

The Development of the Indicators for the Success of Youth Development Project

Sirichai Kanjanawasee

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research was to develop the indicators for the success of youth development project according to the function of project which covers both direct and indirect outcomes. This study was carried out by studying the concepts and related theories, analyzing youth development project, setting and constructing the indicators, testing the indicators field work and then revising those indicators. The instruments of this research were the evaluation form of the indicators, priority setting questionnaire, and the questionnaires on the importance of indicators and the appropriateness of its criteria. The sample of 150 project heads were collected through stratified simple random sampling from 10 ministries and 2 independent agencies representing four regions of Thailand. The data were then analyzed to obtain frequencies, percentages and the appropriateness index of the indicators. The results were as follows:

1. Youth development project could be classified according to their functions of 6 groups: 1) providing education, 2) constructing, building and producing medias, text and researches, 3) preventing and controlling their health, 4) social welfare, 5) giving cooperation and networking development, and 6) campaigning, contesting and competing.

2. There were three components for the evaluation on the success of youth development project which consisted of the congruence between the project and the context, the efficiency of the project management, and the achievement of the project.

3. General evaluation on the success of youth development project was composed of 3 components of indicators which contained 10 evaluative dimensions. There were 40 indicators altogether.

4. The evaluation of the achievement for the success of youth development project composed of direct output indicators and indirect outcome indicators which were developed according to the project functions.

Introduction

Thai government always aware and gives the importance to youth development through the increasing of the country budgets from 16.42 percent in 1997 to 17.92 percent and 19.40 percent in 1998 and 1999, respectively. There also was an increasing of youth development budget allocation in the year 2000 for 20.01 percent of the country budget complied with the universal agreement standard of the World Summit for Social Development.

Ten ministries and two independent agencies in Thailand have been in charge of youth development projects based on the eighth and the ninth National Social and Economic Development Plan during 1997–2001 and 2002–2006, respectively. The project management of government organizations are similar to various administrations which include planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation. It is also understood that among those three steps mentioned, the least practicing or even biased performing is the monitoring and evaluation step.

The indicators as regarding as the important part of the project evaluation. The lack of appropriate indicator construction and development was found to be significant problem in conducting the project evaluation and the quality of the evaluation as well.

As it had been said earlier, there were many youth development projects involved from various organizations mostly government agencies spending as high as 20 percent of the country budgets. Most of the projects were implemented without their qualified monitoring and evaluation. Therefore, it was hardly found project conclusion that how much was their efficiency and success, due to the lack of sufficient indicators for the project evaluation.

At the same time, there is a need to the administration reform for the good governance. The government administrating system should be transparency, accountability, and result-oriented through the strategic device of systematic monitoring and evaluation. The National Youth Bureau, as its work as the supporting and coordinating agency aims at youth development provided research funding on the development of the indicators for the success of youth development project. This

kind of research will bring great advantages to various organizations and agencies concerns youth development for fostering the efficiency and the success of their development projects.

Purpose

The purposes of this study were two folds: 1) to develop general indicators for the success of youth development project, and 2) to develop the indicators for the success of youth development project according to functions of the project which covers both direct outputs and indirect outcomes.

Method

The study consisted of five steps as following.

1. Studying the concepts and related theories

The first step of the study was to study the concepts and theories of youth development, the youth development, the youth development plan, the eighth and the ninth National Social and Economic Development Plan, the development of indicators, methodology of project evaluation, and the success of public project.

2. Analyzing youth development projects

The second step of the study involved analyzing the 204 samples of youth development projects in the eighth plan (1997-2001). It resulted in the classification of youth development projects according to their functions.

3. Setting and constructing the indicators

The third step dealt with framing the components of general indicators for the success of youth development project, and constructing the indicators and criteria for the success of specific youth development projects according to their functions. The indicators and criteria were then examined and evaluated by a group of experts. In addition, a sample of 20 senior project heads also judged the importance of the success components of the youth development project by paired weighting procedure.

