The Utilization of the Knowledge from the ex-Communist Party of Thailand in Community Development: The Case of Community Leaders in Phonthong Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Senangkhankhom District, Amnat Charoen Province, Thailand

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Abstract

The objective of this study were (1) to find out that the ex-members of the Communist Party of Thailand (CPT) had been trained what kind of knowledge during their working in the base camps of the 444 Working Area in the time of insurgency, and (2) the community leaders who were ex-members of the CPT in the 444 Working Area had utilized what kind of knowledge gained from the CPT in the successful community development. They were village headmen, village headman assistants, members of Subdistrict Administrative Organization (SAO) Council, public health volunteers of the village, and the presidents of various groups in the village. They had received many prizes in administrations, for example, the consolation prize for middle-size SAO.

This qualitative research used in-depth interviews, structured interviews, non-participated observation, and field research in collecting data. The informants were 15 ex-members of the CPT in the 444 Working Area. They were consisted of 5 community leaders and 15 villagers in Phonthong Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Senangkhankhom district, Amnat Charoen province.

The study founded that to gain the knowledge from the training of the CPT, (1) the villagers must be selected by CPT to work as mass worker in the villager for 1 year. (2) The probation stage, they will be trained the political ideologies of Marx, Lenin, and Mao, to be able to use the knowledge to mobilize the mass to join their ideology. (3) After they had passed the probation, they were posted to various units. During this stage they were trained the official military knowledge of the CPT: political lessons, strategy, and warfare. (4) Those who were able at work and brave will be promoted to higher ranks and will be sent to be studied in foreign countries, such as Laos, China, and Vietnam. Besides the official training courses, they were socialized by the daily living to have the characteristics of a leader: unity, speaking skills, sacrifice, not taking advantage,
and assertiveness. The knowledge from the training of the CPT used in the community development were the leadership, speaking skills, decision-making, assertiveness, unity, and responsibility.

**Keywords:** Communist Party of Thailand, Community Development, Community Leaders, Knowledge