

Sustainable Community Development: A Case Study of Khwaosinrin Community, Khwaosinrin Sub-district, Khwaosinrin District in Surin Province

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Abstract

Introduction: This research aimed to: 1) study the level of public opinion on sustainable community development in Ban Khwaosinrin Community, Khwaosinrin Subdistrict, Khwaosinrin District, Surin Province; and 2) explore guidelines for promoting sustainable community development for the residents of Ban Khwaosinrin Community.

Methodology: The research employed a quantitative methodology, utilizing a questionnaire developed by the researcher to assess opinions on sustainable community development across five dimensions: 1) community participation, 2) quality of life and infrastructure development, 3) promotion and enhancement of local wisdom, 4) community development based on the sufficiency economy philosophy, and 5) natural resources and environmental conservation. The sample consisted of 294 participants, randomly selected from a population of 1,095. Data was collected using closed-ended and open-ended questionnaires, and analyzed using mean, percentage, standard deviation.

Results: The findings revealed that the overall level of public opinion on sustainable community development in Ban Khwaosinrin Community was high. Based on these results, the researcher proposed guidelines for sustainable community development in Ban Khwaosinrin Community, emphasizing knowledge dissemination, promotion of community participation through various activities, support for local wisdom-based occupations to generate household and community income, promotion of sufficiency agriculture, and cultivation of environmental awareness. These efforts aim to empower residents to actively participate in community development, solve problems, and contribute to the community's well-being, ultimately fostering national economic stability.

1. Introduction

The country's previous growth has centered on the objective of “security, prosperity, and sustainability,” guiding Thailand towards elevated development while emphasizing technological progress and the shift to a digital economy. It is thought that the population's income will rise with economic growth, creating more opportunities for trade and investment within the nation. Nonetheless, in different regions, the standard is still poor, and progress has been slow to adjust. For instance, the living standards of the population, the standard of public services, and the quality of agricultural production foundations are still deficient. This clearly shows that living standards have not risen alongside economic growth, leading to significant social inequality, the rise of an aging population, and a swift deterioration of environmental conditions, compounded by the external effects

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of severe climate fluctuations. This illustrates the historical evolution with the assertion: “A strong economy, challenging society, enhancement of quality, and lack of sustainability.”

Thus, it is crucial to bolster the grassroots economy and improve economic and social conditions, as well as ensure income security. This entails examining notions of economic resilience and encouraging economic growth by concentrating on the advancement and application of cutting-edge science, technology, and innovation. The focus is on fostering the digital economy, enhancing workforce quality, and promoting creativity to broaden the economic foundation and create new income streams, while also boosting productivity in current production and services, which involves improving these areas through digital and intelligent technologies.

The research interested in exploring sustainable community development in the Khwaosinrin Community, Village No. 1, Khwaosinrin Subdistrict, Khwaosinrin District, Surin Province, based on existing theories of sustainable community development. This study focuses on examining sustainable community development in the Khwaosinrin Community, located in the Khwaosinrin Subdistrict, Khwaosinrin District, Surin Province. It aims to demonstrate how grassroots economic development can enhance the living conditions for the residents of this community. Thus, if sustainable community development results in enhanced living standards for individuals, it will allow the nation to progress consistently, successfully, and sustainably. Therefore, the researcher aims to examine sustainable community development in the Khwaosinrin Community, Village No. 1, Khwaosinrin Subdistrict, Khwaosinrin District, Surin Province, as it showcases the success, advancement, or shortcomings in the governance and future development of Thailand.

2. Research Objectives

1. To study the level of public opinion on sustainable community development in Ban Khwaosinrin Community, Khwaosinrin Subdistrict, Khwaosinrin District, Surin Province.
2. To explore guidelines for promoting sustainable community development for the residents of Ban Khwaosinrin Community.

3. Conceptual Framework

Based on the literature review of theories, concepts, and related studies. The research framework includes independent variables and dependent variables as Figure 1.