4. Operational testing the indicators

This step was desired to test the appropriateness and usefulness of the

indicators and criteria in the field work by a sample of 150 project heads. The samples were drawn through stratified simple random sampling from 8 provinces which were represent 10 ministries and 2 independent agencies.

5. Revising the indicators

The final step of the study was to revise the indicators and criteria. They were presented to the National Youth Bureau Research Committee. The approved indicators and criteria were disseminated through research seminar with government and non-government organizations which organized by the National Youth Bureau.

Results

The data were analyzed to obtain frequencies, percentages, and the appropriateness index of the indicators and criteria. The major results were as follows.

1. The vision of youth development should be the national policy so that youth will be sustainable and completely developed all dimensions which was corresponding to the needed youth characteristics in Thai society. The identity cooperation on systematic planning, guideline and measuring among agencies and related institutions are needed in order that youth will be developed effectively by strengthening through a mechanism of monitoring and evaluation.

2. The youth development projects could be classified according to their functions of 6 groups as the followings:

2.1 The project on providing education. The youth will gain knowledge, skills, experiences including moral and ethical as well.

2.2 The project on constructing and producing in order to be able to construct the buildings and produce medias, text and researches, concerning youth development.

2.3 The project on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation in order to know how to prevent and control their health.

2.4 The project on social welfare in order to be patronaged by materials and fundings.

2.5 The project on giving cooperation and networking development.

2.6 The project on campaigning, contesting and competing, such as the competition in sports, skills in occupation, art, drawing and singing.

3. There were three components for the evaluation on the success of youth development project which consisted of the congruence between the project and the context, the efficiency of the project management, and the achievement of the project.

3.1 The congruence between the project and the context evaluating format that corresponding to the youth development master plan including the responsiveness to the need of the target groups. The clarification of the objectives and the components of the project should be related. There was the feasibility of factors, process and their outcomes as well.

3.2 The effective project management which was evaluating by the higher executive's support, working management along with its plan which could be changed for the appropriateness. There were a follow up and evaluation from the project administrators. Being recognized and received cooperation from the public.

3.3 The project achievement was evaluated from the direct or immediate output of the success on their plans and objectives including indirect outcomes which were the positive impact to the target groups, youth's family and the public.

4. General evaluation on the success of youth development project were composed of 3 components of indicators which contained 10 evaluative dimensions. There were 40 indicators altogether.

5. The evaluation of the achievement for the success of youth development project composed of direct output indicators and indirect outcome indicators which classified as follows:

5.1 36 indicators for the training project.

5.2 34 indicators for the constructing and producing project.

5.3 38 indicators for the project on prevention, treatment and rehabilitation

5.4 29 indicators for the social welfare project.

5.5 21 indicators for the project on networking cooperation development.

5.6 34 indicators for the project on campaigning, contesting and competing.

Recommendation on policy

1. The National Youth Bureau and all agencies concerns should cooperate in exercising those developed indicators and be the backbone for every official project

concerned with youth development including the establishment of networking, helping the development of evaluation manual under the same standard in order to the success of youth development.

2. The development of database regarding the general success of youth development project should be done for all kinds of projects in order to promote networking between organizations and agencies.

