

ELDERLY PERSON QUALITY OF LIFE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES OF CHAIYAPHOM PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION DEVELOPMENT

PARICHAT CHALEEKURE

¹Graduate School, SUAN SUNANDHA RAJABHAT UNIVERSITY Thailand
E-mail: ¹parichat.ch@ssru.ac.th, parichat.cha.@hotmail.com

Abstract- The purposes of this study were to identify living quality of the elderly in Chaiyaphum Province, to investigate factors that influenced living quality, and to propose living quality development strategies for the elderly in the study area. Independent variables comprised the following: (1) 5 sets of policy factors for the elderly including the national policy, policy of Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, policy of Ministry of Interior, policy of Chaiyaphum Province, and policy of Chief Executive Provincial Administration Organization; (2) external and internal environment of Chaiyaphum Provincial Administration Organization; (3) situation and demand of the elderly in Chaiyaphum Province; (4) scope of power and authority in development of living quality; and (5) development capacity of living quality for the elderly. Dependent variables included 3 strategy classifications for the development of living quality for the elderly, which covered social assurance, governmental aids, social welfare for living, health, residential area, job and income opportunities, recreation and social.

Keywords- Quality of Life, Elderly Persons, Strategy Development

I. INTRODUCTION

There has been facing its rapid social change instigating the demographic transition. The study of United Nations (UN) revealed that the number of world population was forecasted to shift from 6,705 million in 2008 to 9,352 million in 2050. The study reported that the world had already been entering into the ageing society since 2005 and would be completely the aged society in 2040. The underlying determinants include lower birth rate and average 9-year longer life expectancy. Among over 2,000 million people aged over 65 or 20 percent of the whole population, there is high density mostly in the European countries, especially in Italy, Germany, United Kingdom and Scandinavian countries. The Asian region is experiencing this transition particularly Japan already been the aged society since 2010. In Southeast Asia, Thailand was ranked the 2nd with high percentage of old population following Singapore.

The situation of Thailand in regards to the ageing population phenomenon was also reported. During 2010-2040 the rate of elderly population aged 80 years and over has dramatically been increasing from 12.7 percent of the whole elderly population. This shift undoubtedly accentuates an increase of old-age dependency ratio of Thailand in economic, social and health aspects.

This current study raised three questions towards the issue in Thailand using Chaiyaphum Province in the Northeast region: how was the current overview picture of living quality condition of the elderly in the province; what were significant determinants influencing the living quality of the elderly under the provincial administration and operations; and what would be appropriate and unique strategies of living

quality enhancement for the elderly in the province.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Method

This study applied a mixed method approach. Qualitative research utilized documentary study, in-depth interview and focus group technique with key informants, and the data was analyzed in order to find out factors that influenced development of living quality of the elderly group in the study area. Quantitative research used questionnaire in supporting the qualitative data. The analyzed data was later used for a formulation of 2017-2021 strategies for quality living of the elderly in the study area.

Population and Sampling

The samples of this research were classified into 2 groups. The first group was 38 samples as the key informants providing qualitative data in regards to the study objectives. These included personnel from public and private organizations, local community leaders, elderly group and scholars. The second group was 384 old people in Chaiyaphum Province.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The situational survey of Thailand in ageing society phenomenon discovered significant issues. During the past decade, there has been stagnation in the number of population with a dramatically low growth rate, only 0.5 percent per year. There was a forecast that the population growth rate will be decreased during the next 10 years and a rapid change of population age structure. Since 2014 Thailand has already been the country with approximate 10 million citizens aged over 60 years or 15 percent of the whole population

