

MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM IN SOUTHERNMOST PROVINCES OF THAILAND: PUBLIC POLICY ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERNMOST PROVINCES OF THAILAND THROUGH SHURA PROCESS

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Abstract

The research in the Public Policy on Community Development in Southernmost Provinces of Thailand through the Shura Process of multidisciplinary team has produced results as follows: The main objectives of this research are to examine the uses of the Shura process, which are based on the Islamic concepts, the best identity of Southernmost Provinces of Thailand, in order to facilitate healthy community development in the southernmost provinces of Thailand ; and to spread the knowledge of public policy to the community in this region. This study is based on the exchanges knowledge between the researchers and the group of the representatives of shura councils from 21 sub-districts, with the total of 420 participants from multidisciplinary team. The research's outcomes have been concluded as follows: There are community development projects in southernmost provinces of Thailand that make use of the Shura process. They set up shura councils and perform several activities from multidisciplinary in order to build the healthy community. The public policies that are agreeable with the community life are as follows, Community administration in which shura process is involved. The education that are accorded with the community life and the importance of Malay language as a significant step for the coming ASEAN community. Charity and Zakat for the public welfare. Jobs that are suitable with Community life. Energy reform and environmental administration run by the community. The prevention and rehabilitation of drug problems using Islamic process by the community.

Key Words: *Multidisciplinary, Public Policy on Community Development, Shura Process, Southernmost Provinces of Thailand*

INTRODUCTION

Public policy on community development in southernmost provinces of Thailand that are agreeable with the community life, identity of Southernmost Provinces of Thailand and apply with the principles of Islam as a core source of community development in order to cope with the era of globalization. This public policy shall emphasize the importance of developing sciences and technology to achieve growth, progress and social justice and to pursue peace and harmony within and between communities.

The Methodology of Research

This study is based on the exchanges knowledge between the researchers and the group of the representatives of shura councils from 21 sub-districts, with the total of 420 participants.

Developing Healthy Community Project in the Southernmost Provinces of Thailand by making use of the shura process from multidisciplinary people

The Meaning of Shura

Shura (Arabic: *sh r*) is an Arabic word for "consultation". The Quran and Muhammad encourage Muslims to decide their affairs in consultation with those who will be affected by that decision. Shura is mentioned three times in the Quran as a praiseworthy activity, and is a word often used in organizing the affairs of a masjid, and an Islamic organization.

The Concept of Shura

Shura is to seek the opinion of knowledgeable people. In other words, it is to poll the opinion of the nation or its representatives over its issues. Therefore, Muslims took shura as one of the principles and bases of governance. Mature Muslims elect those who they deem worthy of power and governance.

What stresses this fact is that the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) did not leave a written text, nor did he name his successor. Rather, he left it up to consultation among Muslims. Abu Wa'il said: It was said to 'Ali ibn Abi Talib (may Allah be pleased with him): "Won't you name your successor? He said: "The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings be upon him) did not name his successor, so I will not. However, if Allah wants good for people, He will make them choose the best from among themselves, as He made them choose the best after their Prophet died."

Importance of Shura

Shura is one of the basic fundamentals of the Islamic political system. It extends further to include all the affairs of Muslims. Thus, the Islamic state might have preceded the modern democratic systems with regard to the necessity of unanimity over choosing the one who runs its affairs and cares for its interests, something which stresses the value and effectiveness of unanimity among Muslims.

The Meaning of Shura Councils in this project

In this project, shura councils were setup to perform several activities from multidisciplinary people in order to build a healthy community. Shura is the Healthy Community Council. The committee was selected by several professional sectors (such as religious leaders, local leaders, youth leaders, women leaders etc.) making use of the Shura process to run this project. The Shura process is built upon meeting and consulting to find the consensus in such matter to run the projects in accordance with Islamic teachings and ways.

The main objectives of this project are 5-fold ; 1.) To create an environment of idea and experience sharing and exchange in the community such that the community can develop and progress with input from its own members, 2.) To promote the development of a Healthy Community Council by the community, of the community and for the community. 3.) To create a network of Healthy Community Councils (involving 40 sub-districts at the last count) 4.) To create a bank of knowledge derived from the experience of the Healthy Community councils. 5.) To finally create a public policy on Community Development in Southernmost Provinces of Thailand.

This project we have run for 3 years from 2010-2012 in 4 plans; a.) Developing sub-district model at Lojud Sub-District, Waeng District, Naratiwat Province to exchange knowledge and observe activities of the group of the representatives of Shura councils from 20 sub-districts b.) Developing of the network of the representatives of shura councils from 40 sub-districts c.) Create research teams from the sub-districts comprising local members of the sub-districts. d.) Disseminate information to the community and public through several media like Malay newsletter, newspaper(both at the local

level as well as the national level), radio and website www.chaidentai.net www.prachatai.com www.isranews.org.

The research's outcomes have been concluded as follows: 1) There are community development projects in southernmost provinces of Thailand that make use of the Shura process. They set up shura councils and perform several activities in order to build the healthy community. 2) The public policies that are agreeable with the community life are as follows; a) Community administration in which shura process is involved. b) The education that are accorded with the community life and the importance of Malay language as a significant step for the coming ASEAN community. c) Charity and Zakat for the public welfare. d) Jobs that are suitable with Community life. e) Energy reform and environmental administration run by the community. f) The prevention and rehabilitation of drug problems using Islamic process by the community.

CONCLUSION

Public policy on community development in southernmost provinces of Thailand that are agreeable with the community life, identity of Southernmost Provinces of Thailand and apply with the principles of Islam as a core source of community development in order to cope with the era of globalization. This public policy shall emphasize the importance of developing sciences and technology to achieve growth, progress and social justice and to pursue positive peace building and harmony within and between communities.

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