

Innovative Participation of Family and Community for Enhancing Family Strength in Eastern Province, Thailand

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Abstract. This study aimed to 1) examine the strength of family in the eastern Provinces, 2) to develop a program for enhancing the strength of family with the participation of family, community leaders and village volunteers 3) to investigate the effect of a program for enhancing the strength of family. The samples used in this study are divided into two parts. First part is the samples that used for study the strength of family in the Eastern as father, mother and child from the area sampling in 4 provinces, Sra-Kaew, Chachengtrao, Rayong and ChonBuri province, which chosen at random two districts of each province and randomly collected from sample of 800 families and 1,600 people. Second part is the samples used for a development of strength of family as a father, mother and child in the Eastern which chosen by the community leader with a total of 30 families and totaling 60 people. Instruments used in this study consisted of questionnaires in the strength of family and a program for enhancing the strength of family developed by the researcher.

The results were summarized as follows:

1. The study of the strength of family in the Eastern found that the strength of the family were at a moderate level, and when considering in each component found that the security of the family were moderate ($X = 2.57$), the participation of many families with communities were moderate ($X = 2.47$), the satisfaction with life were moderate ($X = 2.39$) and the functioning of family were moderate ($X = 2.33$). Most families never been participate in activities with neighbors in community percentage 59.9), some families participate in activities with neighbors in communities in each year (percentage 30.9), participate in activities with neighbors in communities 2 times for year (percentage of 8.9) and participate in activities with neighbors in community more than 2 times per year (0.4 percent).
2. The development of the strength of family in Eastern with a program for enhancing the strength of family found that the family who had been trained by the community leader or volunteers village who have been studied the program developed by the researcher has a strong sense of family in post – test higher than pre-test with statistical significance at the .05 level.
3. The innovations created to develop the strength of family was recommended by 90 percent of the community leaders and volunteers that it can change the cognitive, thoughts, feelings, and behaviors include knowledge, understanding, skills and abilities to evaluate and support the family as well, and 85 percent of them commented that the development of family based on this program will focus on each other and caused of substantial changes within the family.

Keywords: Participation of Family and Community, Enhancing Family Strength.

1. Introduction

The family problems are caused of other problems such as child problem, crime problems and drug problems so it need to build a family more strength. In this regard, all family members hold the key. The family is the basic institution that refined human to know what to do, what not to do or what was wrong. The family is the organization that influence to the development of the personality more deeply, influence to attitudes, emotions and the behavior of individuals as well, (Supatra Suphap, 1997, p. 42). In the past decade family in several countries faced with several changes such as the divorce rate, the violence and the change of relationship between family members. Various countries have realized the importance and accepted the necessary to revive strengthening to the family. Unpaid to the strength of the family is like a reflection of the relationship, the attachment of a family member and a supporting to each other. To protect family members especially at a time when families faced with suffering and shifting which the composition of the family strength are depends on mood, behavior and parenting, which commented by Goddard (Goddard, 1999) that a strong family is a family who can maintain happy and strong among the problems that are going on.

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The policy and strategy for the development of family institution in 2004-2012 focused on the development of family that must be stable, can rely on their own strength and wisely adapted to the rapidly changing of global society, study, research and develop knowledge to create happy family and strong community. And when the family was strong, it can be able to participate in the development of society, or in some case the community will be participate in the development of the strength of family as well. Therefore to improve the family with participation process or to develop community to have much stronger family, it is very important. Families should have a complementary role in the society while the community should be strengthened the family as well.

