

## **Model of Learning Managements Center and Museum of Thai-Laos Krang Community, Ban Pu Namron, Suphanburi Province**

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**Abstract:** This research was aimed to study: local resource and wisdom suitable for learning, conserving and presenting in Ban Pu Namron community, factors related to museum management of Ban Pu Namron community and learning center and museum managements of Ban Pu Namron community, Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province which are suitable to apply. The research is qualitative. The tool used was interview made to community leader, religion leader, Head of Dan Chang Sub-district Administrative Organization, Dan Chang District Community Developer, Director of Public Health and Environment Department, Dan Chang Sub-district Administrative Organization Community Developer, a group of 15 ladies from Ban Pu Namron as key informants. The research content was analyzed and the quantitative consistency was confirmed. The samples were Ban Pu Namron people and tourists in the number of 400. Descriptive statistics including percentage was used in data analysis. The research findings are as the followings. In terms of local resource and wisdom suitable for learning, conserving and presenting as ancient objects in Ban Pu Namron, the first one is various types of rock. The second one is model of attire of people in the past. The third one is tradition, culture and belief. Regarding factors related to museum management of Ban Pu Namron community, everyone feels that Ban Pu Namron is the best location to establish a museum because it is near to the road and community center. About learning center and museum managements of Ban Pu Namron community, Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province which is suitable to apply, the organization should plan on management administration to achieve the purposes of the museum by deciding strategies, development plan, storage plan and presentation plan of ancient objects. The resource and environment should be managed to remain natural and stay beside the culture which is the identity of the original community. There should be community leader, organization leader, scholar who has knowledge and ability to take charge in managing and developing the museum to be efficient. Also, knowledge should be created by local people which is considered as social procedure to activate awareness of local people and develop strength and harmony as well as relation between the environment and way of life. Community's participation should be focused on in managing the learning center and developing into a tourist destination. Modern communication technology should be applied in relaying wisdom via. newspaper, radio, television, internet, information board and other media to promote the community to become famous and able to be developed into a tourist destination for making secure and sustainable income to the community.

**Key words:** Museum, ancient objects, local wisdom, tradition and culture, community, tourist destination

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Ban Pu Namron, Dan Chang Sub-district, Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province is an area in which a lot of cultural heritage in a great variety has been found. These include cultural heritage which shows tradition and way of life of several ethnics such as Karen, Lawa, Laos Krang, etc. and archaeological evidence. By the survey of an archaeologist and local scholar, it became known that human settled down in Dan Chang District area, since, the new stone age or more than 3,000 years ago. Evidences of

people in this era were condensed in Ban Pu Namron, Ban Pongkom and nearby areas. Later, in Ayuddhaya period, this area was also important as the main source of iron and lead in those days. Some evidences are therefore, collected in Ban Pu Namron community museum.

Ban Pu Namron Learning Center and Museum in Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province was originally a one-storey building which housed only community history and ancient objects, no history, tradition, culture and way of life of Laos Krang people kept systematically. Recently, the community received some supporting

budget from Suphanburi Province and built a new 2-storey concrete building as a combination of a learning center and community museum. However, since, then the original management was casual and not systematic, allowing visitors to enter without collecting entrance fee. The management was controlled by the temple. There was no regular staff to give professional lecture, no history processing, no entrance fee and public relation. The development lacked continuation and motivation which did not support the intention of the community and the abbot that hoped for systematic management. Dan Chang Sub-district organization solved this issue by allocating budget to support systematic management. However, it still lacked of a suitable way of management for a learning center and museum which reflects the way of life of Thai-Laos Krang. Among the changing of society, Ban Pu Namron community is still maintaining its identity, focusing on sustainable self-relying development (Anonymous, 2007). Learning from a learning center and community museum provides an opportunity for everyone to learn and maintain the history, tradition and culture of the ethnic and supports learning systematically (Lohitwiset, 2001).

Learning center and museum management which is suitable with the context of Ban Pu Namron community, Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province will reflect local wisdom, tradition and culture transferred from ancestors of Laos Krang community. Systematic management will bring in accurately knowledge transferring and evidence for maintaining and conserving this identity to remain with people in Ban Pu Namron community and Thailand further.

