CHAPTER II

METHODOLOGY

The Sociologist gathers and orders his data prior to the logical or statistical manipulation. The technological sophistication of research in sociology has grown from scientific techniques that have been useful in a variety of fields. Sociology may not of course, blindly apply the operations or formula of any other science without careful consideration.

The research methodology, therefore, is important for studying rural sociology and rural phenomena which will help us to realise the fact and reality of social phenomena. Here methodology is aimed at describing purpose of research, sampling, data collection, data analysis and use of aids in research.

Purpose of Research

The purpose of this research aims at studying complexities and various facts about villagers which comprise the major population of the world. It is true that rural people may want to make progress and bring about change in their life. But they cannot bring out change as such because they lack certain factors which are necessary. Economic and social progress can be properly achieved only when people realize and have correct ideas about their
own problems. So far villages in the Third World are not having sufficient facilities of electricity, communication and hence have been deprived of modern knowledge and urban basic amenities of life. Rural population therefore has different characteristics all over the world. Peaceful and homogeneous patterns of day to day life keep them busy in their own economic and familial life which is different in many respects from urban life. They are hardly ready to change their ways of life. They are so adjusted with this way of life that they cannot ever visualise many subtleties and varieties which are part and parcel of city life. Proneness not to change among rural people is one of the barriers in the path of rural development and change. In this research emphasis is on the rural development taking place in an area between the Chi and Mun rivers (Nam Chi-Nam Mun). It studies the present-day standards and patterns of living of the rural village dwellers in this region.

The north eastern part of Thailand is well known to be the poorest region in the nation, because of the soil being generally sandy and less fertile. It suffers from unusual and uncertain weather which ranges from extreme heat to extreme cold and from drought to flood. The standard of living, therefore, is very poor. As a result malnutrition and disease run rampant. The majority of people in this region are born, live and die without seeing
a physician. There is a high mortality among newborns and delivering mothers. These people are crying for help. Life is a real war for them, the war of poverty and hunger which they have been fighting for centuries. Government officials and middle-men are indifferent. The poor farmer struggles for his very life. The purpose of this research devotes to the study from various aspects to revoke the stated phenomena which has been in this place since long.

On the other hand, National Economic and Social Development Plan has been introduced to establish progress in rural society and develop villagers of the country. In October 1979 Thai Government endorsed the huge amount of money assisting people in this area. The researcher therefore has devoted his efforts for finding out the responses of people to this National Project.

Area for Research

"Rural Development of the Chi and Mun's area of Thailand" is the topic of research. This area for research, therefore, concerns with Thai phenomenon particularly present in the surrounding area of the Chi and Mun rivers in the northeast of Thailand. The author will present a brief overview of its development including the Chi and Mun's areas which represent the rural situation in general. This area includes major geographical parts—Nam Chi and Nam Mun or Chi river and Mun river.
Present Position of Thailand

Thailand is a medium-sized, very hot, monsoon-beset, agriculturally-fertile region in Southeast Asia. On the north, it is surrounded by China and Laos, on the west by Burma, on the south by Malaysia and on the east by Cambodia and Vietnam. Nowadays (1981) Thailand has a population of approximately 48 million, an area of 541,000 square kilometers or 200,234 square miles and is composed of 72 Provinces (see Map 1). Thailand can be divided into four major geographical areas.

1. "The central plain region, the nation's best rice-land. It is often called the ricebowl of the nation and is the location of Bangkok, capital of Thailand. Due to the expansion of urban population, rice, riceland areas, now the suburbs of Bangkok, are transformed into concrete house." This central region is composed of 32 provinces.

2. The north is a region of narrow alluvial valley's separated by high, thickly wooded ridges. The capital of the region is Chiangmai. The valley devoted to small-gives valuable products like teak and various kinds of resins. The people are predominantly great Thai (Thai Yai) with a scattering of tribal group living in the hills. The north, geographically being of Pahteng iltraradit and Petchabun and extends to the Burmese and Indo-Chinese border. The terrain is hilly or mountaineous, divided into four major valleys by the Ping wong, Yom and Nan rivers, all
of which flow to the south. The north is composed of 10 provinces.