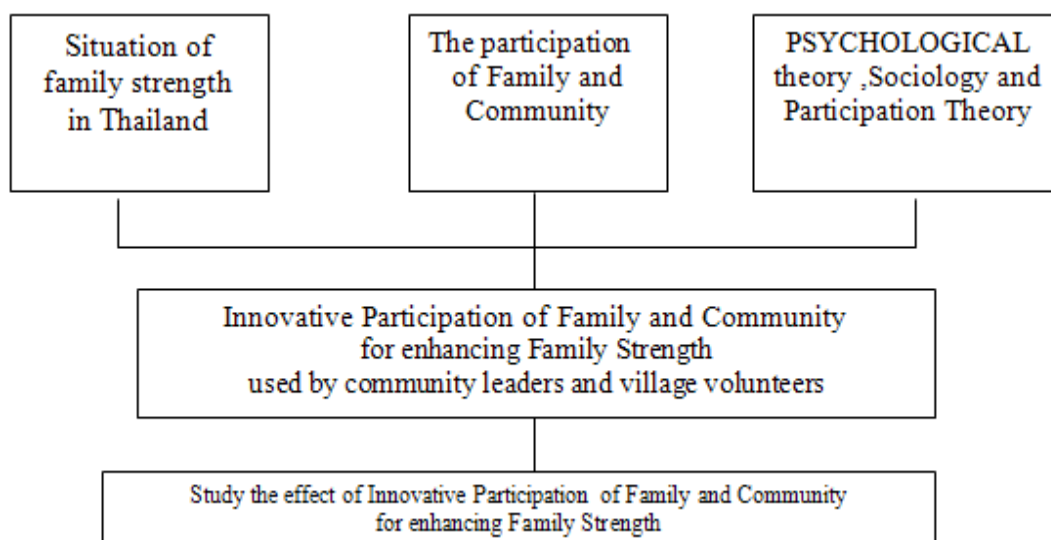
Based on such problems, the researchers are interested to use the participation process to solve the family strength problem, study the context of the strength of family to contribute the program of a family strengthening with the participation of family and community exactly. This is a new innovation to care and support the family and furthermore it would be a cause of strategies for family and community to solve problem together, as well as is together process to adjust paradigm on family in order to prevent and solve the problem to reduce the impact of family and social problems to the family.

2. Objectives of Study

This study is research and development for the strength of family throughout creating a program that can improve strength of family via integrate the participation of community and family together to build family more strong and sustain with the partner. It has the following objectives:

- To study the strength of family in the Eastern part of Thailand.
- To develop a program for enhancing the strength of family with the participation of families, community leaders and village volunteers, and to study effects of the program used by the community leader and village volunteers.

3. Conceptual Framework



4. Methodology

4.1. Population and Sample

The researcher had studied the population and the sample and divide into 2 steps.

Step 1 is population and sample that used to study the strength of family. The sample consisted of the family members including parents and children in Eastern province which obtained by the multistage sampling. The researcher used random sampling area (Area Sampling) in 4 provinces; Sra-Kaew, Chachengtrao, Rayong and ChonBuri and then chosen randomly each province in two districts and collected data. The examiner defined the sample size according to the table of Yamane at the confidence level 95% (Puangrat Taweerat. 2540: 284; cited in Yamane. 1967: 886-887) have 800 families and 1,600 people.

Step 2 is population and sample used to develop the the strength of family. Population is the member of the family including parents and children in the area of four provinces Sra-Kaew, Chachoengsao, Rayong and Chon Buri province. Sample is the member of the family including parents and children in the area of four provinces Sra-Kaew, Chachoengsao, Rayong and Chon Buri province that recruited by the community leaders in the area using the purposive sampling method, one family in each community with total of 30 families, totaling 60 people.

4.2. Instrument and Data Collection

Instruments used in this research were divided in 2 section.

Section 1 is the Family strength Test. The researcher developed a test of the strength of the family consists of four following elements; the functioning of the family, the satisfaction in family life, the stability of the family and the participation of families and communities. It was a five-level rating scale based on the concept type of Likert (Likert Scale), determine the reliability of the test with the coefficient alpha of Cronbach (Alpha coefficient) and found alpha coefficients all equal to 0.84.

Section 2 is the Family Strength Program : Researcher conducted the program for enhancing the strength of family with participation of the family and community. This program was designed for training the community leaders and village volunteers. The program was based on a psychological theory and the concept of the participation of the public and representatives of the community, checked by the experts and then take to trial. The research had test knowledge, understanding and adoption of the participants both before and after training.