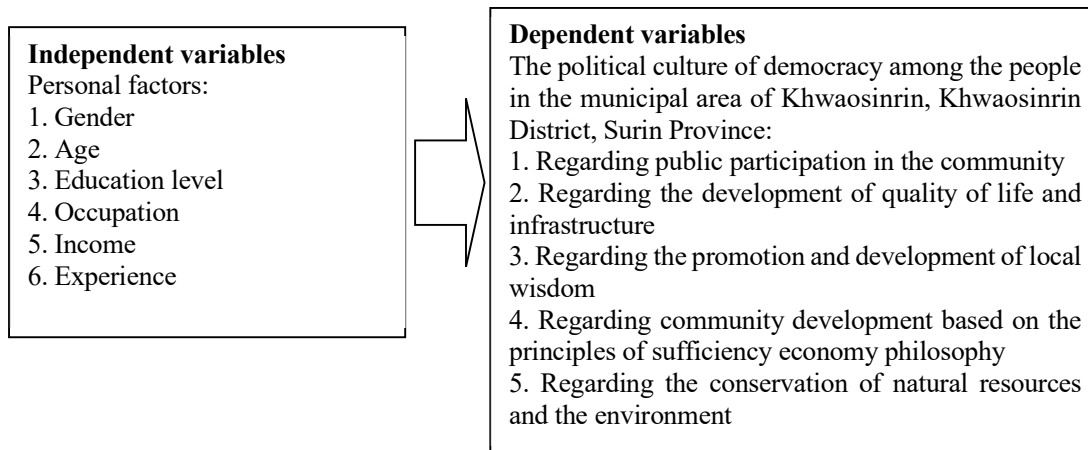


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework

4. Literature Review

Bunmee & Rojanatrakul (2021) The research focused on the development of strong and sustainable community development in a case study of Ban Kluai Sub-district Municipality, Mueang Sukhothai District, Sukhothai Province. The research findings revealed that 1) the overall development of sustainable strong communities in the case of Ban Kluai Subdistrict Municipality,

Mueang Sukhothai District, Sukhothai Province is at a high level. 2) The comparative results of personal factors and the development of sustainable strong communities showed that citizens with different ages, education levels, professions, and length of residence had significantly different opinions on the sustainable development of strong communities in Ban Kluai Subdistrict Municipality, Mueang Sukhothai District, Sukhothai Province, at a statistical significance level of 0.05. Other areas did not show significant differences. 3) The self-management approach of local communities in five dimensions includes self-management in community planning, agriculture, natural resources and the environment, community finance, and sufficiency economy. These dimensions of local community self-management depend on the context of each area and the identity of each community.

Thiracitto (2018) The research was conducted on the topic of Community Development Based on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, Nong Aoh Village Model, Trakan Phuet Phon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province. The research findings indicate that: 1. Community development according to the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in the model of Nong Aoh village, Trakan Phuet Phon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province is rated at a high level overall. When considering each aspect, it is found to be at a high level in every area, ranked from highest to lowest in terms of average scores: knowledge conditions, good internal immunity, moral conditions, rationality, and moderation. 2. The results of comparing the opinions of the public towards community development according to the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy of the model village Nong Aoh, Trakan Phuet Phon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province, classified by personal factors, reveal that individuals with different levels of education have significantly different opinions at a statistical level of 0.05, thus supporting the research hypothesis. Conversely, the opinions of individuals differing by gender, age, occupation, and income are not significantly different, thus rejecting the research hypothesis. 3. The problems and obstacles in community development according to the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in Nong Aoh village, Trakan Phuet Phon District, Ubon Ratchathani Province include that villagers do not yet fully understand the approach to work, a lack of experts to provide guidance on development and various knowledge areas, and some community members are still unable to quit vices. Additionally, there are changes in social and economic structures within the community, and the community leaders often have differing opinions.

Wattanamongkonlarp (2017) studied the guidelines for community development in Phrae District to be a sustainable cultural tourism. The study found that the approach to developing the community in the Mueang Phrae District as a sustainable cultural tourism destination should focus on tourism activities that promote cultural preservation to maintain valuable traditions and improve environmental management. Resources for tourism that can be developed into sustainable cultural tourism attractions in the Mueang Phrae District, Phrae Province, include the community's practice of weaving "Mhor Hom" fabric in Thung Hong, utilizing local resources to create a sustainable cultural tourism site. Regarding the opinions and attitudes of local residents towards the development of the community as a tourism destination in the Mueang Phrae District, Phrae Province, they emphasize the development of local tourism sites, environmental management, personnel promotion, tourism activities, and community participation.

5. Research Methodology

The research titled "Sustainable Community Development: A Case Study of Khwaosinrin Community, Khwaosinrin Sub-district, Khwaosinrin District in Surin Province" was conducted using quantitative research methods through survey research methods utilizing a questionnaire. The researcher sought to answer the research objectives based on the questionnaire by separating the topics and surveying a sample group of 294 people, which was randomly selected from a total population of 1,095 individuals, using the sample size calculation formula by Yamane (1967). A structured questionnaire was used as a tool for data collection, consisting of both closed and open-ended questions. The researcher analyzed the obtained data by calculating averages, percentages, standard deviations.

6. Results

1. The level of public opinion on sustainable community development in Ban Khwaosinrin Community, Khwaosinrin Subdistrict, Khwaosinrin District, Surin Province.

The result presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Mean and standard deviation of opinion regarding sustainable community development in the Ban Khwaosinrin, Khwaosinrin Subdistrict, Khwaosinrin District, Surin Province.

