



ESRC Research Group on
Wellbeing in Developing Countries

QoL Phase 1 Summary

Thailand: Ban Lao

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November 2005

Acknowledgements: The QoL Phase 1 summaries were compiled by Rebecca Houghton using data collected by Darunee Jongudomkarn and Malee Sabaiying from the WeD Thailand team.

Ban Lao Summary – QoL Phase 1

In October 2004, WeD carried out focus group discussions with members of Ban Lao as part of the Phase 1 QoL fieldwork. Five focus groups were held here, as there was no group representing young women. The groups were divided by age and gender. Below are summaries of the answers given to a selection of questions.

The focus groups were asked to list the characteristics of the person they felt to be the best individual in the village. Almost all groups stated that they must be morally good, and more than half also noted that such a person should undertake morally good deeds.

Groups were then asked what they felt to be important characteristics that make an area good. All groups mentioned utilities and public services in answer to this question. Health and participation were commented on by almost all of the groups, and productivity, religion and harmony were mentioned by just over half.

The focus groups were asked to name the characteristics of a household that is living well. Every group commented that having money, good family relationships, and having the basic needs of all members met were important.

The groups were then asked what they felt to be the characteristics of a household that is living badly. Poor family relationships were mentioned by all focus groups. Almost all groups also commented on having no money as a characteristic, and bad habits were mentioned by just over half of the groups.

Focus groups were asked what they felt characterises an individual who is living well. Almost all groups commented that such a person would have sufficient money. Just over half of the groups also mentioned that they would be in good health.

Each focus group was then asked to name the characteristics of an individual living badly. Just over half mentioned hard work, and insufficient money and poor family relationships were also mentioned.

Semi-structured interviews were also held with 17 members of Ban Lao village. From the Person Generated Index (PGI), which asks participants to list the areas of most importance in their lives, money emerged as the most important area. Most participants also mentioned health and jobs. Family and accommodation were frequently mentioned, along with children.

Interviewees were also asked to list their sources of happiness. Money, accommodation, family and partner were some of the most frequently mentioned items. Job and parents were also mentioned in a number of interviews.