4.3. Data Analysis

Information from the questionnaire was analyzed by using descriptive statistics which were the frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation of leadership of family strength score and t-test was used to compare the mean of The development of the strength of family group.

5. Result

5.1. The Study on Strength of Family in Eastern Province, Thailand

Table 1: Shows mean and standard deviation of the family Strength in aspects and overall (n = 1,600).

List	Mean	Standard Deviation
The family strength as a whole.	2.44	.63
1 The functioning of the family	2.33	.81
2 The satisfaction in family life	2.39	.74
3 The stability of the family	2.57	.83
4 The participation of families and communities	2.47	.91

Table 2: Shows mean and standard deviation of the faamily strength classified by province.

The family strength	Chachoengsao		ChonBuri		Rayong		Sra- Kaew	
	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD
1 The functioning of the family	2.48	.67	2.35	.81	2.24	.80	2.25	.91
2 The satisfaction in family life	2.47	.65	2.48	.79	2.28	.68	2.29	.78
3 The stability of the family	2.58	.73	2.48	.81	2.75	.90	2.44	.82
The family strength	Chachoengsao		ChonBuri		Rayong		Sra- Kaew	
	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD	\bar{x}	SD
4 The participation of families and communities	2.55	.87	2.36	.78	2.57	1.0	2.39	.93
The family strength as a whole	2.52	.62	2.42	.71	2.46	.63	2.34	.52

Table 1 shows that the family strength as a whole was in moderate, the mean score was 2.44 when comparing it in aspects also found that the strength of family in aspect of the stability had the highest mean, followed by the participation of families and communities, and the satisfaction in family life, with a mean of 2.57, 2.47 and 2.39 respectively.

Table 2 shows that the mean of family strength in aspect of the functioning of the family Chachengtrao province has highest mean scores at 2.48, followed by ChonBuri province and Sra- Kaew province, the mean score was 2.25 and 2.24 respectively. In aspect of the satisfaction in family life, it also found that ChonBuri province has highest mean scores at 2.48, followed by Chachoengsao province and Sra- Kaew province, the mean scores was 2.47 and 2.29 correspondingly. In the aspect of the stability of the family found that Rayong province has highest mean scores at 2.75, followed by Chachoengsao province and Chon Buri province, the mean scores was 2.58 and 2.48 correspondingly. In the aspect of the participation of families and communities found that Rayong province has highest mean scores at 2.57, followed by Chachoengsao province and Sra- Kaew province, the mean score was 2.55 and 2.39 respectively. The mean scores of the family strength as a whole show that Chachoengsao province has high mean scores at 2.49, followed by Rayong province and Chon Buri province, the mean scores was 2.46 and 2.42 correspondingly.

Table 3: Shows the analysis of variance comparing mean of family strength between the province.

Sources of variance	ss	Df	ms	F	p.
Between the groups	6.72	3	2.24	5.69	.001
Within the group	637.15	1619	.39		
Total	643.87	1622			

* $p < .05$

Table 3 shows the comparison of mean differences of the family strength between the four provinces found to be statistically significantly different at the .05 level.

5.2. The Development of the Strength of Family

Table 4: Shows the comparison of mean of knowledge and understanding of the volunteers and the community leaders in the practical skills to develop a strong sense of family in before and after experiment.

Sources of variance	\bar{X}	N	SD
Before the training course	82.40	30	11.72
After the training course	128.60	30	6.46

Table 4 shows that mean of knowledge in the development of the family strength before the training course was 82.40, the standard deviation was 11.72, while mean of the family strength after the training course was 128.60 points, the standard deviation was 6.46.

6. Application

Various organization that involved with the development of a strength of family or agencies that interested in program for enhancing the strength of family as the four aspects include the family functioning, the family lives happily, the stability of the family and the participation of families and communities can used as a framework to develop a strong sense of family effectively possible.

People who are interested in family strength questionnaires can applied it in assessing the family more appropriate.

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