Therefore, suitable management of a learning center and museum must come from brainstorming to develop and improve by local people to reflect the identity of Ban Pu Namron community and Thai-Laos Krang people (Phra Ajarn Sanae, Nam Puron Temple Abbot, 2015). For this reason, the researcher is interested in studying development direction of Ban Pu Namron Learning Center and Museum Management under Memorandum of Understanding between Phranakhon Rajabhat University and Suphanburi Province Administrative Organization. Also, Master of Public Administration Program Department went to provide academic support at Dan Chang District and met the abbot and staff from Dan Chang Sub-district Administrative Organization. The abbot of Ban Pu Namron Temple requested the Department to Design Management of the Learning Center and museum to be used as a learning center of history, tradition, culture and way of life of Laos Krang.

**Purposes of research:** To study about local resource and wisdom suitable for learning, conserving and presenting

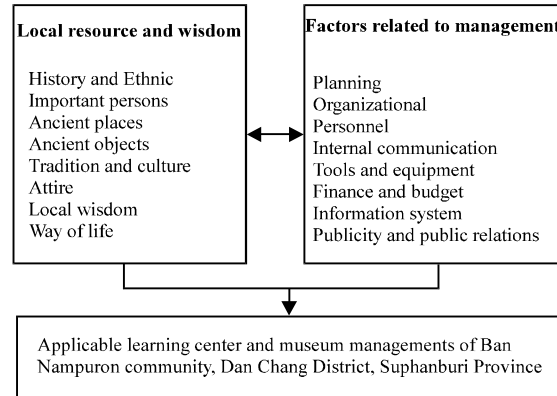


Fig. 1: Conceptual framework

in Ban Pu Namron community. To study about factors related to museum management of Ban Pu Namron community. To study about learning center and museum managements of Ban Pu Namron community, Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province which are suitable to apply.

**Conceptual framework:** By reviewing related literature, the research on learning center and museum managements of Thai-Laos Krang Community in Ban Pu Namron, Suphanburi Province has conceptual framework as shown in Fig. 1.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research is qualitative and quantitative research regarding local resource and wisdom worth for conserving in Ban Pu Namron community, Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province, factors related to museum management of Ban Pu Namron community and learning center and museum managements of Ban Pu Namron community, Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province, which are suitable to apply

**Samples and key informants:** The tool used in this research is interviewing to brainstorm ideas and ask about gathering local resource and wisdom worth for conserving and continuing in Ban Pu Namron community and a questionnaire in which more than one answer can be selected.

Quantitative data gathering by interviewing and setting up a stage for key informants to observe the nature of the learning center management and to gather quantitative data by distributing a questionnaire to Ban Pu Namron people and tourists in the learning center and museum for 400 sets.

Analysis of data gained from interview in different topics to check the consistency of the

content and conclude the main topic and minor topic before confirming on the stage with the community leader, community committee, religion's leader, Dan Chang Sub-district Administrative Organization, Dan Chang District development office and Ban Pu Namron hand-woven textile group and quantitative analysis of data gained from interview by calculating for percentage.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Research findings:** In the research of the learning center and museum managements of Thai-Laos Krang community in Ban Pu Namron community, Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province, the survey findings are described as follows.

Regarding local resource and wisdom suitable for presenting in Ban Pu Namron community, Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province, the findings are as followings.

**Ancient objects category:** Most of questionnaire respondents felt that stones should be collected for 92.00%, the next item is Buddha image for 40.50%, followed by work tools or equipment used by people in the past such as plough and basket are 4.25%, finally, clothes and attire for 0.75%, respectively.

**Model category:** The questionnaire respondents chose model showing attire of people in the past to be presented in the museum and learning center for 83.00%, food and food containers available in the past for 14.00%, animal or vehicle models for 8.50%, respectively.

Tradition and culture which should be presented in the museum, according to the questionnaire respondents are different beliefs as the first rank or 59.25%, making merit tradition during festivals and auspicious events for 21.25%, death related rituals for 9.25%, birth related rituals for 7.50%, marriage ceremony for 4.75% and career related rituals such as farming for 3.75%, respectively.

