

Summary

The outcome of all five groups' discussions is various and informative. The participants are energetic in proposing their ideas, and ultimately come up with a conclusion belonging to their own groups. The moderators contribute to the management of discussion as well as the ordering of matters, topics and issues of what has been discussed. Here are the summaries of each group's presentation.

Group 1: Education : Going to school and searching for jobs This group attributes the existence of problems to the lack of value, integrity and quality. They suggest the education should increase values and quality of the students. And another important thing is to increase the performance of teachers.

Group 2: Staying Healthy This group attributes the existence of problems to the existing of tension, the wide spread of drugs in society, unconsidered lifestyle, unstable environment and sexual health problem. The solution to each problem is mentioned. Also, they consider the HIV/AIDS as a prominent health problem in society.

Group 3: Leaving Home, Starting a Family The problems relating to family in Thai society can be summarized as follows: pressure, parents always working and having no time for their children, expressing love and communication in family, age gap and the parents' inability to support children to school. What they propose is that parents should have more time with family. Besides, family members should talk more with each other and understand each other's nature. Finally, they cite the necessity of having a family plan before building a family.

Group 4: Being a Citizen The discussion began with talking about the role of youth in society. Next, it is about reorganization of the problem that obstruct youth from participating in the Thai society. This is followed by concentration on the impacts of these problems. This group decides the whole theme to be based on the creativity of the youth.

Group 5: Violence and Youth The violence problem in youth is cited in several angles including the violence problem in family level, community level, mass level, school level, and in the level of justice process. They discuss in the topic of youth participation in youth problem solving. This group pays much attention to the violence concerning the Remand Home, which is the main point in this discussion.

Each group can demonstrate the problem of youth in Thailand clearly. And, the organizing team hopes that our output can gain profound understanding of Thai youth as the primary objective of the WDR 2007 Team.

Group 1: EDUCATION

*Going to school and searching for jobs
World Development Report 2007; December 3rd, 2005
Rattana Lao, Moderator*

Summary of the Presentation

Addressing problems:

- **Lack of Value**
 - Government: Cronyism
 - Society: Discrimination, overemphasize on formal education
 - Individual: learning what others expect, not what they are best at
- **Lack of integrity**
 - Teachers: lack of professionalism, going after money
 - Student: no passion to learn, graduating for graduating sake
- **Lack of Quality**
 - Government
 - No clear objective to develop education system
 - No link between national development and educational plan
 - Institutions
 - Over emphasize on infrastructure without developing human resources
 - Individuals
 - No skilled, underemployed

SOLUTION: education must increase values and quality of the students

- Linkage between all stakeholders within education system
 - i.e. government, private sector and institutions
- More skilled based education and extra curricular activities

Project proposal: Teachers Development Program (TDP)

Need: Teachers are the foundation of educational development. However, teachers today are lack of quality to effectively teach and communicate to transfer their knowledge and skills to their students. Additionally, teachers do not have incentive to develop their skills to meet the needs of globalization.

Objective:

- 1.) Increase teachers' teaching skills and knowledge
- 2.) Increase teachers' incentive to continuously develop their skills and knowledge

Process:

- 1.) Contribute teachers' evaluation forms to their students
- 2.) Local governmental officials evaluate the forms and go to evaluate their performance at the classroom
- 3.) Select the best teachers to be the guest speaker
- 4.) Organize local workshop; 3 to 5 days, and invite the guest speaker to be the demonstrator to other teachers in that local area, which also invite the students to be part of the workshop (imitate the classroom environment)
- 5.) The Local government re-evaluates the teachers that participate in the seminar, if there was such an improvement, they must be certified.
- 6.) Award the certificate and financial contribution to the top-skilled Teachers.

Goal: **Better teachers, better education, better students, better society**

Education

*Going to school and searching for jobs
World Development Report 2007; December 3rd, 2005
Rattana Lao, Moderator*

Morning session

Moderator opening question *What is the role of education, which level?*

- **Sasiwimol (secondary school student, Bangkok)**
 - I think elementary school education is crucial. It lays the important foundation for the children. If they were neglected and were not given the principle, it is much harder to inject those moral ideas when they grow up. If they were taught at the younger ages, they would grow up and be equipped with the right principles. Today, the high school students are lack of discipline and value the wrong idea. When there are capable students, there would be too much peer pressure to push them down
- **K.Panee; Former teacher**
 - I think the quality of teachers is the problem. I believe that the role of teachers is to inject the right ideas to their students. If their students are lack of discipline or values, they must seek way to address that weaknesses and change them, while support the students who are already good to be even better. If the lack of value and discipline are the problems, I think the teachers must host workshop, and seminar to guide them through, instead of ignoring those problems.
- **Sasiwimol**
 - I think it's too late to begin when they are older, it must begin at the elementary education
- **Noppadol (Vocational School student, Kachanaphisek Technical College Mahanakorn)**
 - When we talk about having the right value and being disciplined, I think we should develop those through extracurricular activities. There's no absolute solution to make everyone be disciplined at the same level. I don't think just to teach them how to stand up for the national anthem is enough.
 - As I come from the vocational school, the general public often views us so negatively. I realize those negative problem exists. But those kind of violent students are such a minority group in the institution. Moreover, people always misunderstand the vocational school students, even though I believe it is the right kind of education for Thailand.
 - Vocational education provides more opportunity than the formal education. If you graduate from grade 9 and you pursue the vocational education, within three years, you would be equipped with enough skills to start working. However, if the grade 9 students go after the formal education, they would probably have to have 4 more years in the university before being able to work.

