

# Self-reliance Theory of Development

ONE of His Majesty's most important Royal Initiatives is to enable the farmers to become self-sufficient. Activities carried out in many locales and provinces share the goal of building self-sufficiency.

In many vocational and agricultural development activities designed to help Thai farmers, His Majesty's demonstrations in social and community development are like footprints in which the people can follow assuredly. One of His Majesty's principles in community development is to "help develop rural self-sufficiency."

The increased ability of rural farmers to be self-reliant is a result of many of His Majesty's Royal Initiatives.

## His Majesty's Methodology

1. Do not tell the people how to act because this may well not help them to be self-reliant. As His Majesty has observed:

"Advising is not ordering but

presenting the theory of the activity for people to hear and to consider. If they like it they will do it; but if not then never mind."

2. Stress self-reliance and self-sufficiency. His Majesty acts to motivate farmers to see the way to solve their own problems and to be self-sufficient without compulsion. Looking for ways to introduce cooperation by outside agencies is only a last resort. As His Majesty has observed:

"All people, whether city folk or rural folk, with much or little education have a free will. Their thoughts and satisfactions are their own. People do not like to be forced. In addition, they have their own ways and customs and act in their own unique way."

3. Stress people's participation. This important principle for Royal Initiatives has been long emphasised by His Majesty in project implementation. On 31 December 1958, His Majesty spoke on this subject to the

Thai people.

"Duties in successful administration include loving one's country, personal honesty, and harmonious cooperation of all the country's people. We hope that you will all try to make your contribution with a pure heart for the common good. This will lead to a people full of happiness which is the ultimate goal of us all."

4. Use democratic principles. When visiting rural people His Majesty hears of the difficulties they face, such as in implementing Royal Initiatives. If the responsible officials cite technical difficulties, His Majesty listens impartially. If the officials who are in agreement feel that results might not be worth the money invested, His Majesty suggests change to the project. This philosophy is shown clearly in His address at a Development Study Centre:

"This is a place where development workers can do what is called 'experimentation.' When this experimentation has been completed, others who are not specialists in that field can learn how they work and what they do."

5. Act in a locally-appropriate way. Projects should be environmentally, geographically and culturally sensitive for every region of the country. Doing so accords with His Majesty's guideline that abrupt changes can seriously affect values or endanger familiar ways of making a living by the local people. In His Majesty's words:

"Development must meet with local geographical conditions and local cultural conditions. Local cultural conditions means the attitudes of the people cannot be forced; go in and see what they really want and explain to them the principles of our development. This will be the most beneficial."

6. Revitalise the community by building a structure based on essential production principles which lead to long term self-sufficiency.

Abridged

## Self-sufficient Economy — a Royal Initiated Concept

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them to eat glutinous rice for their own consumption, and they like glutinous rice, let them grow glutinous rice. Whatever they prefer to consume, they should be encouraged to grow and retain for year round consumption. If there is still spare land for other seasonal crops, or enough land to grow Jasmine rice, they should be encouraged to do so for business purposes."

This inspiring statement by His Majesty the King, towards a self-sufficient economy is critical to all Thai people who share the same cultural background. However as economic trade plays a more prominent role,

produce for sale and export takes precedence over household needs. His Majesty further explained that Thai people have to buy rice at an expensive price because they buy it from local shop where prices have been inflated by the cost of transportation.

In terms of a self-sufficient economy, His Majesty offered this opinion at a time when Thailand is still facing an economic crisis: "If we could return to a self-sufficient economic system... just a fraction of the economy... perhaps less than half the economy, say, one quarter of the economy, we should be able to sustain ourselves. But we need time to solve

the problem..."

Despite the fact that Thailand is in the midst of a severe economic recession, His Majesty the King believes the country will eventually survive this setback for several reasons.

Initially, His Majesty is convinced that "... Thailand will survive the crisis better than other countries because we have land, for cultivation, the geography is still favourably for making a living..."

Secondly, His Majesty urges his people to "... adopt a non-luxurious lifestyle and adapt an attitude towards economising."

Thirdly, he encourages greater use of domestic resources.

Even while labouring under the pressure of an economic slump, the Thai people are able to preserve towards sunnier days and draw comfort from the concerns of their king, always prepared to come forth to their rescue as pledged:

"Let everyone in this land work and enjoy an income to survive the crisis."

Such is the compassion that has helped boost the morale of His Majesty's subjects so that they may stand up to all the challenges, especially at this very trying period.

## His Majesty the King, Mahajanaka of the Thai Nation

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effort to promote the SUPPORT Project and other development efforts in the most remote areas of the country. He has gone everywhere and seen everything, and he has consistently done what he thought was required to improve the daily life of The Thai people. His Majesty's life has been an inspiration that rouses the awareness of perseverance at all levels of the society, especially the intellectual level, which seems to be nearest to His Majesty's idea.

