

PN-AY-090
ISN 51820

Village Centers for Girls

A rural development project

Receiving USAID grant through CRS

Operated by

000339

000210

The Committee for the Development of Welfare
for Women

The National Council on Social Welfare of
Thailand, under the patronage of H.M. The King
and

The Foundation for the Promotion of
Welfare for Women and Youth,

Bangkok, Thailand

1978-1979



Rural Women's Development Projects

Jointly operated by:

1. The Committee for the Promotion of Welfare for Women, The National Council on Social Welfare of Thailand, under the royal patronage of H.M. the King
2. The Foundation for the Promotion of Welfare for Women and Youth, under the chairmanship of Luang Dithakar Bhakdi, a retired ambassador
(Khunying Dithakar Bhakdi, wife of Luang Dithakar, at present serves as Chairman of the Committee at the National Council and Vice-Chairman of the Foundation).

There are 2 important projects:

1. Rural or village center project, to set up centers for non-formal education for young women of low education in the rural areas. A basic course in sewing, handiwork, cooking, health, nutrition and moral precepts is given for 1-2-3 months during the dry season, when girls are free from farm-work. When possible, this basic course is up-graded to vocational training towards income-generating activities. The first of village center to achieve this end is in Dokkantai, Payao District, where about 50 girls sew school uniforms, bringing an added income of about 1,000 Baht per year per person. This center is now under the supervision of the Community Development Department.
2. Leaders' training project, training Buddhist nuns and village girls who have gone through the basic domestic course to become teachers in the villages. This course of training lasts 6 months.

Co-operation for both projects is sought from

1. Governors of the provinces.
2. Local Women's Associations, which exist in many areas.
3. The Buddhist Nuns' Association.
4. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd.
5. Community Development officials in the provinces.
6. The villagers in the locality as well as teachers, monks and village councils.

The USAID grant, through the Catholic Relief Services, for 1979-81, amounts to \$74,100 for the Rural Center Project. Since January 1979, 22 centers have been set up in the northeast, north, central and southern provinces of Thailand, with very good results.

Khunying Dithakar Bhakdi
The National Council on Social Welfare,
Mahidol Building, Rajvithee Road, Bangkok.



Opening
up a
village
center
in Kon
Kaen,
Kranuan
District,

February
1979



Receiving
blessings
of Buddhist
monks as
at above.



Explaining
the
project
to a
group
of villagers
in Chaiya
- pum,

1978



Demonstra-
-ting a
quilt
made
of patch-
work.



At
another
village
in
Chaiya
- pum.

1978



A formal meeting with officials and villagers at the closing of a center in Chaiya - pum.

April 1979



A village girl gives a speech of thanks



Girls dancing to celebrate the end of 3 months of training



We travel
through
far and
desolate
regions,
1978



Inspecting
work at
a village
training
center
with a
Community
Development
Officer,
Nong Wang,
Chaiyaphum
1979



A group
photo
with Mr.
Joseph
Curtin,
CRS
representa-
tive,
1979

4/24/79



At Baan
Haan,
Kaset
Sombson
District,
Chaiyapum
Province.

1979



A meeting
with
villagers.
Kalasin
Province

1979



Committee
members
with
the wife
of the
Governor,
at a
village
center,

Chaiyapum
Province.

↑ wife of the Governor

1979



At a
village
center
in
Kalasin,
a north
- eastern
province

1979



Kalasin
Inspecting
work
done
by the
girls,

1979



Chaiya
- pum,
a north
- eastern
province,

1979



Meeting
with the
governor
and his
wife in
Nong Khai
near the
Laotian
border, to
discuss
our project.
1978



Out to a
village
near Me
Kong River
to explain
our project
with
villagers,
1978



Inspecting
work done
by the
quilts at
a village
center in
Chaiyaprem,
1979

USIAD



The
governor
of Nan
talking
to villagers
March,
1978



Another
meeting
in Nan
March,
1978



Mountain
ranges
and
villagers,
Nan
(~~is~~
a northern
province
adjoining
Laos)



A meeting
with Buddhist
monks and
village girls,
at Paak
Panang,
Nakorn
Sri Thamma
-rat
(a Southern
province)

June, 1979.



4 Buddhist
nuns serve
as teachers
at Paak
Panang,
Nakorn
Sri Thamma
rat



An
open
pavilion
at a
monastery
is used
as a
class. room



Growing
paper
flowers.



2 sewing machines are lent for the use of the center.



46 girls enroll in the class. Pupils and teachers enjoy the work and the good relationship

Back to
Nan, to
visit the
village
center,

May,
1979



Committee
members
and some
ladies
of Nan,
at the
above
meeting



Group discussion at a seminar
on "Development for Women" at
the National Council on Social Welfare,
Mahidol Building, Rajvithee Rd.,
Bangkok, November, 1998.

Chairman of the Committee for the
Promotion of Women sits by the window
(without necklace). Former Director-
General of Community Development Dept.
is in the fore-ground, back to camera.



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Agency for International Development
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