



ESRC Research Group on
Wellbeing in Developing Countries

QoL Phase 1 Summary

Thailand: Ban Tha

**Copyright © WeD, University of Bath
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 Tha Summary – QoL Phase 1

In October 2004, WeD carried out focus group discussions with members of Ban Tha as part of the Phase 1 QoL fieldwork. Six focus groups were held, 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 they believed to be possessed by the best individual in the village. Religion was mentioned most frequently, with generosity, having no bad habits and honesty also being commented on by most groups. Giving good advice, having merit, respectability, compassion and good behaviour were all noted to be important characteristics.

Groups were asked what characteristics are important for making an area good. All focus groups agreed that utilities and public services, as well as the existence of harmony, characterise a good area. Cleanliness, education, good leadership and the presence of career opportunities were commented on by half the groups as important.

The focus groups were questioned about the things they believe characterise a household that is living well. All noted money as important, and good family relationships were mentioned by almost all. Career was also frequently commented on, and having no debt, a good partner, health and good personal qualities were mentioned by half of the groups.

Groups were then asked what characteristics they thought to be present in a household that is living badly. Lack of career or a job that provides insufficient funds, family disharmony and lack of money were mentioned most frequently. Half of the groups also agreed that an irresponsible head of household characterises a household that is living badly.

The focus groups were asked what characterises an individual who is living well. Almost all groups mentioned having sufficient money as important. Family were commented on by most groups, and having a good partner, a career, good health and no debts were mentioned by half.

Groups were then questioned about the characteristics of an individual living badly. Debts, poor family relationships, bad habits and an incompetent head of household were all commented on by the majority of the focus groups. Half mentioned poor health and children, and all the male groups commented on unemployment.

Semi-structured interviews were also held with 24 members of Ban Tha village. From the Person Generated Index (PGI), which asks participants to list the areas of most importance in their lives, money was the most frequently mentioned area. Health and family were also commented on by a number of respondents. Jobs, children, the meeting of all basic needs and land were mentioned a number of times, as was accommodation.

Interviewees were also asked to list their sources of happiness. Health and family were the most frequently mentioned sources in community. Farming and rice were also commented on by a number of respondents.