



ESRC Research Group on
Wellbeing in Developing Countries

QoL Phase 1 Summary

Thailand: Ban Thung Nam

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Ban Thung Nam Summary – QoL Phase 1

In October 2004, WeD carried out focus group discussions with members of Ban Thung Nam as part of the Phase 1 QoL fieldwork. Six focus groups were held, divided by age and gender but of mixed religion. Below are summaries of the answers given to a selection of questions.

The focus groups were asked who they believed to be the best individual in the village and what characteristics this person possesses to make them such. The characteristics most frequently listed were generosity, involvement in the organisation and practice of religion, giving good advice to others and friendliness. It was also stated that they should be helpful, involved in the development of the village, take part in community activities and be honest.

The groups were asked to list the things they see as characterising a good area, and all mentioned the existence good public services and utilities characterise. Most groups also mentioned harmony as an important feature, and half noted the importance of security, education and jobs.

The focus groups were asked what they believe to be the characteristics of a household that is living well. Good family relationships were mentioned by all, and most groups also mentioned money. Just over half commented on the importance of having material goods and being healthy.

Groups were then asked to list the characteristics of a household living badly, and almost all commented that too many children are a feature. Family problems, a lack of money and having no land were also mentioned by most groups, and half noted a role played by bad accommodation and poor health.

The focus groups were asked to describe an individual who is living well. Most groups noted having sufficient money as a characteristic, and good health and the possession of material goods were mentioned by half of the groups.

Groups were then asked what characterises an individual who is living badly. Poor health was mentioned by most of the focus groups, and half also commented that lack of money, badly behaved or disobedient children and having a bad partner were other important characteristics.

Semi-structured interviews were also held with 24 members of Ban Thung Nam village. From the Person Generated Index (PGI), which asks participants to list the areas of most importance in their lives, occupation was the area that participants most frequently mentioned. Health was the second most mentioned, closely followed by children, housing and money. Land, material goods, including the possession of a motor vehicle, family and spouse were also commented on frequently.

Interviewees were also asked to list their sources of happiness. Children were mentioned by more than half of the participants, and partners were the

next most mentioned, followed by family and career. Parents, money and education were also commented on by a number of respondents.