

The Study of States and Problems Related to Farmers' Lives before Making the Check Dam of Khon Kaen Provincial Administrative Organization

Riangdow Tavachalee

Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University
KhonKaen Campus

Abstract

The aim of this research was to study the problems related to farmers' lives to the check dam construction towards economy, social and environment. This research was a qualitative research. The instrument used was semi-structured interview which was run by the interview, observation, and group conversation. The researcher analyzed the data by Interpreting Data Conclusion and presented by Descriptive Analysis.

The research results were found that as follows:

1. Economy: water in deficient area affected to the farming. In raining season, there was no problem if the rain went on seasonably but if too much, it caused the trouble as well. Consequently, farmers had to spend a lot of money to cure their fields so that the economy in the community would be damaged.

2. Social: according to water deficiency, the repeated drought still caused the lives much struggled which could affect to the family sector that members needed to work at other places and left their children with the grandparents and children would be under-privileged, technology addiction, and bad friends.

3. Environment: before constructing the check dam, the area located over the check dam encountered water deficiency in the lake, therefore, aquatic animals had got the disequilibrium in nature, local lives were lost, and wet-season rice field would be in trouble as well.

Keywords : Problem, Check dam, KhonKaen Provincial Administrative Organization

Introduction

The situation of water in last 30 years, Thailand encountered the natural disaster because of water disequilibrium which inclined to be more harmful every year. Many places had got the inundation that damaged seriously both lives and assets, and made the primary water source very

decadent while some places encountered the drought repeatedly. Water was such an important factor for human live but when it had got the problem, it really needed to be solved very soon because human had to consume every day. Thus, every sector in society must cooperate to cure this problem systematically by integrated management of water deficiency and drought with looking on to the unseasonable rain and dry spell and increasing needs of water consumption. As mentioned, those made water resource disequilibrium that affected to daily live, and ecology was decadent according to the community expansion, economical activities as well as needs of water using for agricultural area (Veena Varakum and Duangjai Phuttawong, 2003 : 1-13)

Water was a natural resource that could slowly be circulated and was significant to plants and living things on earth. However, the quantity of needs in water consumption was increased highly, water resource was not enough. Provincial administrative organization which was closed to the population had to solve the problem in order to rescue for them as much as possible because water problem damaged increasingly every year. Hence, the government under the jurisdiction of General Surayud Chulanontannounced that water was such a national agenda in 2007 (Department of Water Resources, 2007 : 92-93)).

Consequently, the researcher would like to study this research entitled “the Study of States and Problems Related to Farmers’ Lives and Economy, Social, and Environment before Making the Check Dam” in order to have the administration plan for administrators and related people to apply to the organization.

Research Objectives

To study the states and problems related to farmer’s lives towards economy, social, and environment before making the check dam

Research Methodology

1. Samples and Informants

The sample procedure was by the Purposive Sampling consisted of 10 community leaders and 20 related people in the process of the check dam construction.

2. Instrument Used

Structured interview and semi-structured interview were utilized as the instrument used to collect data in a qualitative research that could be divided as follows:

Part 1: general information of respondents' demographic by Checklist,
Part 2: interview about the states and problems related to farmers' lives towards economy, social, and environment before making the check dam by using semi-structured interview.

3. Assessment of Research Instrument (Interview Form)

The methods were as follows:

1. Studying the thoughts, strategies, documents, texts, and related research,
2. Using the information in step 1 as the issue of questions in an interview form and presenting to the advisor to consider and recommend,
3. Improving the interview form as the advisor's recommendation before collecting data.

4. Data Collection

1. Sending the letter form related organization to the informants in order to have the permission in collecting data,
2. Specifying the date to process the interview in order that the target group could prepare themselves and documents,
3. Collecting data by In-dept Interview and Focus Group Discussion with the target group who would give the main information by recording and noting.

5. Data Analysis

The researcher analyzed the data gained from the interview and focus group discussion with the target group by Interpreting Data Conclusion and presented by Descriptive Analysis for explaining the results of making the check dam towards economy, social, and environment.

Research Results

According to the process of the research entitled "the Study of States and Problems Related to Farmers' Lives and Economy, Social, and Environment before Making the Check Dam," it could be concluded the process in the following dimensions:

Economic Dimension

From interviewing the target group, it indicated as follows:

1. Before making the check dam, the products of rice were declined that troubled to the community and caused people's lives more struggled,
2. Water in deficient area caused the problem in farming, such as the unseasonable rain and dry spell, and increasing needs of water consumption so

that farmers needed to spend a lot of money and it affected seriously to the community.