- Most of the people think that vocational students are academically inferior and it is not promoted as the path for students to take, I think this is wrong.
- **K.Panee**
 - Can vocational students start their own business?
- **Noppadol**
 - Of course, if you graduate and don't want to become an employee for others, you can open your own business
- **K.Panee**
 - Then, I agree that vocational education is more beneficial to the students. Today, we have a lot of undergraduate students who become unemployed.
- **Noppadol**
 - I think it is very important to have education open house for the grade 9 students. They should be given more information of what they can become if they graduate from vocational institutions. Now, the teachers just say, if you can't pursue formal education, go for vocational path. People still don't realize the importance of vocational education.
- **Sasiwimol**
 - It is hard to change the image of vocational education. Today, the students represent the institution. Most of the information that the public receive are relatively, negative.
- **Kritiya**
 - I think the problem comes because Thailand doesn't pay enough attention on the children development. In other countries, the teachers will observe the student's development, so when they grow up, the teachers can advice them to continue the education that would enhance their personal interest.
 - We should also realize what is the value of each generation
 - Previously, we want our students to become governmental officials,
 - Now we want our students to become doctors, lawyers and engineering
 - I think it's important to know what we want out of our generation. I believe that we want more skilled workers rather than the highly educated students to work at the managerial level. I don't think we need the undergraduate students as many as we are creating. We are a developing country and I think skilled workforce is the most important factor for our development.
- **Noppadol**
 - Parents are trying too hard to push their children to pass the entrance exam and attend university. We need new value
- **Chaiwat (Chiang Mai university student)**
 - I think money is the main driving force in Thailand education system.
 - If we don't have enough money, we can't acquire enough education and that would lead us to no job in the future.
 - In the past, if you want to be educated, you just attend the nearby temple.

- In the present, that concept is not feasible. We have developed formal education institutions. And money has been the major factor to influence the level and quality of education we get.
- We have to ask ourselves, what level of educational development Thailand is at?
- Are we responsive to the globalization need? Currently, there're so many new initiatives and developments. They're very few people today who are adaptive to that change.
- Three institutions that influence that education system.
 - Family
 - Teachers
 - Society
- These three factors must work together in order to achieve a better educational level
- I have three questions to ask regarding the educational situation in Thailand
 - What is the main force to push or develop our education?
 - What level is Thai education currently at? Where should be our standard of success?
 - What is the value in the society?
 - I think we value the experience the students have less than we should have.
 - How do we perceive students from different institutions?
- **Suranam (Black Box)**
 - There are many players in Thai education system
 - Teachers
 - Values
 - Family
 - Government
 - Thai students in Bangkok play game when they have free time. Our culture doesn't encourage enough innovation. We are lack of innovative culture. Unlike South Korea, there are channels devote to show people compete playing those computer games for example Lagnarok , Warcraft. The winners would be selected to become game programmers.
 - The activities in Thailand are not as productive.
 - I have calculated that in order to complete 12 years of formal education, a student will have to spend at least 1,230,000 minutes, 600,000 of those are wasted for something unnecessary.
 - The education system does not produce what the market requires. Moreover, I have attended various educational conferences, even if there were innovative projects, the governmental energy and financial development went to the same old projects.
 - We only want to increase the quantity, not the quality
 - The solution is to pressure all the players in the education system at the same time.
- **K.Panee**
 - I have also attended many meetings. We have come up with many good policies without implementing them.

- As a teacher, I have met a grade six student and she still couldn't speak English properly.
- We said we teach "English is Fun", realistically, English in class is not fun. They were not given enough foundation to develop their language skill further
- Worst of all, I feel education in Thailand is all about connection, cronyism
- I also agree that Thai education has been driven by money. Teachers do not teach sufficiently during school time but encourage students to take extra classes with them.
- The teachers have lost the integrity of being a teacher
- In France, there are programs to educate children. Their cartoons are also educational. They consist of good content.
- I believe in learning by playing. I have translated educational materials from French to Thai in order to promote the mentally disabled children educational development. When I went to ask for governmental support, I was told that we have enough of those in the market, realistically we don't. The government doesn't give enough attention to develop educational materials. We have tons of novels; I have never seen the publishers or governments to discourage the authors to write more novel,
Why stopped the educational materials?
- **Noppadol**
 - The schools curriculums are redundant and repetitive. We should have more students involvement
- **K.Panee**
 - I agree, the central curriculum does not address the local needs.
 - Policy makers do not deliver what they have promised.
 - I think teachers today are not qualified either.
- **Sasiwimol**
 - Talking about the educational material, I have experienced the problem myself. Coming from a school outside Bangkok and now studying at Triam Udom, I think lack of quality educational materials is a problem. I felt lucky that I was the last generation to use the central materials. I realized it is outdated. But when the government wants each school to produce its own materials, that doesn't work either. I don't think that would help.
 - Although the teachers in Triam Udom write their own text books, which are academically orientated, I also don't think it's not good enough. There's no standard across the country.
 - But what I like about Triam Udom is that students have more opportunities to learn and participate in many activities. Outside Bangkok, the opportunity is limited to only those that are the best and I think that's not good.