3. The south is made up of two-thirds of the Northern Malay Peninsula; a section of the Peninsula with a narrow high mountain chain flanked by narrow strips of land. Rivers and numerous streamlets create watersheds in the valleys on each side of the mountains, and it is on the floors of these valleys that wet-land rice is grown. The south was gained by conquest and much of it has never been fully integrated into the larger economy. Even its people are in large part non-Thai. Some eighty per cent of the population of the four southernmost provinces is Malay. There is also a heavy concentration of Chinese workers in the tin mines. Nowadays (1981) the people of the south moreover differ ethnically and linguistically from the Thais of the centre and feel separated from the national life. There is a widespread sentiment against Bangkok, based on the belief that the central government neglects the welfare of the south because of insinuation of felons and bandits. The south is composed of 14 provinces.

4. The northeast with its capital at Nakhon Ratchasima is known as Korat Plateau and its higher mountain range separates Thailand from Cambodia to the south. It is a huge saucer-shaped basin surrounded on the north by Mekong river and the Dong Phya Yan mountains, rising to about 1,000 feet above sea level. It is the largest of the four
regions of Thailand consisting of 167,000 square kilometers or 64,500 square miles, i.e. about one third of the entire area of the country. A large part of the plateau is flat and is very poorly rain-fed. In the flood-prone area of the river lowland rice is the principal crop. The northeast area has a poor rainfall and so also has poor soil. The dry-land rice grown on the jungle hillsides, and wetland rice in the lowlands and more cattle is raised in this region than elsewhere in Thailand (see Map 2). As the researcher belongs to this area, he has a thorough knowledge and has experienced the pain and bitterness of this area. He however describes here only the generality of the northeast, the source of the Chi and Mun rivers which concerns the area for this research.

**Thai Northeast**

Nowadays (1981), Northeast Thailand is the largest of the country, giving location to 15 provinces: Nakhon Pathom, Sima, Chaiya Phum, Khan Kaen, Maha Sarakham, Kalasin, Rait Yase Thon, Ubon Ratcha Thani, Sisaket, Surin, Buri Ram, Nong Khai, Udon Thani, Loei, Sakon Nakhon, Nakhon Phanam. The total population of these 15 provinces is 14,734,623. The per capita income of this region in 1977 is the lowest as compared to other parts of the country. This is due to environment, drought, lack of water, flood, etc., which are the major obstacles against which the people are fighting. Their farming mainly
depends on the vagaries of rains and that too, only once during the year. As for the source of water in the north-east, there are only three important rivers namely Mekong, Chi and Mun rivers. The soil is generally sandy and fertile, under the surface of lowland; most of them is the level of rock or slate where water cannot percolate when it rains hardly, while the flood occurs immediately.

On the other hand, capitalists with the help of some white-collar officials demolished numerous valuable forests of the northeast. This lead to the poor rainfall and frequent droughts. This is a bad luck for the northeast. The northeast has a few sources of water such as river, canal, small lakes and swamp. All the small rivers join the Mekong river and end in the Gulf of Thailand because the nature of the northeast region slopes to the southeast of this part and is bounded by Laos and Cambodia. Only the Chi and Mun rivers belong to Thailand. Both the rivers are as important as heart and bloodline of the northeast and can predestine the paradise for northeastern people, only if it is developed properly. The Mekong river is the national river between Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam. Only Thailand cannot have developed project but every nation concerned must cooperate for its development.

The Chi River

The Chi river, sometimes is called 'Nam Chi, Lami Chi or Chi, Sea, Shee, etc. In Thai Nam means water or river.
'Lam' means the pathway of water. 'Chi or Sea, Shee (local language) means penetration to puncture. Here the 'Chi river' is named according to Thai Encyclopedia of the Geographical Science.

The Chi rises on the northern slopes of the Khorat Plateau, and flows to the Mekong river. In fact, the Chi and Mun rivers rise on the same place (see Map 3). In Nam Mun project it is stated 'the Mun and Sea (Chi) rivers rise on the northern slopes of the San Kam Faeng Range which separates the Khorat Plateau from the coastal plain bordering the Gulf of Thailand. The upper Mun is joined by the Chi about eight kilometers northeast of Khon Buri and from there flows almost due north to a point about 14 kilometers east of Khorat. From Khorat the Mun curves to the east and flows across, about 65 kilometers east of the city of Ubon.7

According to Thai Encyclopedia: "The source of the Chi river rises at high slope of the Phya Phua mountain in Kasat Sambun district of Chaiya Phum province, penetrates that mountain to make the pathway and flows utmost due to the southeast and curves across the regions of Chaiya Phum Khon, Kaen, Maha Sarakham, Kalasin, Roi-et, Yaso Thon, and Uban Ratcha Thani provinces, joins the Mun river by the left bank in the border of Khuang Nai and Warin Chamrap districts of Ubon. The Chi river flows across the regions of 7 provinces and 23 districts about 765 kilometers.8"
On the left bank, there are a lot of small rivers Nam Pong, Lam Pao and Nam Young. On the right bank, there is only Lam Can Chua.

