Abstract

Alternative Activity Research: AAR

Alternative Activity Research: AAR proposes to develop a mechanism for organizing operations (involving the participation of government organizations, private institutions, communities, and academic sectors) that build information systems, provide shared spaces for learning, and create positive change in communities. The operations will give rise to "Hao-Kee-Tao" (Network of Goodness) and will allow members of the community (such as youth, women, widows, religious leaders) to exchange ideas which may lead to conflict resolution. The program will be organized and operated by people in community. It may create cohesion, harmony, strong relationships, love, and hope in the community. It may reduce distrust among people as well. It may transform problems into wisdom through knowledge. AAR aims to create conscious mind. It focuses on children, orphans, youth, women, widows, and religious leaders.

AAR program in 2012 founds 500 projects that operate in Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat, and Sonkhla (Jana, Thepha, Natawee, and Saba-Yoi county) province. The operated area includes 37 counties, 288 districts, and 1894 villages. 216 projects operate in 33 counties, 112 districts, and 238 villages of Pattani. The numbers of projects in Yala, Narathiwat, and Songkhla are 127, 56, and 101 (20.2%) respectively. The 2012 AAR program has 7320 organizers and 15267 activity participants. From 500 projects, 430 projects (86%) are located in previously operated area (cover about 193 villages) and 70 projects (14%) are located in new region (cover about 45 villages). From 500 projects, 179 projects (35.8%) focus on children, orphans, and youth; 185 projects (37%) target women, widows, and low-income women; and 136 projects (27.2%) concentrate on religious leaders. In term of activities, 361 projects (72.2%) relate to religious activities; 112 projects (22.4%) involve careers; 18 projects (3.6%) focus on art and culture; 6 projects (1.2%) concern with health; and 3 projects (0.6%) are about education. Among these activities, 239 projects (47.8%) are new and 261 projects (52.2%) are previously organized by the communities, which AAR helps improve

upon. AAR provides shared spaces for having activities in communities, creates leadership, encourages self-scarifying notion, and gives many opportunities to people in the communities to solve problems together. AAR's target groups are widows, orphans, youth, and religious leaders. AAR builds strong communities from people of all religions by giving them chances to communicate and take care of each other.

The hearts of this program are to provide knowledge, invite people to participate in "Paka" activities, and evaluate the result of these activities. The evaluation is done by a committee who are selected from members of a community. The committee must have service mind and aims to assist everyone without prejudice or self-interest. The committee must not be under the influence of any organization or political party in order to gain respect from the community. The success of AAR demonstrates by the achievement of its goals such as the participation in religious activities, the positive changes in youth, the pride in helping each other, the improvement of quality of life and family, the productive careers, and the harmony and trust in communities.

The next phase involves following up the results in short and long terms. It should create space and learning process in community. It should develop a "model AAR project" that can be used as an example in new area and support the formation of committees for promising projects in local and community levels.