

Thai Government Policies on Poverty Reduction: Measures and Evaluation during 2003-2008

Associate Professor Chalaiporn Amonvatana Ph.D

**Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University,
Bangkok 10330, THAILAND.**

24 January 2009

Background

1. The 9th National Economic and Social Development Plan(2002-2006) of Thailand aimed to reduce the number of poor people living below the poverty line.
2. The Thai government established a special project to be monitored by “National Poverty Reduction Center” (NPRC) aiming to solve poverty problem by the year 2008.
3. The Department of Local Administration (DOLA), Ministry of Interior was assigned to conduct the registration of Thai people who felt that they were facing social and poverty problems.
4. From 6 December 2003 to 31 March 2004, there were approximately 8 million registered people

People under poverty may be classified into different categories basing on the problems they are facing as follows:

1. Indebtedness problem: it covers indebtedness both formal and informal sectors and the amounts exceed the ability of the households to pay back.
2. Land accessibility problem: farmers are not accessible to have enough land for agriculture.
3. Housing problem: people cannot afford to own houses or cannot afford to repair their old houses.
4. Unemployment problem: people cannot find appropriate careers or jobs.

People under poverty may be classified into different categories basing on the problems they are facing as follows:

5. Deceptiveness problem: various forms of deceived people.
6. Illegal profession problem: people give up various types of illegal profession and become poor.
7. Wanderer problem: people moving without aim.
8. Other problems

Table 1: Number of Cases Registered by 8 Million People under Poverty Registration

	Problems	Number of Cases	%
1	Indebtedness	5,061,045	41.10
2	Land Accessibility	3,611,288	29.32
3	Housing	1,988,755	16.15
4	Unemployment	384,564	3.12
5	Deceptiveness	85,602	0.70
6	Illegal Profession	6,381	0.05
7	Wanderers	5,483	0.04
8	Others	1,172,318	9.52
	TOTAL	12,315,436	100.00

Source: www.khonthai.com 31 March 2004

2.Objectives of the Study

2.1 To investigate and analyze various measures and strategies implemented by government offices for poverty reduction.

2.2 To identify the weak points and strong points of each measure adopted by government offices.

2.3 To identify factors contributing to the success of the project as well as problems and obstacles contributing to the failure of the project.

2. Objectives of the Study

2.4 To evaluate the effectiveness of the measures implemented for poverty reduction.

2.5 To propose recommendations for future improvement of poverty reduction measures through the University Network for Development in Asia (UNDA)

3. Scope of the Study

3.1 Study and analyze the process and progress of social problem and poverty reduction measures basing on poverty registration data base.

3.2 Proportional sampling the poverty registration data base and follow up all the stakeholders such as government sector, private sectors and people participation.

3.3 Evaluate the overall result, impact and utility of poverty reduction measures with references to inputs, process and output.

3. Scope of the Study

3.4 Study the success and failure as compared to the objectives of the projects with references to income increase, expenditure reduction, opportunity improvement, life quality improvement, poverty immunization creation and self-independency.

3.5 Study the factors contributing to the success of social problem solving and poverty reduction, supported by the participation of people, government agencies, private organizations, experts and academicians, the process can be extended and becomes a sustainable development project.