Afternoon Session: Solution

Reference to the morning discussion

- **Noppadol**
 - To refer to the morning session, I think the students are lack of discipline. Parents prepare everything for them and I think it's over

- protective. The students become self-centered and don't have the motivation to strive to learn or know more.
- Students are also lack of responsibility.
 - **K.Panee**
 - I think it is wrong that when the parents don't have enough time for their children, they tend to believe that money can make up for what they have not given.
 - I know that money is important but parents must know how to manage their time. Having more money does not necessary provide more happiness or bring a better up bringing to their children.
 - **Suranam**
 - I think there are two major problems within the education
 - Good concept has not been implemented
 - **1.) There are too many subjects for students, but the students haven't learnt enough to support what they want to become**
 - **2.) There are not enough creative activities for students to participate**
 - Solution
 - Government must be more determined and more active
 - Policy makers must stop the vicious cycle of selecting their friends without concerning the real quality of the people who acquire the positions
 - There must be organizations to support more creative activities
 - Financial wise
 - Knowledge guidance
 - This organization must help to link students and financial providers
 - We must also encourage our students to drive for more knowledge, life long learning mentality must be developed.
 - **Tiraporn (high school student, Nawanintharachinutid Horwang Nonthaburi)**
 - I disagree that the formal education students do not have real life experience
 - In my school, the president of the parents' association is a business owner; she has opened opportunities for the students to apply to be interns at her company. These students were able to have a real working experience by working with the company, it was even a paid internship
 - **Nil (Psychology student)**
 - I agree that educational vision is Thailand is unclear. It's set a goal but I don't feel we are trying to work towards that.
 - Moreover, the quality of education has been quite low. I have studied psychology, yet, I don't know what I can become and I don't feel I am equipped with enough knowledge to begin working. I hardly feel that I've learnt enough after four years of my education, unlike one month internship experience.
 - **K.Panee**
 - If I may add, I feel that education in Thailand discriminates again disabled children. The government is careless and ignorant to the

problems these children face. We don't have the infrastructure to help these children/people to get through life, let alone good education that will help them gain better status in the society. Their rights are relatively limited. For the deaf students/people, they are hardly able to communicate with others because we don't have enough human resource who know the sign language. I propose that the government initiate a sign language class since primary school, so there'll be more students who could help out these deaf students.

- **Chaiwat**
 - I think we should keep evaluating teachers' quality. For every two years, teachers should be tested whether their quality meets the standard. If they do, they should be certified.
- **Kritiya**
 - We already have that program. But it's new. If we keep developing, it is possible that it will develop further and result in better quality of the teachers.
 - We have institutions that aim to produce teachers such as Ratchapat schools, Chulalongkorn etc. These institutions should also evaluate their human resources once they go out working in other educational institutions.
 - I also think that short course seminar is also necessary to keep updating their knowledge and skills at all time
 - some of the knowledge and curriculum should be updated. They should be more applicable to the reality in life. Sometimes, our curriculum are redundant.
 - The students should also be given opportunities to improve their skills. For example, we should have an OTOP project, where the students can learn the entire process of production. That way, it will also help the students to evaluate themselves, whether what they have learnt in schools can be used.
- **Nil**
 - We need all the players in the society to help "empowering" the education
 - This means, private sector, government and schools should work together to give what the students' needs.
 - We need AIC project
 - A = appreciate
 - I = influence
 - C = control
 - These processes should be linked up. We should also build the sense of belonging to the students, so they will be willing to work for the development of a nation. This has happened in Japan and United States and I think we should apply that.
- **Suranam**
 - I can separate the problem into two dimensions
 - Government
 - The policy and mega project are used "top down" perspective, they are lack the real understanding of what the people or business really need.
 - That leads to the fact that theory and skills don't link.

- We have had a lot of meetings and we have promised a lot of policies, sadly, those have not yet been implemented.
 - Plus, they have also overspent one project, which limits the growth of new projects.
 - People
 - Lack of the real need > go after their own view without realizing the need of national development
 - Skills they have gained are not applicable to the needs of globalization
 - Policy
 - Direct
 - National policy must be more consistent > develop regional evaluation
 - Indirect
 - Recruitment agency should help to find jobs for the graduates
 - Enforce the law we have better, bring policy to action
 - We have patent system > but we still replicate the products and violate patent's rights
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Group 2: Staying healthy

The problems, causes and solutions concerning “Staying healthy”

1. The existing of tension regarding:

- Entrance examination and access to work
- Living with pressure and high competition
- committed suicide

Causes of the problem:

- The society has a high level of competition
- The youth have a lot of pressures due to high expectation from their parents
- The disorganized factors as traffic congestion, air pollution etc.
- presenting of harmful examples as committing suicide.

The solutions:

- seek for spiritual advice as practice along the way of Buddhism
- teaching moral ethics in family and school
- discover ourselves and realize our needs
- Support extra group workshop beyond academic activities to encourage the enjoyment among the youth.
- Launch any solution to improve environment

2. The wide spread of drugs in society

Problem:

- The youth ignore the critical problems of drugs
- The availability of drugs are plenty and easily accessible
- The existing of corrupted officers

Causes of the problem:

- happen from the youth's curiosity
- lack of tender care in the family
- inappropriate environment as in crowded community
- The children have been abused and threaten by drug dealers.
- Personal problem concerning studying, love at teenager, etc.