[1]. The current ratio of working age group (aged 15-59 years) and old- aged group is 4.3:1 and it was forecasted to be only 2:1 in the next 20 years. The national age structural shift was as a result of the fact that population of the generation born during 1963 and 1983 or those who are the working age group today will completely become the aged group in the next decade. It was thereafter found that the ageing population phenomenon had become the challenge for the national economic and social development. The current condition of the elderly in Thailand paints a noteworthy socio- economic portrait of the national demographics profile. It was found that most of old people lived in small family, live alone with couple and as a single. The percentage of those who lived alone as a single was 6 and with couple was 16 in 2002, and was expected to shift to 9 and 19 respectively. These groups of the elderly are the target of the management in the elderly population. Moreover, it was discovered that 34 percent of the elderly population were receiving income lower than the poverty threshold [2]; children as a source of income fell from 52 percent in 2007 to 37 percent in 2014; and the rate of income generated from works of the ageing adult group increased from 29 to 34 percent. It was also found that 58 years was the average life expectancy at birth of Thailand population during the last 50 years; the figure changed to 75 in 2014 and would increase to another 22 years approximately, when a person reached 60 years old. It should be note many of Thailand elderly population have poor physical health condition. Two percent of them physically cannot help themselves; 19 percent are living with difficulty in moving resulting in lower capability to spend their lives outdoor conveniently. Furthermore, the 2013 report revealed that the elderly population was facing health trouble in which 58 percent of them had difficulty concerning physical movement followed by 24 percent with hearing and interpretation problem, 19 percent with visual problem, 4 percent with learning problem, 3 percent with mental health problem, and 2 percent with intellectual disability. Significantly, the female population has outnumbered the male population. In 2014 the female population was 33.3 million and the male population was 31.5 million, making a sex ratio of males to females in the population to be 94.6:100. Of the aged group of 60 years and over, this ratio was 81.1, and a tendency is expected to be 76.2 in 2040. During the past century, Thailand's medication and public health service has been favorably developed. Consequently, Thailand

population has gradually positive life expectancy at birth, increasing from 40 years or lower during a hundred years ago to 58 years during the past 50 years, and to 75 years today.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author of this research paper would like to thank Dr. Sudawan Somjai, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sirawit Koolrojanapat, Dr. Natnaporn Aeknarajindawat, Dr. Sriprinya toopgrajank, Dr. Nopadol Burnanuth for the knowledge and supports. The author also would like to thank Asst. Prof. Dr. Kevin Wongleedee for proofreading the manuscript. Finally, the author would like to thank Graduate School and Institute of Research and Development of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University for great support.

REFERENCES

- [1] C. Certo Samuel, & J. Paul Peter. Strategic management: Concept and application. New York: McGraw-Hill. 1991
- [2] R. David, Fred Strategic management. New Jersey: Preutice-tall international. 1995
- [3] M. Price, Strategicplanning and the link to implementation in selected Illinois school districts. Dissertation Abstracts International 62,07A. 2002
- [4] N. Verber, A study of a doctoral program in Higher Education as a field of study using a strategic planning Model. University of Georgia, Dissertation Abstrcts Internationl. 56 (08), 25. 1995
- [5] S. Somjai, "Advantages and Disadvantages of Outsourcing". Graduate School, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. Bangkok, Thailand. Business and Management Review, Volume 9 Number 1. July 2017
- [6] S. Koolrojanapat, "Factors affecting prosperity, stability, and sustainability of tourism business and service in Phuket, Thailand. Graduate School, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. Bangkok, Thailand. The Business and Management Review, Volume 9 Number 1. July 2017
- [7] N. Aeknarajindawat, "International Passengers' satisfaction: A case of low-cost airlines". Graduate School, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. Bangkok, Thailand. The Business and Management Review, Volume 9 Number 1. July 2017
- [8] K. Wongleedee, "Factors affecting prosperity, stability, and sustainability of tourism business and service in Phuket, Thailand. International College Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. Bangkok, Thailand. The Business and Management Review, Volume 9 Number 1. July 2017.
- [9] N. Burananuth, "The enhancement of service quality by utilizing traditional service factors as competitive advantages for Thai tourism industry". Graduate school. Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. Bangkok, Thailand. The Business and Management Review, Volume 9 Number 1. July 2017.
- [10] S. Toopgrajank, "Induction on philosophy of the sufficiency economy to the Thai way of life". Graduate School. Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. Bangkok, Thailand. The Business and Management Review, Volume 9 Number 1. July 2017.