The Regions of the Chi River

(1) Chaiya Phum province 5 districts; Kaset Sambun, Chatturat, Ban Khwao, Muang Chaiya Phum, Phu Khieo.
(2) Khon Kaen: 4 districts; Phon, Manchakhiri, Banphai, Muang Khon Kaen.
(3) Maha Sarakham: 3 districts; Kosom Phisia, Kanthara-wichai, Muang Maha Sarakham.
(4) Kalasin: 1 district: Kamalasai
(5) Roi Et 6 districts: Muang Roi Et, Phon Thong, Thawatcha Buri, Selaphum, At Samat, Phaman Phrai.
(6) Yaso Thon: 3 districts: Muang Yaso Thon, Khamkhuan Kaeo, Maha Chana Chai.
(7) Ubon Ratcha Thani: 2 districts: Khuang Nai, Warin Chamrap.

The Mun River

The Mun river is the one important river of the north-east. 'Mun' in the local language means the old or long standing thing. Even after the confluence of the two rivers, Chi and Mun, the river is known as the Mun.

In Thai Encyclopedia of the Geographical Science, "The source of the Mun rises at the high slope of the Ba Mung mountain in the region of Nakhon Patchasima province and
then it curves to the east and the northeast and flows across the regions of Nakhon Ratchasim, Buri, Ram, Surin, RoiEt, Sisa kat, and Ubon Ratcha Thani provinces. The Mun river joins with the Chi river in the region of Khung Nai and Warin Chamrap districts and flows to the Mekong river at the southern area of Khong Chiam district and the right bank of the Mekong river.

The Mun river flows across the regions of 6 provinces and 21 districts about 641 kilometers.9

On the left bank of the Mun river, there are several rivers that flow, viz. the Lam Phra Pherng, Lam Takhong, Nam Chi, Lam Sea and Hua Sakneang. On the right bank, there are: The Lam Play maes, Lam Chi Small Chi rising at the high slope of the Phra Wihan mountain, Hua Khayong, Lam Dom Yai and Lam Dom Noi.

The Regions of the Mun River

(1) Nakhon Ratchasima province: 7 districts: Pak Thong Chai, Khon Buri, Chak Karat, Non Sung, Phimai and Chum Puan.

(2) Buri Ram: 3 districts: Khu Muang, Phut Thai Song and Stuk.

(3) Surin 3 districts: Chumphon Buri, Tha Tum and Pattana Buri.

(4) Roi-et 1 district: Surwana Phum

(5) Si sa ket 3 districts: Rasi Salai, Muang Si sa ket, and Kanthararom.
This area for research has described widely about region of Thailand, the northeast and particularly the Chi and Mun rivers which are the main fields of this research. It is not possible to study thoroughly all the Chi and Mun river area. Therefore, the researcher has selected some of the places, particularly the Khuang Nai district in Ubon province and Sêtaphum district in Phoi et province because the area of these two districts is in the Chi and Mun's basin.

The Hypothesis of Research

The hypothesis is one of the steps of social research. The facts as have been shown, are dependent upon a theoretical framework for their meaning. There are statements of relationships between concepts. A basic requirement in the application of the scientific method, the clear definition of concepts has just been discussed. Dr. Nephonh Tepwalg has described: "The hypothesis is the report or explanation established for knowing relationship between the resultant and fact. So, the hypothesis is the explanation which is established temporarily, not proved. If the hypothesis is proved that is fact; the proved hypothesis will become the corrective explanation and the one body of the new science."10

Claire Selltiz has said: "It is, of course, the hypothesis that is tested directly in the research. The assumptions that lead to the hypothesis gather support
indirectly as more and more hypotheses that are derived from the initial assumptions are supported by empirical evidence.\textsuperscript{11}

So the hypothesis is the necessary link between theory and the investigation which leads to the discovery of additional knowledge. The researcher thus understands in this process, attempts to bring about the theoretical science and experiences while studying people. The researcher has experienced and lived in this region and aimed seriously at assisting in developing the standard of living of people. Most of the people living in the northeast depend on the Chi and Mun rivers to earn their living and cultivate agricultural products. So both river beds have to be developed and used fully if the standard of living of the people, education and health are to be developed. Under the conditions of development of Chi and Mun area through irrigation projects successfully implemented by the Government, the people in the area show a considerable change in their economic and social life. The researcher has to find out as to how far people are educated and industrious to earn the fruits of government schemes, irrigation projects and other welfare schemes in the field of health and education.