The solutions:

- regulate the media in advertising on alcoholic drink and cigarettes
- make the drug prohibited in every area
- develop more serious punishment in order to deal with drug crime
- Encourage the youth to become more aware in drug prevention regimes.
- Add the drug study in academic curriculum
- Conduct the treatment centres for drug abuse

3. Unconsidered lifestyle

Problem

- the youth tend to consume more and more unhealthy fast food

Causes of the problem:

- Fashions from the westerns are very well regarded among Thai youths.
- Community transforming to crowded society leads to high competition in overall.

The solutions:

- encourage the youth to realize the importance of their culture and tradition
- Develop the facilities in the suburbs in order to reduce the crowded community in the city centre.

4. Unstable environment

Problem:

- problems of natural environment such as air pollution and water pollution
- Air pollution causes by industry.

Causes of the problem:

- People selfishly create pollution to environment.
- Industrial sectors release air and water pollution.
- Lack of appropriate procedures to deal with pollution.

The solutions:

- Encourage the people to concern more about caring for the environment.
- The industrial sectors should launch the appropriate procedures to control waste released from the factories.
- Conduct the environment project which best suits the specific residential area.

5. Sexual health problem

Problem:

- sexual relationship at early age
- sexual transmitted diseases such as AIDS
- unplanned pregnancy
- unprotected sex

Causes of the problem:

- More various sexual preferences lead to the risk of HIV infection in overall.
- Lack of real understanding in issue of “sex”
- The media usually present too obvious romantic love scene in the television.

The solution:

- The teacher should suggest that students need viewer discretion when they watch the media.
- Launch a campaign against unprotected sex

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Role play (each group was asked to present a project concerning the topic discussed in their session)

Project: Staying healthy

“To train the youth’s representatives in a campaign of fighting against HIV/AIDS”

Project leader:

The ministry of youth development and wealth of the nation

Target group:

The representatives of the youth from both formal and informal educational institutions

Objective:

1. To provide the youth better understanding regarding HIV/AIDS
2. To reduce the numbers of people infected with HIV
3. To avoid the risk of AIDS infection causes by unprotected sex.
4. To provide the youth with the knowledge of preventing HIV/AIDS

Project method:

1. Committee meeting and constructing the project’s details.
2. Complete project draught
3. Offer the project proposals
4. Collect funds from supporting agencies such as Government departments and private companies.
5. Working along the project’s method
6. Measure the effects and evaluate the project.

Details:

- **1st day**

- group talking and knowing each other
- starting to know about “sex”
- knowing the differences between “male and female”
- knowing about sexual health of teenagers

- **2nd day**

-full day study tour in issue regarding “living safely with people who have AIDS” at Phra Bat Nam Phu temple, one of the largest caring centre for people with symptomatic HIV disease.

- **3rd day**

- Give them the advice of how to avoid sexual relationship at early age
- Provide the understanding of safely protected sex
- Conclusion and project evaluation

Expected benefits:

1. The youth will clearly understand HIV/AIDS
2. Reduce the numbers of people with HIV infection
3. To help the youth avoid the risk of HIV infection
4. The youth will obtain deep understanding of how to prevent themselves from AIDS
5. Encourage the sense of leadership among the youth

Project expenditures:

(est. 1USD = 40 baht)

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| Transportation cost | 30,000 baht |
| Internal administration cost | 30,000 baht |
| Welfare and utility cost | 58,000 baht |
| The allowance for participants | 130,000 baht |
| Coordination cost | 10,000 baht |
| Working association cost | 60,000 baht |
| Moderator cost | 50,000 baht |
| Accommodation cost | 150,000 baht |
| Component cost | 10,000 baht |
| Meeting hall | 10,500 baht |
| Total | 558,500 baht |

Supporting agencies:

1. The office of the ministers
2. WORLD BANK
3. The ministry of public health
4. The ministry of Education
5. AIDS association in Thailand
6. The committee of AIDS organization development of Thailand

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Group 3: Leaving Home, Starting a Family

Problems

Listed below are problems relating to family in Thai society as viewed by members of “leaving home, starting family” group.

Pressure

Parents usually put a pressure on their children to be like what they want them to be, and if the children can not do that they sometimes hit them, or use violence with them. As a result, the children are afraid of their own parents and fear to be close with or talk with them. Then, the children have a pressure, and it leads to their doing wrong things, giving a society children and youth problems. For some children, when they got a pressure they might have violence behavior as a counteraction, or do very awful things even an illegal one. Some parents put a pressure on their children by trying to find wrong things from their children; for example, we went out with friends and when we came back, mother said “you used drug, didn’t you?”. The children will have a feeling that the mothers are trying to find wrong things from them. The worst thing is the children are blamed in what they did not do. In that case, some children might ruin their own life as a counteraction to what their parents do. Too much pressure on the children is not good; sometimes the parents need to let them do what they want, and in that way they will behave well. There will be no problem if the parents listen to the children. And some parents wish their children to be “better man” without thinking about what they can do or how much they can do. They like to compare us with others’ children, praising other children and blaming their own children. Moreover, some parents put their own feeling in their children. For example, a mother who finished only 4th grade wants her children to be a smart student and pursue study to higher level. It seems like they put their own ambition into us and force us to do it.

Parents always working and having no time for their children

An economic change together with increasing materialism in a society today has made people to work harder in order to get more money. The result is parents who are always working and having no time for taking care of their children. They give money but get relatives or others to raise their own children. Is it the parents or money that raises children? The children will be lack of care, love, and warmth from their parents. The parents enjoy working and think that their children are happy with their always working, but in fact the children want them to work just enough for a living and use a remaining time to do activities with family. The children know that the parents work hard to get the money for them, but they do not want that much. A mother who is always working that she has no time for her child’ school orientation. Besides children, aging people in a family, e.g. grandfather, grandmother, are also neglected too. Most the time is for working.

