

# **The Pattern of gathering of The Elderly affects The Community Economic Development, The Case of Chiang Mai, Thailand**

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## **Abstract**

This research purposes to study the gathering patterns of elders, which influences on community economic development in Chiang Mai province. The questionnaire was used to collect information from 100 elders. The data were then analyzed using of Hierarchical Regression Analysis. The result showed that the appropriate gathering pattern is the community enterprise. The related organizations are supposed to support this from of gathering, the community enterprise, in order to improve the quality of elderly lives as well as to pass on the valuable wisdom to the society.

**Key Words:** Gathering, Elders, Community Economy

## **1. Introduction**

In 2016, there was a report on the number of elders in Thailand. It reveals that there were 10,014,705 elders or 14.05 per cent of the nation population. And it is predicted that in 2030, Thailand will have higher elderly population compared with other countries, which is called “the elderly society”. Very soon, Thailand will become the society of elders, where there is over 15 per cent of the population aged over 60 (National Statistical Office, 2008). This phenomena as well as the change of the society from agricultural into industrial cause a major impact on the many aspects; technology systems, economy and politics. With the adoption of the western values, it also impacts the family and society to become more individual. In turn, elders have become burdens to their families, communities and societies.

In the case that elders can still work, or called Elderly Workers, the changes of their physiology greatly effects on their work performance. However considering the pattern of Thai society in the past, elders were very important as they passed on the wisdom, which is considered valuable to create more income or to create more jobs. According to the Twelfth National Economics and Social Development Plan (2017-2021), there is a need to find ways of developments; i.e. 1) the development of life potential to live valuably, 2) the reduction of Health Factors, 3) the development of environment suitable for elders and others. This is a good opportunity to encourage the elders to improve themselves in many areas. In turn, the elders realize their values and abilities as well as show their roles in society by passing on the

wisdoms and experiences to their families and societies, which encourage the elders to live happily in the society.

Chiang Mai Province has the population of elders as 284,497 people, which is 16.39 per cent of the number of elders in the North Region. It is in the third rank of the nation (Department of Provincial Administration, 2016). It carries forward the economic activities; agriculturally, industrially as well as production, consumption and product distribution. People in the community participate in solving basic problems, brainstorming, doing and receiving benefits on the foundation of their own abilities called “Community Capital”. This activity will impact the community economy in the positive ways, which go along the project under The Elder Social Welfare, Chiang Mai Province. This is one of the leading provinces in supporting the use of elderly wisdom. The researcher is interested in figuring out which is the most appropriate pattern of elder gathering to use to create more jobs and income to the community.

## 2. Research Objective

To study the pattern of elderly gathering which effect on community economic development in Chiang Mai Province.

## 3. The area of research

It is to study the pattern of elderly gathering which effect on the community economic development in Mueang Chiang Mai District, Chiang Mai province. The population is the elders who participate in the project under The Elder Social Welfare, Chiang Mai Province. One hundred elders have been registered in the Wisdom Registration of the Fiscal Year 2009.

### Conceptual Frame Work

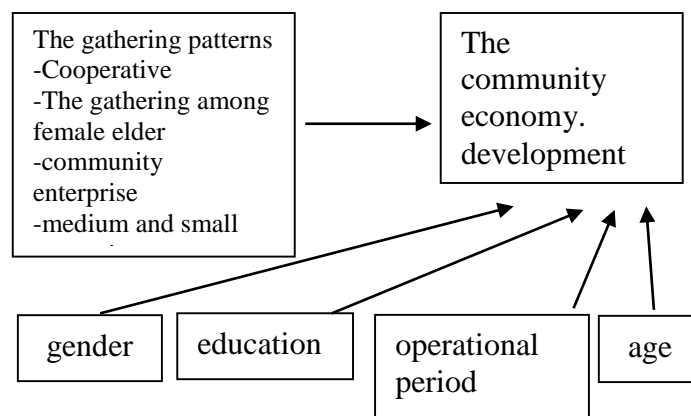


Fig. 1. Conceptual Frame Work

According to the conceptual framework, the variables used in this study includes gender, education, operational period, age as well as the gathering patterns; community enterprise, medium and small enterprise; which effects on the dependent variables which is the community economy.