Regarding factors related to museum management of Ban Pu Namron community, Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province, everyone agreed that there is an area which is suitable for establishing the museum inside Pu Namron village as it is close to the road and community which equals 100%. The next important factor is application of technology, computer, video, movies in presenting ancient objects of the museum which is 97.25%. Public relation such as website, brochures, etc., was 96.25%. Participation of people in the community by educating about ancient objects shown in the museum was 94.50%, respectively.

About learning center and museum managements of Thai-Laos Krang community, Ban Pu Namron in

Suphanburi Province, strategy plan and development plan should be in line with the purposes of the learning center and museum. Committee should be appointed from all related parties to participate in managing the learning center and museum to have good environment and look natural. Budget should be allocated to support the learning center and museum from related organizations in public, private and people sections. Awareness of harmony among people inside the community should be raised while the environment and daily lifestyle should be related. The community should be encouraged to take part in managing the learning center and museum. Also, modern and hi-speed technology should be used to aid the communication and storage of wisdom via the media of newspaper, radio, television and other media. This will make the community realize the importance of establishing a museum which takes the role in developing society, economics and politics, strengthening local people in applying wisdom and culture learned and stored in the museum to adapt into career and make income to the community for endurable self-reliance further.

Based on the research findings, the researcher created a diagram of the learning center and museum managements of Thai-Laos Krang community in Ban Pu Namron community, Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province as shown in Fig. 2.

This research is an explanation of the facts found in available research based on related supporting theory as detailed below. Regarding local resource and wisdom appropriate for learning and conserving of Ban Pu Namron community, Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province, it was found that Ban Pu Namron has a history of Laos Krang ethnic. There are cultural heritages of tradition and way of life of several ethnics, especially, archaeological category, plenty of ancient objects as old and valuable treasure found such as stones, old buddha images, traditional tools. These can tell us about history of the community, since, the past to present. Local resource and wisdom existing, since, the time of ancestors were created by developed knowledge and long experience of different learning processes, then applied in operation, improved and developed to suit with lifestyle of people in the society. These knowledges have been transferred from the past to present in the form of tradition and culture. By conserving community tradition and culture, cultural heritage can be maintained as the identity of the local community and cultural center. This is in line with the concept of Anonymous (1996) which concludes that local resource and wisdom collected in the museum of ancient objects used by people in the past with history of specific ethnic was aimed to be learned and publicized for conserving the culture of such community. This kind of museum presents identity, resource and wisdom in living of people in the community and local area.