Expressing love and communication in family

Some parents fear to express their love to their children, things like hugging or kissing. Then, the children will shy to do too because their parents never telling them they love them or hugging them even once. In fact, it is not strange for us to express love by hugging or kissing, or even in saying some words. In some families, not only an expression of love but conversation among members is missing too, like everyone is living in their own rooms because they seldom talk to each other even if they live in the same house. Some parents do not want the children to interfere their private life; for example, we see our father watching a porno movie and we ask “what’re you watching?”, then the father replies “not a child’s business!”. And this means there is no talking to reach understanding between the members.

Age gap

An age gap between children and their parents can sometimes make misunderstanding. For example, when the children do thing that they think it is good or correct but their parents say “No, this is wrong” and they act as if it is a very big matter which makes the children feel bad. Parents do not understand their children. They do not understand their children’s friends too, looking at them in a bad way even if they have not got to know them really. They judge their children’s friends by their appearance, and by their appearance they want their children not to contact with them. But they are their children’s only friends, so if the parents want them not to contact with those friends then they have no friends at all. Besides, a change in society, value, technology has made attitudes between parents and children different, creating gap between them which finally leads to misunderstanding. An economic change is also a cause too. For example, in parents’ childhood time, one could use 10 baht to buy many things; but a value of money has changed and now everything is more expensive. And the parents blame the children of spendthrift.

Parents unable to support children to school

Children who lack good education will grow up with bad quality and might create problems to a society too. Some families with bad economic status are unable to support their children to higher level education. Besides economic condition, it depends on the parents’ attitude too. Some parents think of going to school as wasting of time, as they themselves did not but still able to make money. So, they will not send them to higher level education school and let them find a job instead.

Solutions

Understand each other's nature

This point comes from the issue of misunderstanding in family, either resulting from an age gap or a change in society. Children need more understanding from their parents. They want their parents to understand that they need friends, freedom and do not want them to always trying to find false with them. Anyway, it is understandable that this can not be a one way process. The children have to try to understand their parents too. They should try to understand what they are doing for. That is finding a mid-point from both sides with the fact that the parents actually do everything for their children. And in family not only father, mother, and children but "family" also includes grandmother, grandfather, and many others.

Spend more time with family

That is instead of always working parents should spend more time with family too. One of the solutions is to find time to do activities together with each other in family. For example, have dinner together every Sunday or whatever day, just making a chance that every members be together and do something together. To manage this is not solely parents' role; the children can take part in too. Some children might spend too much time going to cram school or on doing activities or going with friends, so this activity means both side spend more time with family.

Talk more with each other

This point comes from problems of communication in family and expression of love. Many problems would not occur if members in family talk to each other more, try to understand each other. This one is also in consistent with first two solutions, understand each other's nature and Spend more time with family, too. If the family member spend more time with each other, talk to each other more and try to understand the other's reason of doing thing, many of family problems would lessen. For example, in the evening after work or study all members have a dinner together and use the time to talk and try to understand etc.

Have a family plan

This solution is a preparation before creating one's own family. Marrying or having a child when everything is not ready will result in an incomplete family. The children who are grown up in an incomplete family might not be able to raise their children properly when they have their own one. Then it continues like a cycle. So, family planning is one of the solutions in which government sector might take part in providing knowledge or correct understanding to members of society to strengthening to crucial element of the society.

Project Proposal

Project Name:

The Dreamy Family

Objective:

To promote love, warm and understanding in family and community

Expected benefits:

Warm families have a good impact on society and economy etc.

Target group:

Families in community

Duration:

Long term period with a conclusion and result updating every 3 months

Methods:

1. Planning
2. Questionnaire, Research and Analysis of target community data
3. Activity Design
4. Coordinate with target families
5. Summarize and update results every 3 months

Activities:

The activity is applied to each family in different ways, depending on data obtained from the questionnaire and the analysis of data. Here are the examples of activities

1. Planting
2. Camping, Dharma Camping
3. Building infrastructure in community
4. Sport (Organizing sport game within a family/ community)
5. The chamber of secrets (like a confession room in church in which all family members enter and say anything to one another)
6. The letter of feeling (Family members write something they want to say to other members.)
7. Magical Egg (Each child is given an egg. He/she must take this egg to everywhere they go for all 7 days without breaking it. (The time of holding the egg is flexible.) The objective is to let the children know the difficulty of taking care of brittle thing. This is to let them know how difficult their parents have to take care of them.)
8. Being pregnant (Tie a bag to the stomach of children and put a stone in it everyday for 9 months. (The time of doing this is flexible.) This is to let them know how their mothers have to suffer during their pregnancy.

Group 4: Being a Citizen

First-part

The consultation is first started by the question: “*What do you (the participant) think the role of youth in Thai society should be?*” After which, we went into the brainstorming and come up with some desirable and possible roles that a young citizen should perform. Firstly, young citizen should participate in problem solving of the Thai policy and society, and the law making process. They should contribute ideas and action in order to make these changes. Secondly, there should be more communication between the youth in the urban and rural area in order to enhance development country wide. Third, the group sees the potential of Thai youths through their imagination; however, they should start doing what they have planned. But the most common thing is that our young citizens should do good deeds and uphold the Thai culture.