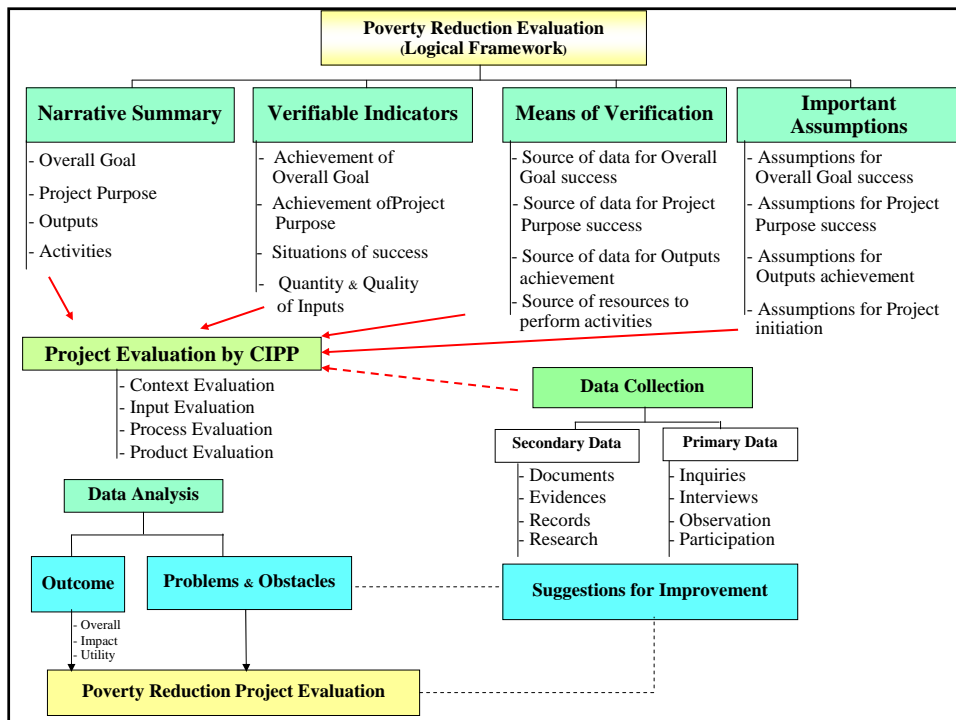
3. Scope of the Study

3.6 Prepare social problem solving and poverty reduction procedures and recommendations which will lead the community to better life quality and stronger economic foundation.

3.7 Organize focus groups of stakeholders in poverty concentration areas of Thailand to reconfirm the findings concluded from poverty registration data base and questionnaires.

3.8 Exchange experience and research findings with members of UNDA. Successful measures may be used as model in other member countries.

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of Poverty Reduction Evaluation



4. Research Methodology

4.1 Review poverty registration data base and project data collected by DOLA, NPRC and NPRC's subcommittees.

4.2 Analyze 67 poverty reduction projects implemented by 35 organizations under 11 ministries.

4.3 Review the progress reports of all 67 poverty reduction projects, follow up, visit, observe and inspect the project sites.

4.4 Apply Project Cycle Management (PCM) technique for project planning and evaluation.

4.5 Apply CIPP (Context Evaluation, Input Evaluation, Process Evaluation and Product Evaluation) evaluation technique to improve the evaluation process.

4. Research Methodology

4.6 Apply field evaluation emphasizing participation of all stakeholders, using people in the poverty registration data base as the center, community area as the starting point, field data collection and evaluation will be based on proportional sampling of the concentration of poverty registration in the data base.

4.7 Both secondary and primary data collections will be conducted to monitor and evaluate the projects.

4.8 Quantitative and qualitative data analyses will be conducted.

4.9 Implementing agency focus groups' evaluations will be reconciled with the evaluations by poverty registered participants.

Research Team



1. Associate Professor Chalaiporn Amonvatana Ph.D.
Project Director
Email: cbme@chula.ac.th



2. Associate Professor Phaisal Lekuthai
Researcher
Email: Phaisal.L@chula.ac.th

**Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University.
Bangkok 10330, THAILAND.**

Research Team



3. Assistant Professor Kieatviboon Chomkhair
Researcher
Email: Kieatviboon.C@chula.ac.th



4. Assistant Professor Chairat Aemkulwat Ph.D.
Researcher
Email: chairat.a@chula.ac.th

**Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University.
Bangkok 10330, THAILAND.**

Research Team

5. Ms. Napatwan Boonyoo
Research Assistant
Email: pongnarintu@hotmail.com

6. Mr. Surapun Liuwiwattana
Research Assistant
Email: surapun706@hotmail.com

Research Assistants and Graduate Students

**Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University.
Bangkok 10330, THAILAND.**