Recommendation for the Action Plan

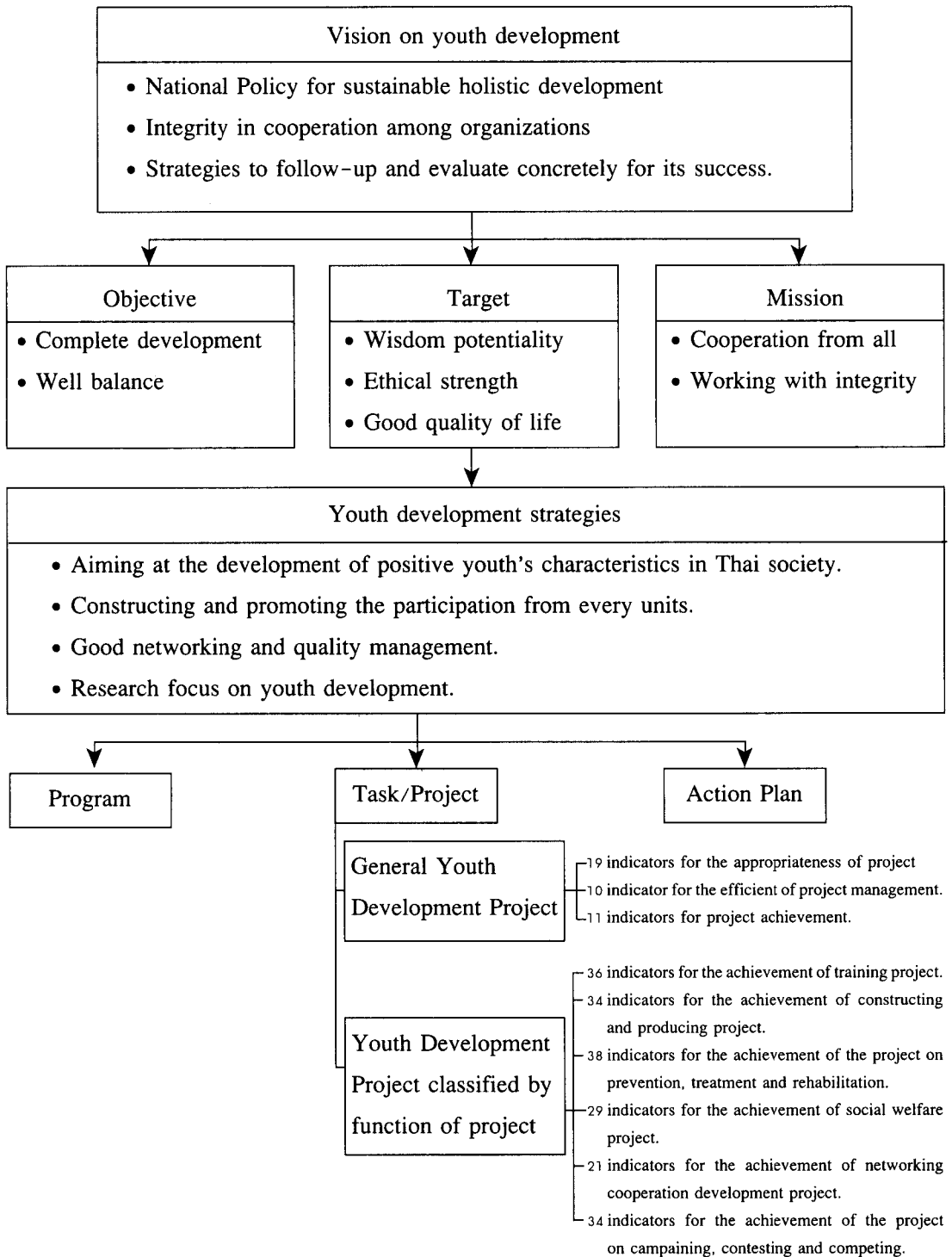
1. Those organizations or agencies that accesses to resources such as personnels in the areas of evaluation, budgets and supporting from the top executive should use every developed indicators to evaluate all youth development projects in order to receive all useful information for the best decision on youth development project.

2. The organizations or agencies that are shortage in either personnels for evaluation or budgets should set their priorities of the project. The executive committees and responsible person should be asked to confirm the most needed information in order to the selection of the suitable indicators and criterion used for the project evaluation.

3. The organizations or agencies that are thoroughly limited in both personnels for evaluation and budgets should consider evaluating only specific project which response to their principle policies through direct indicators in order to be successful in their plans and objectives.

4. The administrators of youth development project should manipulate those developed indicators for the success of youth development project as the guideline for management and monitoring during, before and after the time of management project for the efficient outcomes.

Summary Chart Vision, Objective, Target, Mission and the Indicators for the Success of Youth Development Program.



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