However, before they can do anything. Fundamentally, they should have followed the being of the society through media and other sources, in order to get the actual picture. And to amplify their voice, youth should build and strengthen the youth network. Otherwise, their roles would be ignored as it is in the present time.

The later part of the first session is the reorganization of the problem that obstruct youth from participating in the Thai society. This is because, we (the youth) know what we should do but why isn't it done? The problems are:

- The environment that discourage the role of youth in building Thai society.
- Different ages have different perspective as such it would be tough to co-work between both generation
- Lack of trust – many of times, the social works require a large sum of money. And sometime, people will have hard time trusting this fund to the youth
- Believe that the social problem is not close to them. As such, they believe that it will not affect them. As a result, they will not care.
- Many youth that the social is very stressful. And that they will not care to participate in shaping the society also because there are many other issues which need more attention – education.
- Youth are being judge by the adult – the action of youth is being bounded by the perspective is the adult, which is of much problem when it come to a traditional culture of Thailand where the youth is seen as immature.
- Myopia will lead to lack of noticing the benefit for the society developing which is the long-run.
- Lack of channel to participate in shaping up our society.
- Overprotection by the parents due to Thai culture.
- Lack of capability and the confidence in shaping Thai society.
- Don't have the know-how in youth, and youth don't recognize the impotency by youth.
- Lack of Recognition by the society – unlike the movie or music star.
- Youth are not policy makers, no matter how wonderful the plans are, if the adult don't like them, it can always be cast away.

All these problems can be categorized into 5 main categories. First, building society is viewed as not bringing any direct impact to the youth. Second, the Thai society foundation sets boundary on youth's participation and that the society does not support or recognize the youth participation. Third, lacking of channel to participate or voice their opinion can be a very pressing problem. Since the Thai society view seniority, mostly in term of age, generation gap could lead to our forth problem, the lack of trust. And lastly, the Thai youth themselves have lack of confident.

The last part, we concentrate on the impact of these problems. The impacts are:

First, due to the lack of participation by large proportion of Thai population – Thai youth – it would be very difficult to sufficiently improve the Thai society. With such lack of participation in a democratic society, this will eventually deteriorate the level of democracy. Second, lack of participation may lead to lack of sense of belonging to the society which may lead to further alienation. This may eventually lead to conflict between youth and adult, which could further increase the gaps between youth and adult, and youth and society. This leads to the alienation of a portion of youth and this may lead to the bad behavior to the society, such as crimes.

Third, this problem could lead to the lack of common goals and may bring down the level of integration in family. Last point is being contributed by observer from AIESEC, which is the problem with lack of innovation and will lead to a society of *copycat base* of other culture and idea to development of society.

All these impact will lead to deterioration in term of social, culture development and economic.

Second Part

From the 5 categories of the problem, 8 out of 13 participants choose problem on the society foundation which set boundary on youth participation. The cause of this problem is as follows:

First, the cause of the problem come our social value and old culture, which say that adult always right and that youth have to follow. As the Thai says, “follows the adult and you will never received a dog bite!” Second, adults have the perception that they have more knowledge and that we should just follow their way and youth’s ideas and thoughts are of non-substantial. Third, since the seniority of Thai culture is largely measured by age not knowledge, youth being younger could be seen as amateurs. Forth, sometime, youth may not have enough prove, in order to convince the adult. Lastly and most simply, many adults still view youth as immature. These may lead to social judgment of youth being not credible in contributing ideas.

Family overprotection is also another possible cause. Many parents fear for their children and would ‘ask’ them to follow their way of doing things, without allowing youth to try the new things, for fearing of the danger. And many families value self-interest above social-interest.

Last, the cause could have come from youth themselves. Youths have long been absorbing the same old ideas, resulting in the setting of boundary by the youth themselves. Many youth view issues, such as social and political, as risky, boring and tiring, as such many are discouraged.

Is there any organization, at present, which is doing its part in bring youth back to the society?

AIESEC – the university youth association which aimed for world peace and empower the potential of youth, with the objective to develop individuals, society and country. Main job in Thailand is to conduct student exchange program. Give chance to go for conference to create awareness of the society, and familiarize with other culture.

The student there are only in the tens and hundreds even the application is in thousands. This is because Thai youth are lack of commitment. The problem is because educations have to come first and that participating requires a lot of effort and time. And many of them forget about their goal of society but concentrate only on self-interest.

Other solutions to bring youth into participation in the role of building Thai society?

Youth must come together and reinforce the strength of youth, by starting with self goal, etc, and what will we achieve if accomplish. These actions will, in turn, induce adult to think that we are serious and youth will eventually receive their attention and acceptant.

However, how do we encourage all youth into having such a common goal?

We should start with the education system and the mindset of the society. We can do this by inducing moral to the student, making them think that society is related to them. To further amplify the effectiveness, we should do this with the help of *friends* especially, as usually said *'if we learn for the parent, your parent will be happy but you will not be happy for the rest of your life!'* The group of friends is important in turning youth into more independent! As such, strengthen the community of friends and induce youth to participate through peer pressure should be one of our priority. However, there is the setback to this recommendation. This is because bad group of friends can lead to bad individual.

