

Olachikarn Khidhen. 2008. **The Potential of Communities and Community Organizations in Self-development: A Case Study of Saiyong-Chai Sub-district Municipality.** An Independent Study Report for the Degree of Master of Public Administration in Local Government, College of Local Administration, Khon Kean University.

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ABSTRACT

This study is aimed at studying community contexts, potential, organizations, and factors affecting the strength of communities and community organizations. Data collection was made possible through questionnaires designed to ask 260 sampling subjects, and interviews were held with former community leaders and representatives of six community organizations. The research results show that the community environment in terms of geography, culture, and natural resources is flourishing and has the potential to strengthen the community. Although in the past it was barren and lacking in public utilities, people lived a peaceful and simple life and joined hands in helping each other and solving their own problems by themselves. The main actor affecting the community strength today is lack of a born leader. People do not understand the true nature of participatory community management and they lack democratic ideology.

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