On every occasion of His

Majesty's presiding over the graduation ceremony at various universities, the royal speech given to the graduates has encouraged them to use their intellectual knowledge to create a better life for the majority of their countrymen. His Majesty's words have always implied his wishes to see the graduates working with utmost perseverance for the good of the country. His Majesty's vision for Thailand includes people from different social levels of society working in harmony and coordination with each

other to attain the ultimate goals of the nation. When this occurs, Thailand will truly be a prosperous country.

Whoever has had a Dhamma vision would see clearly that His Majesty's performance as a working monarch is the same as Mahajanaka who kept swimming in the ocean hoping to reach the shore. He has always been there to help whenever the country was in crisis, giving advice to his government and the people, and recommending solutions to the problems.

His Majesty the King has taken care of his subjects in the same manner that a father would his sons. He has helped them and taught them to look after themselves and each other. He has given them to know — how so they could more easily survive economically. He has reminded them of the value of doing good and useful things for their homeland. And last, but not least, he has wished that everyone be blessed with pure perseverance, sharp wisdom, and complete physical health.

## His Majesty the King's Views on Human Resources Development

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quality of attitudes is concerned with ideas and feelings, especially the moral standards and integrity of the public. The three types of quality should go together.

Realizing that the country will prosper best when the people are developed through education, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej attaches great importance to education, both academic and spiritual. He has specifically noted the importance of having an ability to

think rationally, and act conscientiously. His Majesty the King's views on education are both instructive and constructive regarding the proper role for both teachers and students. On the part of teachers, His Majesty is of the opinion that teachers must always equip themselves with both an appropriate level of knowledge and effective ways of imparting that knowledge to their students (that is, teaching). They must be rational and have a sense of responsibility as well as a solid

academic background. Moreover, teachers must be tough but fair-minded, honest, kind, polite and gentle. These characteristics will impress students and serve as good examples for them. Everyone can possess the characteristics of teachers in one way or another. All Thais should, therefore, play the role of a teacher for the benefit and prosperity of the society.

On the part of students, His Majesty the King teaches them to be sensible and make well-informed judgements. Students

in his opinion, should be respectful and learn from those who have more experience, "so that the grown-ups will show them the right way." When students are eager to learn, teachers will be willing to teach. The learning and operating process will then become easier and more efficient as both sides boost the morale of the other.

Regarding the education system, His Majesty the King believes the contents and methods of education must be arranged to achieve the set target.

Those who have passed through the education process must be urged to "develop their capacity for further learning, thinking, and taking action so that they can make full use of their potential for the benefit of other people in the society."

His Majesty the King's views on teachers and students have relevance to the advanced teaching and learning process. Progress in the educational field would become even more prominent if those in the education circle, ranging from primary to tertiary levels, paid greater attention to the contents and curriculums, the education venues, the facilities and the use of modern educational equipment. Only a handful of educators and education administrators pay attention to the effective teaching and learning process. A few of them are interested in the qualifications of teachers and students. For their part, most students today have not yet "acted constructively according to their duties," in line with His Majesty the King's advice given to teachers, students and graduates in the field of education.

Such a situation becomes a major concern when we come to realize that "teachers" (in the sense of professional educators and role models) must transfer knowledge, expertise and experience to those who have less of these due to age or educational opportunity. At the same time, teachers have chances to become "students" in various periods of their own lives at home, at school and in the office as well as in other circumstances. When people do not perform their duties properly, and are not aware of their roles as teachers and students in the context outlined by His Majesty the King, their opportunities to contribute to the society will become fewer.

If His Majesty's views on the state of teachers and students are translated into action, the Thai education system will greatly benefit from them. It is now time for the Thai people, especially teachers and students, to seriously learn from His Majesty the King's perspectives on the roles and duties of both teachers and students. Adopting his suggestions will enable them to play a more productive part in building up Thai society by becoming quality citizens.



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	Dec 93	Dec 94	Dec 95	Dec 96	Dec 97	Dec 98	Jun 99 (Half Yearly)
Authorised Capital	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Paid up Capital	600	600	600	600	600	600	600
Reserve	213	213	213	213	357	432	489
Retained Earning	-	-	-	-	279	314	445
Deposits	2,217	2,967	4,182	7,487	9,480	8,667	9,101
Advances	632	1,374	2,625	3,629	5,023	5,438	6,084
Operating Profit / (Loss)	36	53	193	273	356	403	288
Assets	1,826	2,729	4,380	7,985	10,189	10,973	10,938
Number of Branches	5	11	14	16	21	21	21
Number of Employees	331	354	417	453	548	625	635

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