**Sampling area for Research**

The researcher selected two areas of Khuang Nai district in Ubon Ratcha Thani province and Selephum district
in Roi-Ét province. These areas, being in the basin of the Chi and Mun rivers face difficulties due to the floods every year, particularly in 1978 and 1980. They were damaged largely so far as their numerous houses, farming, crops, animals and so on which had been encountered by the greatest huge stream. There were a lot of people without residence and left hunger-stricken so that they could not live there and had to migrate to earn their living to other places. The stated phenomenon have to be improved and assisted immediately. So the researcher has aimed at studying Khuang Nai district in Ubon Ratchathani province and the socio-economic conditions of life of the people.

**Khuang Nai District**

From the Khuang Nai district in Ubon Ratchathani province, 100 families of 20 villages in 5 sub-districts are selected (see Map 4).

1. Thatu Noi sub-district:
   - Thatu Noi village
   - Din Dum
   - Khum Nai
   - Tan

2. Nakhum Yai
   - Nakhum Yai (2 groups)
   - Sraphung
   - Parkhar
   - Sang Nai
3. Dang Mor
   - Dang Mor
   - Buthr
   - Tunge

4. Tahai
   - Tahai (2 groups)
   - Nong Sang
   - Tacar

5. Cartong
   - Cartong
   - Sampey
   - Klaung Noi
   - Kange Pathi

   The most of all these villages are standing by or are very near to the bank of the Chi river. On the left of the southeast and all south of Khuang Noi district, the Chi flows across and joins the Mun. On the southeast, the Lam Sea flows across and joins the Mun too.

Selaphum District

   From the Selaphum district in Roi-Et province 100 families of 20 villages in 4 subdistricts are selected (see Map 5).

1. Tamong subdistrict
   - Tamong village
   - Khokkung
   - Lhoa Kham
- Tasi
- Donkock

2. Na-muang
- Na-muang
- Khoang
- Yarnge
- Lard
- Nhonkwar

3. Klarng
- Takrai
- Phak-kardyar
- Khung Sa-ard
- Na-leang
- Chai wan

4. Na-Nyam
- Na-reang
- Namtinge
- Nong-goak
- Phothi-tark, Namtieng.

All these villages are in the basin of the Chi river. These people have to face floods every year for the last so many centuries and hence they have to leave villages. Many people leave villages and find work elsewhere.

From the northwest to the southwest of Selapham district, the Chi river flows across throughout, on the
southeast, the Nam Young flows across to join the Chiang river in the south.

**Data-collection**

The data collection in the scientific method used in the social research for knowing or explaining social phenomena according to researcher's purpose. This data-collection has been separated into three important points: method, technique and experience.

**Method of Data-collection**

In order to collect data, the researcher visited families and took interviews with the help of schedule of questions prepared. He also observed the surroundings of their houses, villages and different places where they work. Places: Rural Development office zone 3 (Ubon Ratcha Thani). The Mun basin Development Office (Ubon-Si Sa ket), Economic and Social Development office and libraries of National Institute of Development, Chulalongkorn University and National Library.

He also collected information from public documents and village records.

The data was collected from 1st December 1980 to 31st July 1981 and divided into three periods: December 1, 1980 to January 15, 1981 for making improvements, testing and completing the questionnaires and visiting families; January 16, 1981 to March 16, 1981 for bringing the questionnaires to the sampling villages, collecting questionnaires,
studying, surveying and participating with the rural development officials. March 17, 1981 to July 31, 1981 classifying and analysing data.

Official information was obtained with the help of government officials such as governors and district officers, from village records, census documents, project reports and so on. In addition, he had discussions with local teachers, subdistrict officers, local leaders about various aspects of village life.

**Technique of Data Collection**

Interview technique was found to be more effective as most of the villagers are less educated and are not used to fill in the questionnaire. While conducting interviews, it was possible to collect more detailed information about various aspects of their daily routine, their agriculture, their customs, their family life, etc.
REFERENCES


3. Dr. Boontan Docks Thaisong, Community Development in a Thai Village, United States International University, 1974, p. 18.


9. Ibid., Vol. 4, p. 1196.

10. Dr. Nipenth Tapwaly, Human being and Society (General Educational Project), Bangkok, Chulalongkorn University, 1973, p. 278.
