. Third generation households were changed by promulgation of the new changes of the party (1986-1999), it is the open country and the government accelerate develop planning in all aspects in 1986. To build roads and extend the power of the city to the Sybounhueng village in 1996, then Sybounhueng village has a dramatic lifestyle changes the private companies coming forward to provide free home-grown maize. Community and economic growth in the number of households increased to 38 families. Fourth-generation (2000-2011) Sybounhueng village is dealing with a more urban society. Community is used to buy a motorcycle to traffic traveling more than 30 motorcycles, and the number of households is increased to be 44 families, there are different occupation and better quality of life

The positive impact of the changing develops a new production. The felling of forest for shifting cultivation has ended. Children in basis of age have the opportunity to learn, when the illness has been treated with modern medicine. Convenient means of communication can be consumer convenience to make people's lives is better. The

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² Corresponding Author: Assistant Professor Dr Apisak Dhiravisit, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University, Thailand 40002 Tel.& Fax +66-89-6182820; apifha@kku.ac.th

³ Master Student from Loas, PDR.
negative is cultural identity of ethnic Khmu have been gradually replaced by urban culture. The use of technology in the production of the natural environment has changed consumption as a way of focusing on the relationship of capitalist society is less supportive. Tradition was replaced by hired labor, more over the trend to drink alcohol, drink beer. The relationship in the family is dropped, because the young people went to work or study at foreign country. When they came back home, they would brings in to the city culture.

Recommendations

1) To support corn prices may fall should encourage people to focus on a variety of production systems that maintain the balance of the ecosystem as much as possible.
2) Find the market that continues to sell products to their engagement.
3) The area of production and forest reserves were clearly designed to prevent the encroachment of forest reserve, and the area’s residents have made it.

Keywords: livelihood, Loas PDR, Khmu ethnic.