Social Dimension

From interviewing the target group, it indicated as follows:

1. According to the check dam project of KhonKaen Provincial Administrative Organization, there was controversial in the community that it would be the advantage or disadvantage because the population could not see the project obviously, such as a drought in deficient area and a large amount of water in raining season which could make rice field harmful,

2. Before making the check dam, because of water deficiency and repeated drought, those made the living very hard, family members needed to work at other places and left their children with the grandparents and children would be under-privileged, technology addiction, and bad friends.

Environmental Dimension

From interviewing the target group, it indicated as follows:

1. Before making the check dam, the area located over its encountered the bad drought that affected to plants and living things around as well as for dry-season rice field,

2. There was no water in the lake in summer season before making the check dam, therefore, aquatic animals had got the disequilibrium in nature, and local lives were lost.

Discussion

The results of the research entitled the Study of States and Problems Related to Farmers' Lives and Economy, Social, and Environment before Making the Check Dam contained the issues as follows:

Economic Dimension: the villagers had got many things in this development, for instance, some of them were planting the lemon for wholesaling and they had enough water during the planting that could help them in saving the expenses in using the water, and some villagers could make vegetable garden around the lake that could have them more money. Farming could help farmers to decrease the expenses if they knew how to manage the field with rotated crops and that could make family and community better economy, conforming to the study of Phitaksit Chayaphuti (Phitaksit Chayaphuti, 1979 : 237-249) entitled the condition of economy and social of farmer in the village with small reservoir at Ban Phai District, KhonKaen Province. It was found that the village which contained enough water would have special income and opportunity to do agriculture more than other villages that had not

enough water to consume even though this difference was not different statistically. (Sombat Saokaew, 1993 : 13)

Social Dimension: every population agreed with constructing the check dam in order to keep water to consume in summer season. Although love and harmony of the population in community were just a part in there, any works were finished smoothly after having the check dam. In the other hand, if there was no the check dam, people might be more selfish because they all needed to use water. (Samak Phaisanpong, 1996 : 5) It could be seen that to construct the check dam was for common interest that was closed to the study of Samak Phaisanpong who studied on Small Water Resources Management. And it revealed that rural people in the Northeast of Thailand required in water consumption higher than any other dimensions. It could be seen that the government prioritized and managed to have many water organizations as enough as the needs of water and it was effective and suitable for supplying water for most villages.

Environmental Dimension: the check dam reserved soil, forest, water, and animals that could be seen at the humidity of soil and forest. Therefore, living things could live as the live cycle. Also, it could retard or prevent the flood, soil and mud collapse, or flash flood, and this conformed to the study of Sombat Saokaew (Saokaew, 1993-A) entitled the role of village committees in administrating and managing small water resources. It was found that every village committees had been the important role in high level. In process of managing the plans of prevention standard, beneficial control, announcement, and evaluation by the factors which affected to the role in administrating and managing small water resources of village committees, it was to have the support from the officer, get information, be social leader, and comprehend the role.

Recommendations

1. In terms of practice

1.1 The researcher should study the states and problems related to any dimensions of farmer's live in every context.

1.2 It should have the evaluation and comparison of the outcome according to the check dam construction of KhonKaen Provincial Administrative Organization.

2. In terms of furthering next Research

2.1 The research should study the factors affected to check dam project in community.

2.2 The researcher should continue the research in action research about the development of check dam project of KhonKaen Provincial Administrative Organization.

References

- Department of Water Resources. (2007). *The Project of Sustainable Water Resources Management*. Bangkok: Prasanmitr.
- Phitaksit Chayaphuti, et al. (1979). *The Study of Economic States of Farmers in the Village with Small Reservoir in Ban Phai District KhonKaen Province in 1978*. KhonKaen: KhonKaen University.
- Samak Phaisanpong. (1996). *Farmers' Opinions in Soil Improvement Project for Increasing the Products in Rice Field of Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives*. Master Dissertation. Graduate School: KhonKaen University.
- Sombat Saokaew. (1993). *The Role of Village Committees in Administrating and Managing Small Water Resources: Case Study in Mahasarakham Province*. Master dissertation. Graduate School: KhonKaen University.
- Veena Varakum and Duangjai Phuttawong. (2003). The Evaluation of Check Dam Project of HuayPhai Sub-District Administrative Organization in Menm District, Prae Province. *Lampan University Journal*, 2 (2), 1-13