

Abstract

This dissertation is the study on "Women in the Marginal People's Movement : a case study of Mae Mun Man Yuen Community two and three at Rasi salai Dam. The objectives of the study are (1) To find out conditions enforce women core group and women in general to join and participate in the movement (2) To search out what roles women select or admit and why they accept these roles and (3) To study the impact toward women after they join the movement.

The data collecting period lasted nine months started in January 2000. During the study, the author lived with villagers at the two protest villages built at the base of Rasi-salai Dam. She participated in many activities, for example, marched from protest villages to towns in order to gain support from the middle class, took over the power station area, protested in Bangkok. The participation aimed to shed insight on the almost ten years anti-dam protest.

The conditions of women participation in the movement are as follows; 1) Women own land which was passed on to them from their parents (Na-moon) which was flooded due to the construction. They have to be in the movement to claim their rights to the compensation, 2) The loss of livelihood since Wetland (Pa bung- Pa tam) were flooded. Women used to collect forest products in Wetland for household consumption. 3) Women gained confidence from their previous participation in training and development activities organized by local NGOs. They were encouraged to fight for their own rights.

Women, side by side with men, have made a stand against the government for almost ten years. There are 3 conditions that keep women in the movement; 1) Women were assigned by family members to be representatives of their family, 2) They are accused by the government for making a false claim for compensation. They want to justify their claim, 3) The longer women are in the movement, the higher their self confidence is. They also gain moral supports from alliance- - intellectuals, mass media, and the city poor.

Women play many leading roles in cooking, cleaning, and nursing. They said that they accepted these roles voluntarily. Other than the traditional roles, women also assigned, by leaders of the movement, to be security guards and be in front of the march when the protesters expect the police's use of violence. Women are proud of their roles in the movement. In the movement, many women learn more about government policies, and more important, they realise "civil rights".