#### 4. Research Method

This is the quantitative research with the samples of 100 elders who participate in the project under The Elder Social Welfare, Chiang Mai Province. The tool used to collect data is questionnaire. The data was analyzed by testifying the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variables according to Hierarchical Regression Analysis technique in the form of multiple regression analysis. Coefficient of Determination:  $R^2$  was considered in order to make the structural modeling as in the following variables and in the variables mentioned in table 1.

$$DC = f(STY, GD, EDU, OP, AGE)$$

**Table 1. Variables in the study**

<b>Variable</b>	<b>definition</b>
<b><u>Dependent variables</u></b> <b>DC</b>	Economic development of the community
<b><u>Independent variables</u></b> <b>STY</b>	Aggregate model of the elderly (01= The gathering among female elder , 02= Community enterprise, 03= Cooperative , 04= Small and medium enterprises)
<b>GD</b>	gender (0 = male, 1= female)
<b>EDU</b>	Education (1= Primary education, 2= Secondary education, 3= Degree or equivalent)
<b>OP</b>	Operational period (Number of years)
<b>AGE</b>	AGE (Number of years)

In table 2, from the test of the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variables with the use of Hierarchical Regression Analysis to study which of the gathering patterns of elders impacts the community economy the most, it reveals that the most efficient model is Regression 2 as showed in the F-Value as 4.480, and the significant statistic is 95 per cent, which means that those 4 independent variables mentioned in the table can be used to predict the dependent variables at 15.9 per cent of the reliability percentage. The gathering pattern of elders in the form of community enterprise effects on the community

economic development at 99 per cent and the age of these elders effects on community economic development at 95 per cent.

**Table 2. Results of Hierarchical regression analysis of community economic development**

<b>Predictors variables</b>	<b>Regression1</b>	<b>Regression2</b>
Constant	5.205	9.532
Housewife (HKG <sub>i</sub> )	0.736	0.700
Community enterprise (CE <sub>i</sub> )	2.176***	2.378***
Cooperative (CP <sub>i</sub> )	0.628	0.567
AGE (Age <sub>i</sub> )		-0.067**
R <sup>2</sup>	0.103	0.159
R <sup>2</sup> change	0.103	0.056
SEE	2.420	2.356
F-statistics	3.685**	4.480**

\*\* $p < 0.05$ ; \*\*\* $p < 0.001$

From table 2, the relationship equation of the effect of elder gathering pattern on community economic development can be written as follows.

## 5. Conclusion

The conclusion for the research using Hierarchical Regression Analysis to study the structural model of the elder gathering pattern which effects on community economic development is that the community enterprise shows 2.3 times more efficiency than the medium enterprise and the small enterprise.

## 6. Discussion

The discussion of this research is that the gathering pattern of elders in Chiang Mai Province is in accordance with the Twelfth National Economics and Social Development Plan which purposes to develop elders' potential to live happily and valuably. This will encourage elders to realize the abilities and values within themselves so that they can show their roles to the society in passing on wisdom and experiences. To pass on wisdom by this gathering group is important as it strengthen Thai society sustainably (Warunee Pongpinyo, 2002). Moreover, Smith Bannakhorn (2010) had studied the success of Kaew Chao Chom Community Enterprise, Dan Chang Sub-District, Dan Chang District, Suphan Buri Province and found that factor that causes success also to create the society of generosity and cares. Gasamaporn

Puangprayong (2011) studied the community enterprise which produces local products in Samut Songkhram and discovered that the way to develop community enterprise is to create different products, improve the quality of products, create the learning community center and allow people from other communities to improve the channels to access information by holding activities to connect people and exchange knowledge and information.

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