Second, we should encourage the 'social responsible' activity since young and let the children develop the sense of social responsibility. As a result, children will absorb this gradually. However, some of these activities are already there, but sometime, youth are being forced to comply. This is of no different from setting up boundary on them. The solution to such problem should be to let them decide what they want to do. This will create sense of belonging. However, there should be someone to lead these actions. And it should be a bottom up not top down matter.

Third, We should have the role model, with prize and award to the model who are participating with the role of politic and building society. And we should show the result to the youth after they have done their role and ask the media to praise and encourage, making the true volunteer the role model not just fake superstar. In short, we should encourage participation through media.

Lastly, we should concentrate in the most fundamental community, family. If families have the common goal in solving problem and never set boundary, it would be easier than going for other alternative. And if caring for society is a norm, network will be initiated. And there will be a change in the culture of setting boundary.

However, "clapping with only one hand make no noise", how would you induce the adult into accepting youth?

First, we should use the youth in a high age group as bridge to connect adult with different age group of youth. Second, youth should also behave well to build credit in order to gain trust. Thirdly, policies and action should be integrated into one main policy – no matter it is education, family or media – with the believe that if children are creative and do good, parent will automatically encourage them. In order to give student the urge to participate, we should let youth think on their own and decide on how to participate. Lastly, social participation should be included in the education syllabus which should be more through self-learning.

Third part

This part, the staffs, decide the whole theme to be based on the creativity of the youth and every group can decide who they want to be best, in solving the problem.

Our group start with a very fierce argument on who shall we be?

- The NGO's president for youth, who can come up with creative plan design to bring down the boundary and bring out the best in youth, and influence the education system.
- The media – who can influence and praise the student of the good deed they have done to the society.
- The Education minister who are in power and have the capability to change the policy on the fundamental foundation of society, education.

However, due to a serious lack of time, I, as the moderator, have given them some clue: “In the present, Thailand has a very powerful man, who has the influence over everything including the media!”, “He is our Mr. *'you know who!'* At current political condition, the participant knew immediately that he is our current prime minister!

After a swift and landslide voting, the group decide to be the PM of Thailand and we divided the group into 4: Ministry of Education [to change the syllabus], Human Development Ministry [to strengthen family value which lessen the boundary], Interior Ministry and Justice Ministry [to ensure that the policy is carried on accordingly], and the ‘media manipulation’ [to ask the media for co-operation in media]

The details are as followed:

- Ministry of Education – Improve the structure of Thai education system to induce more participate youth, which will also destroy the boundary setting culture. And allow them to choose their way of life. Encourage student to explore ways to develop the society. The system should start since primary level. The secondary should also include the real experience to let the children choose what they want to do and the path of life to take. The university should have more technical activity. And all level should emphasis on the actual problem, and encourage for student to think of the solution, and encourage to think and induce more activity.
- Ministry of Human Development – the emphasis on family, have campaign to strengthen the family to encourage a more close society. If family develop, society will develop. We should have all representative to join the organization and steer this organization into one direction. And ask them to initiate the activities to strengthen the society in the society they come from. And will have this evaluation process to see its success.
- The media – will be increasing more channels for youth to participate
- With the aim the let youth participate more in the development of the whole society!

Group 5: Violence and Youth

I. Statement of problem and the situation of violence impacting on youth and society

The youth has presented the conceptual framework in the violence problem which can be categorized into the physical violence, the psychological violence and the environmental violence. He summarizes that the violence can be stemmed from the situation when one who is more powerful does the actions over another one who is less powerful; however, it is not necessary that each will not have violent problem to others but the violence is still on everybody depending on how they will act or how they will do. The statement of the violence problem and its impacts can be separated into five criteria which are the violent problem on the family level, the violent problem on the community, the violent problem on the mass, the violent problem on the school level and the violent problem on the process of justice.

The first violent problem in which is the serious problem is the violence on the family level. This is due to the fact that nowadays each family is different to the appropriated family compared to the past in many ways. One of the different type of the family is the family that lacks of communication which the youth calls this type of family as ‘when the morning giving only money only’.¹ The another type of the family is the family in which the parent is not the appropriated example to their children; for example, they drink any alcohol or smoke the cigarettes or else they also sell the drugs. These problems can be seen in the situation nowadays. Moreover, this can be included the eastern cultural impacts on the norms which the children will always respect to the adolescence. In other words, they will not give any chances to their youth to explain or express the statement of the problem. Therefore, we can conclude that its impact on the violence on the family level to the society which has been seen that this problem is only the problem of the family which is not the problem of the society which leads to the ignorance of the serious problems.

The second violent problem is the violent problem on the community. The youth gives the importance to the environmental surrounding which one has to stay or get along with it; for example, the Slam, or the congested community, is the place which combines all types of people included the wrong masses. If the youth often see those and cannot decide to choose which is appropriated to him? That is the way which the youth can be absorbed with the wrong or not good violence. Moreover, if the Slam is near to the children’s home, it has much more probability that the youth can be absorbed the bad image to his mind in terms of the violence. Therefore, we can conclude that its impact on violence on the community level to the society is obviously brought about by the environmental surrounding which has an important role or plays much influence to the action and reaction of the youth.

