

Monitoring report of Environmental Education projects in the Northern Thailand

July 21-24

Method of monitoring: Interview to villagers and teachers, meeting with field staffs

Background:

In Thailand, every school has been determined to spend 30% of all curricula to practice local education. Unfortunately, most of the schools in the remote villages haven't practiced it effectively, because some of them haven't got good idea, and others don't have enough knowledge and money.

Raks Thai Foundation not only support those schools to practice environmental education effectively and efficiently as a local curriculum, but also support their communities to give their children the opportunities to learn environmental issues.



Our concept: Raks Thai Foundation involves communities, schools and families in supporting their children.

Northern part of Mae Chem District in Chiang Mai Province

Targeted schools :

6 schools in 2 Tambons

Mae Deat Noi / Huai Pu / Jam Luang /

Huai Ya / Pa Ka Long / Mae Ta La Nua

Goal:

Educate children so that they can lead their communities to manage their natural resources and preserve the environment after their graduation.

Objectives:

1. Provide children access to the wisdom which have been practicing by the villagers for centuries, and the new knowledge both at the school and their community, so that they can practice their own idea in their real lives.
2. Support schools to develop an effective and practical local curriculum to their community lives, and ensure those curricula are children-oriented.



Mae Deat Noi

Group of people: Karen

Religion: Christian

Number of students: 150 students (65 elementary students, 85 junior high students). 79 of the junior high school students sleep in dormitory.

The only one junior high school in Tambol MaeDeat. According to the head-master's estimate, only 50% of the children in this Tambon go to junior high school after graduating from the elementary school.

Since the Mon people have been cultivating cabbage fields near their village, the soil has been damaged badly and the water has been short in dry season. The village's economy is at the subsistence level. Only a few ways to earn money income, such as growing peanuts, raising cows for the market. Having a few months' skill-training provided by NFE system after graduating from the junior high school, some students go to work as gasoline stations, small food shops in the city for money income, but others go back to their village and cultivate their parents fields.

Comment : The teachers were not enthusiastic. They seem neither to understand nor to be interested in what we want to do with them.



Mae Deat Noi School



Students grow vegetables in the school fields as a part of local curriculum



School dormitory



Students are doing homework in their dormitory

Huai Pu

Group of people: Karean

Religion: Christian

Number of students: 100 students (elementary school + kindergarden)

Number of teachers:

7 persons (no Karean villager)



School gate



Students are attending the local education class by the teacher from village.

Students come from 3 villages, the nearest at 1 km away from the school, the second at 2 kms away, and the farthest at 3 kms away

A branch school for the 1st to 4th grade's students at 8 kms away. You can reach there only on foot. There are 50 students.

15 RAIs (1 RAI = 40m by 40m) fields are available for the students' activity. Only a few RAIs have been cultivated so far. Students have been growing roses and mushrooms in a shed, using organic- farming.

Impression: The teachers are tackling the local curriculum with great enthusiasm, but obviously lacking in the knowledge and money.

Another thing to be concerned is that there are no Karen teacher and the school is a bit far from the villages. It might cause barriers to have smooth communication between the school and the village.



They are growing vegetables by using EM as a fertilizer source



Mushrooms

Huai Ya

Group of people: Karen

Religion: Christian

Number of students:

360 students (kindergarden, elementary school, and junior high school)

230 students sleep in the school dormitory



Huai Ya School



School dormitory

They are from 25 villages around the school. Many of them are from the villages 10 kms away, and the farthest students are from a village in Mae Hong Song Province, 45 kms away from the school.

Number of teachers: 12 teachers (including 3 Karen)

History: Established in BE 2519 To begin with there were only 2 buildings and 20 students, but later they have built several buildings which supported by foreign donors. The headmaster has applied to the Japanese Embassy(GGP) for getting support a new dormitory building (1.2 million Baht) and a pick-up car (1 million Baht). Now waiting for reply.

One of the biggest problems is lack of water. The source of water supply is small stream 800m away of village. Leading water to the tank near the dormitory by an electronic motor, however the electronic supply is not stable.



Boys' dormitory

They need stable water supply from underground.