Sustainable community development in the Ban Khwaosinrin, Khwaosinrin Subdistrict, Khwaosinrin District, Surin Province	\bar{x}	S.D.	Results	No.
1. Regarding public participation in the community	4.22	0.709	High	5
2. Regarding the development of quality of life and infrastructure	4.23	0.702	High	4
3. Regarding the promotion and development of local wisdom	4.40	0.586	High	1
4. Regarding community development based on the principles of sufficiency economy philosophy	4.28	0.717	High	2
5. Regarding the conservation of natural resources and the environment	4.25	0.747	High	3
Total	4.28	0.538	High	

From Table 1., the overall level of public opinion on sustainable community development in Ban Khwaosinrin Community was high ($\bar{x} = 4.28$, S.D. = 0.538). Specifically, the dimension with the highest level of agreement was the promotion and development of local wisdom ($\bar{x} = 4.40$, S.D. = 0.586), followed by community development based on the principles of sufficiency economy philosophy ($\bar{x} = 4.28$, S.D. = 0.717), conservation of natural resources and the environment ($\bar{x} = 4.25$, S.D. = 0.747), development of quality of life and infrastructure ($\bar{x} = 4.23$, S.D. = 0.702), and public participation in the community ($\bar{x} = 4.22$, S.D. = 0.709).

2. The guidelines for promoting sustainable community development for the residents of Ban Khwaosinrin community.

Sustainable community development is a process that requires collaboration from all sectors, including the government, the private sector, and the community residents. The results of the study led to the formulation of guidelines for promoting sustainable community development for the residents of Ban Khwaosinrin community as follows:

2.1 Policy Guidelines (Government/Agency Level) as follows:

1. Promote community activities and provide opportunities for citizens to participate in decision-making.
2. Ensure equitable distribution of public utilities and welfare services.
3. Support the development of local wisdom and incorporate it into educational curricula.
4. Promote new theory agriculture and instill moral values.
5. Oppose deforestation and regulate the use of agricultural chemicals.

2.2 Practical Guidelines (Community Level) as follows:

1. Organize joint activities and create platforms for exchanging opinions.
2. Improve public utilities and manage welfare services.
3. Provide vocational training based on local wisdom and develop products for the international market.
4. Promote new theory agriculture and train in moral values.
5. Campaign to reduce burning and create waste incineration facilities.

7. Conclusion

The research on sustainable community development: a case study of Khwaosinrin Community, Khwaosinrin Sub-district, Khwaosinrin District in Surin Province, has summarized the research findings according to the key issues as follows:

1. Community Participation: The research results indicate a high level of community participation. Most residents place importance on and engage actively in community activities, sharing opinions and making decisions on various community matters, and collaboratively addressing issues that arise in the community. However, there are still some residents who are not interested or do not have the opportunity to express their opinions in community activities.

2. Quality of Life and Infrastructure Development: The research findings show a high level in this area as well, since the community has been provided with essential public utilities such as water supply and electricity, promoting health care and access to education. There are efforts to address and prevent drug problems, and the community is prepared to face public disasters. However, some residents living outside the community may not receive adequate basic utilities.

3. Promotion and Development of Local Wisdom: The research results indicate a high level of local wisdom promotion and development in Surin. The community possesses unique local knowledge that has been passed down through generations. Residents incorporate traditional wisdom to generate income and welcome new knowledge to enhance product quality to meet international standards. Government agencies also assist and support career development, leading to increased income generation within the community.

4. Community Development Based on the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy: The research results reveal a high level in this aspect. Community members have been cultivated with good morals, reducing dependence on vices. They practice moderate spending without burdening others, prefer to grow their own vegetables, and increasingly engage in new agricultural methods, resulting in improved living standards.

5. Conservation of Natural Resources and the Environment: The research findings show a high level of commitment to conserving natural resources and the environment. Residents have been fostered to care for natural resources and the environment together, reducing the use of harmful chemicals in agriculture, maintaining communal water sources, and using resources sustainably. However, waste management remains a problem, as household waste is still burned in the community, causing air pollution, and there has been no serious effort from any agency to address this issue.

8. Discussion

From the study of the people in the community, there is a high overall level of opinion regarding sustainable community development, particularly in promoting and developing local wisdom. This highlights the importance of local wisdom in strengthening the community. This is consistent with the research by Katthipo et al. (2023) revealed the sustainable community development begins with building understanding and learning in the community itself about natural resources and local wisdom. Additionally, people place importance on community development based on the philosophy of sufficiency economy, which reflects an awareness of self-reliance and sustainability. This is consistent with the research by Thiracitto (2018), which revealed that the overall level of public opinion regarding community development based on the sufficiency of economic philosophy was high. Moreover, Wattanamongkonlarp (2017) studied the guidelines for community development in Phrae District to be sustainable cultural tourism. This research found that the approach to developing the community in the Mueang Phrae District as a sustainable cultural tourism destination should focus on tourism activities that promote cultural preservation to maintain valuable traditions and improve environmental management. Additionally, the community possesses significant potential for conserving natural resources and the environment, thereby promoting sustainable community development. This is consistent with Moosikajaroen et al. (2021) revealed that the community group of Phadam Watershed Forest Conservation is a foundation of community development leading to actual sustainability in terms of economy, society and environment.

9. Recommendation

The community should be developed sustainably in five areas: regarding public participation in the community, regarding the development of quality of life and infrastructure, regarding the promotion and development of local wisdom, regarding community development based on the principles of sufficiency economy philosophy, and regarding the conservation of natural resources and the environment, in order to achieve sustainable community development: a case study of Khwaosinrin Community, Khwaosinrin Sub-district, Khwaosinrin District in Surin Province.

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