The next violence which has impacts on the youth’s decision so much nowadays is the violent problem on the mass such as newspaper and television. This can be illustrated by the youth coming from the three provinces of the South presenting the real and valid image in those areas that is not much serious than it was

¹ In this term, the youth in the concession calls in Thai as เข้าวางคั้งค์ ไร่้อย่างเดีซว.

presented to the public with the mass. As from the survey of the youth in those areas, it can be concluded that the violence is not brought about by all of the areas in the South but it is only occurred in some parts of those areas. In other words, the youth emphasizes that the violence is not resulted from the conflicts in the religion. Therefore, we can conclude that its impact on violence on the mass level to the society is due to the fact that the educational barriers which is not the same in the urban areas of the conflicts which has not been serious compared to those areas in rural in which there is much more serious impacts on the youth in those rural area. If there exists a chance to survey in those areas, it is good for this to tell the responsible people in those areas to prepare the interpreters and the guards. In the youth's view, he stems the impact much deeper in terms of not fear but he is afraid that another people in the different areas do not want to join in those conflict areas and the overstated presentation of the mass is much more violent and less moral to the realistic.

The forth problem of the violence in which the youth gives the importance in order to find the impacts and appropriated solutions to these problems is the violence on the educational system. There is no refuses to accept that the influence come from the youth's friends now obviously plays an important role in the youth's decision which some may lead to the violent problems such as the violence come presented by fighting by groups to another groups in some technical school. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is also the ignorance to compile that it is no impacts to the youth and the society not much and not too less.

The last but not least problem of the violence of the youth is presented by the violence on the justice processes. We can see the example from the youth who come from Baan Kanjanapisek Remand Home where the place in which has the youth who has the wrong way can be reborn or improve his behavior. They give the valid opinions that the capture by the police always show by their violence for example they will take action to the youth in order to accept his or her guilty. And then the youth who has the wrong way must be sent to remand homes, he or she has to be prepared to be as a fleshy by the old one included to the officers who play the responsibility to them directly in terms of presentation of violence. The youth gives the comment that why we give the chance to those youth to re-exam his or her behavior. In other words, reaction to the youth has not benevolent at all.

II. Sources of the problems and the Solutions

The youth has presented the conceptual framework in the violence problem which can be categorized into the violent problem on the family level, the violent problem on the community, the violent problem on the mass, the violent problem on the school level and the violent problem on the process of justice. Then, the youth concludes the sources of these problems which are integrated into five parts which are the education and understanding, the culture value and belief, the economic condition, mass sex and violence, and the enactment of the law on remand homes or justice process or family/community decision process, and officers.

The youth constructs the conceptual framework in order to find the solutions to the violent problem which can be separated into three parts which are the solutions to the self and community level, the solutions to the government level and the solutions to the world scale level.

The violent problem on the family level:

The youth emphasizes the solutions to this problem by providing understanding to be a base through the communication channel in terms of opening the chance to the youth to explain what he or she wants to be and attempts to understand the relationship in cultural power between the old and the new generation.

The violent problem on the community level:

The youth emphasizes the solutions to this problem by developing the environmental conditions; for example, developing the Slam into the community in which it can provide the technical knowledge and the understanding of right and local culture.

The violent problem on the mass level:

The youth emphasizes the solutions to this problem by condensing the mass to use their spiritual motivation to be acceptable and understand the facts through moral commitment. Moreover, in the process of understanding the facts of the youth, he or she shows the examples how the mass use the media with the good path by considering which channel should be done to make the people realize directly in such an example that the Islamic women know about the birth control by the beauty place not from the sanitary units.

The violent problem on the school level:

The youth strongly believe that educational system is one of the most important keys of the paths which integrates all of the ways which should be well supported by the governmental and global organization. One of the alleviated ways to the decrease in the violence of the youth is to provide the course or program to reduce the stress and violence of the youth in order to be an example or base in the national and global level. Furthermore, the youth gives the comment that ‘friend’ be a short word but it is the most influential word to the youth’s decision. And it is important for the youth from remand homes that he or she has to choose who the best friend is or who is not.

The violent problem on the process of justice level:

The youth presents the role of the youth in the justice process by considering himself or herself firstly by respecting and implementing to the enacting laws and trying to control the emotional expressions. Moreover, as far as the youth who chose the wrong ways is concerned, there should be the promotion to the responsible persons in terms of job training and value judgment.

III. Project Proposal: Youth participation in youth problem solving

This group chose to set up a project named “Destroying the Wall of Remand Home”. This is based on group members’ opinion which says that today there exists a number of projects such as those involving family problem solving and setting the society in order. However, the projects of this kind aiming to solve children problems are not available. Youth who are staying in remand homes have called for some additional rights but finally there is no response to them. They want the media to be an intermediary or to be their voices.

Youth participation in youth problem solving

Each group member chose to do different functions. For example, some members wanted to be a person or work in an organization that produces people who gave opportunities to youth. They think the opportunity is intangible but has mental value. In addition, some wanted to work as mass communication like journalists and local reporters because they wanted to propose the news in a more systematic way in order to follow the communication procedure aiming to give a clarification to public.

The dummy project

“Destroying the Wall of Remand Home” Project is not likely just an opening of remand home to public. Furthermore, it is a way that youth want the public to destroy a barrier between youth and adults living there. The project was conducted in terms of the media which pays attention to fairness. This media; therefore, tell the truth; that is, real wants of youth in remand home to other youth, people and government so that they are informed of the problems and so that they know what the truth is. This will be done through different channels. The objective is to offer youth in remand home the justice and to make this useful for everyone.

Above all, the purpose of this project is to make the media be like the youth’s voices by functioning as an intermediary between youth and official authorities and to let the inferior parts of society be known and understood in the right way.