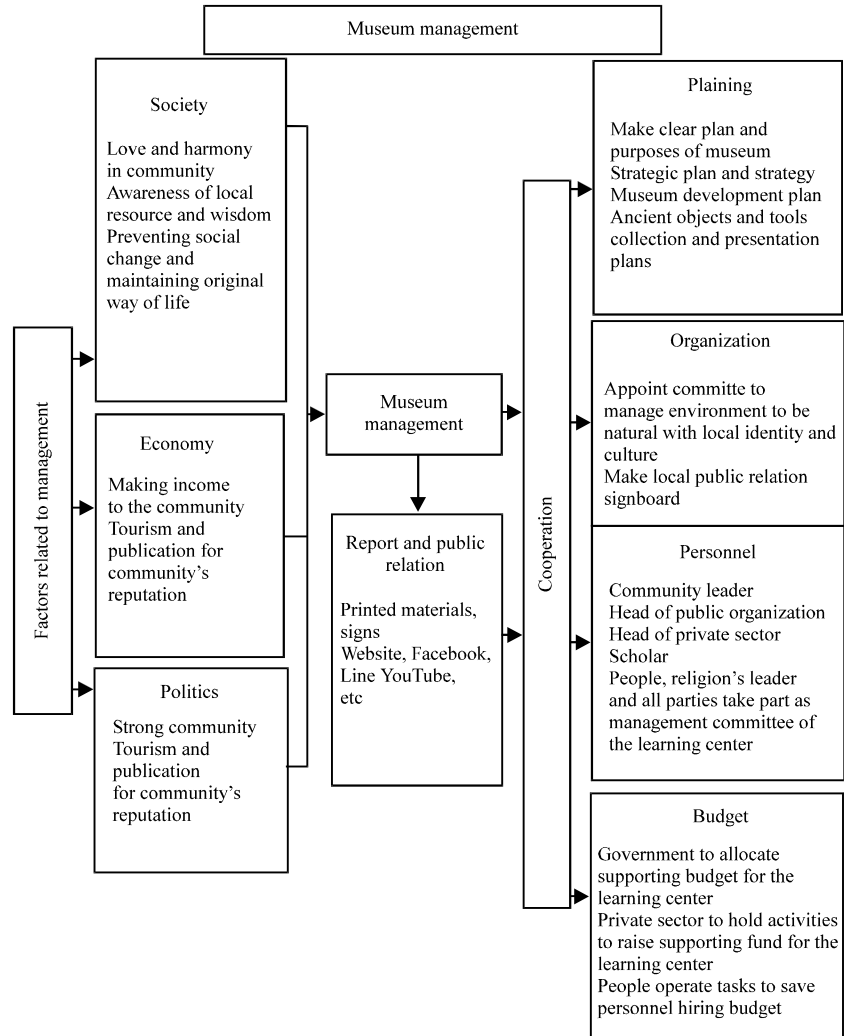


Fig. 2: Community learning center and museum management

Regarding factors related to museum management of Ban Pu Namron community, Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province, for example, the environment should be suitable for establishing the museum inside Pu Namron village as it is close to the road and community, making it convenient to study and research about local history and culture. Next is openness for people to participate in doing activity together in order to promote love and harmony within the community. The next important factor is application of technology, computer, video, movies in presenting ancient objects of the museum and public relation. These are in accordance with the idea of Anonymous (2008), stating that people participation in management is the key factor and Nuamthong (1995), mentioning that public relation of museum needs various types of media.

## CONCLUSION

Management of Learning Center and Museum of Ban Pu Namron community, Dan Chang District, Suphanburi Province which is suitable and applicable is as detailed in figure and can be explained as followings.

**Planning of museum good management:** The community should be the owner, so that, it is easy to manage and plan effectively. Overall activity should be held by presenting the history of the museum. There should be staff and facilities for museum visitors as well as good environment. Museum development plan in the future should be made to make the museum valuable.

**Organization:** The community must be strong while people in the community should be the leader and

possess knowledge. In the same time, the community need to communicate with government organization to have mutual understanding. The community leader and members should take part in publicizing knowledge to develop quality of life for the happiness of the community gained from local resource and great culture in the community.

**Personnel:** Leader, scholar and staff related to the museum should possess knowledge, abilities and understanding of proactive working. These people should have a good relationship with the community, promote love and harmony have a service mind to provide knowledge to the community and tourists.

**Budget:** Most museums have budget related to the government's finance and controlled under appropriate scope. The government authority is the person who makes decision about financial operation to be in line with the law. The authority may have financial vision which is in accordance with the idea of ICOM (Boylan, 2004) talking about museum management that most museums established for public benefits must have proper management and administration under control of people involved with culture and heritage of the community. As part of management committee, the museum manager should be a vision leader. The museum management should consist of organizational structure, operational plan, supporting budget and public relation to the society.

### SUGGESTIONS

Community participation should be promoted to manage local knowledge and wisdom. People should be allowed to participate in managing and expressing opinion clearly. People in the community should manage and take care of the museum for good benefits to the community to promote love and harmony as well as sustainable development of the community.

Everyone in the community should have knowledge and ability, participate and help to manage and create wisdom suitable to be learned, conserved and transferred. There should be leader development for the leader to gain more knowledge and abilities in management. This is

because the leader plays an important role in pushing and mobilizing for the establishment of the learning center and community wisdom management.

The community should have concrete development plans to conserve ancient and local wisdom, models, tools, clothes of people in the past by clearly describing in the community development plans.

There should be some organizations to support and promote for local wisdom management with clear responsibilities such as knowledge management support, etc. There should not be overlapping tasks. Such support should be done in the way that encourages the community to be responsible, honest and able to plan effectively.

**Suggestions for further research:** There should be integrated local wisdom management in order to apply knowledge management in the community organization group with local wisdom in other areas further.

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