

Sprouting Tree

Lessons Learned From ECPAT/Taksvarkki Child Prostitution Prevention Project In Upper-North Thailand

New Path Project, Lamphoon

Community Theatre Project, Chiang Mai

Project of Co-operation for Risk Prevention, Chiang Rai

Life Quality Development Project to Prevent Child Prostitution, Phayao

Protection of Hill-Tribe Children from Sexual Exploitation Project, Chiang Rai

Supported by ECPAT/Taksvarkki, Thailand

2000

List of ECPAT/Taksvarkki Partner Projects

1. Srinuan Pengkamta
New Path Project
Lampoon
2. Anong Pilalai
Project of Co-operation for Risk Prevention
Huay Krai School, Chiang Rai,
3. Amarin Plengrassamee
Community Theatre Project
Chiang Mai
4. Suwan Limsampan
Life Quality Development Project to Prevent Child
Prostitution
Bangkok YMCA, Phayao Branch
5. Sittichai Kaewkerd
Protection of Hill-tribe Children from Sexual Exploitation
Project
Hill Area Development Foundation
Chiang Rai
6. Jutarat Tanskul
Co-ordination Office
ECPAT/Taksvarkki, Chiang Rai
7. Wassana Im-em
Institute for Population and Social Research
Mahidol University
Nakornpathom

Acknowledgement

Throughout the project, we received inspiration and encouragement from all those who work with their hearts and wish to see children grow to be responsible, strong and self-reliant and to conduct themselves appropriately and honourably. As consultants to this project, we were often required to travel to Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Phayao and Lampon to meet with the children and staff of the partner projects.

We had the unique opportunity to work with the staff of each partner project who devote themselves to development work. This impression is worthy of remembrance because such devotion is hard to find in Thai society nowadays. We would like to thank all project members for their kindness and friendship. The impressions and experience that we gained from this work will always remain in our memory. We will not forget Mong, Sien and Chi-O project members from the Hill Area Development Foundation, Chiang Rai, who poured their hearts and energies in working with indigenous children in the hill area without knowing of the word “hardship”. Imagining Mong in the Four-Wheel drive along the bumpy and gravelly roads along the high mountains so to work in the villages still frightens us. And thinking of the numerous times they had to take the motorcycle to work and live with the villagers also makes us highly appreciative of their devotion. Their work was mixed with smiles, laughter and music from Sien, which brought optimism and cheer, though many obstacles still remain ahead of them. “Pi Daeng” among the staff, “Krue Daeng” among the hill-tribe people or “Senator Tuenjai Deetes” among Thais from the year 2000 has scattered seeds, waiting for them to become the tap-roots of society and follow her lead.

An innocent seven-year-old girl conversed with the visitors at YMCA Phayao, while bustling activities continued in the background. The children, all under 18 years old, accepted adult responsibilities. Some took turns watering vegetables while others prepared delicious meals. Several of the young girls were practising sewing and cross-stitching. More than 40 inhabitants help each other to build their own families. These scenes made visitors feel the warmth of the people who live there, the place they are able to call “home”. Daeng, Mee and Somsong like many other members of YMCA Phayao, remain single, but in the supporting environment of the YMCA, everyone is able to be father, mother, brother, sister and friend to more than 40 children currently living there. People like these, who dedicate their lives to help children without asking anything in return, are an inspiration.

The dedication of two women has brought the “New Path” to fruition. Mae Srinuan, who dresses in the attire that befits a woman of her age, speaks the northern Thai language beautifully and clearly. Anne is her young and fashionable daughter. She is fast-talking and quick to share her ideas. This mother and daughter team established this people’s organisation of Pasang District, Lamphoon Province. Their house differs from other houses in the area in that it is a place for children to spend their free time, making sweet treats, studying folk music and weaving. Mae Srinuan tirelessly taught them to be good people who will not succumb to temptation. She makes the claim that she is just a villager who is educated only through to the fourth grade. On the contrary, her way of thinking, which is not taught in any textbook, has continuously sparked our ideas. Her dedication and good intentions have motivated people to follow her dream. She has the unique capacity to co-ordinate the project, communicate with people at many different levels using a language that is simple but direct. The unconditional co-operation and the high expectations of Ajaan Nopporn, Ajaan Sawang, Pi Yupin, Ajaan Thanom and Krue Aye are true indicators of how much they trust and believe in her sacrifice and her goal of continuously working with children.

The teacher’s group at Baan Huay Krai School has met with success despite all of the challenges they faced. Working with this project added to their daily responsibilities, which were already full with teaching classes. Whenever problems arose or the pressure of the project was overwhelming, Krue Anong attempted to solve it patiently and prudently. Her role was not merely the problem-solver or the project co-ordinator; she also supported and encouraged the teachers who seemed disenchanted with their work. Many teachers, such as Krue Sim, Krue Kaew, Krue Liew and Krue Maew, continued working with this project until the end because of the dedication they felt to the students, who had no one else to support them. Their spirit and kindness are greatly acknowledged. Krue Soontorn has always been supportive of Krue Anong’s work. Their names would top the list for the “most supportive couples”. Many worthy reports have been produced that will be useful beyond the duration of this project. The devotion of Krue Sim on project evaluation demonstrated the intentions of this active teacher. In the near future, it is clear that more teachers from Ban Huay Krai School other than Krue Anong will receive a Good Teacher Award.

Khun Ood, the polite, quiet leader of the Community Theatre Group got along exceptionally well with the young staff. During the past two years, they lived out of a van, travelling everywhere without regard to the difficulties or dangers in their path. Pi Ood, the most experienced man in the team, has proved to everyone that theatre is not only to entertain people,

but serves as a strategy to solve problems of children and youth. The team has poured their hearts and souls into this work and showed that it is an effective tool to work and learn with villagers. The Community Theatre Group is the only organisation that is able to approach areas that have not received any support from development agencies. Pi Ood's belief in the strategy of "Theatre and Community" made the members of the team, including Anne, Mee, Aaw, San, feel his devotion to the project. He is the role model to the younger generation, who will follow in his footsteps and grow to be high quality persons in the future.

Finally, if it were not for the help of Pi Ten, A, Pi Nid and Pi Toi, this report will not be completed. To co-ordinate five projects is not an easy task, but the ECPAT/Taksvarkki co-ordination team in Chiang Rai was able to complete this energetically. The network between partners from different places and backgrounds brought them closer by the co-ordination team even though there were not many opportunities for them to work together. Their love and kindness were greatest when we needed it most, such as organising the meaningful games to play when we were sleepy or entertaining us with shows or plays in the evening after training. They also held a souvenir raffle and periodic workshops to increase our knowledge. In addition to these activities, they visited the projects in the field and helped co-ordinate during emergency situations or when child sexual abuse occurred. The project partners worked without worrying about the administration. This support could not exist if the team lacked passion for their work. Without the unique flexibility of the co-ordinating team of ECPAT in Chiang Rai, this project could not have been a success.

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Uraiwan Kanungsukgasem
Kullawee Siriratmongkol

Preface

The northern region of Thailand is infamous for children and women entering into the sex trade. Many girls in the north search for work outside of their community, and because they are young they run the risk of entering into prostitution. This can start innocently with girls working in such places as restaurants and cafes, or they can be lured by the money that they can make at bars and karaoke clubs.

To reduce the problem of children becoming involved in the sex trade, ECPAT/ Taksvarkki Prevention Project funded five local partner projects. They were; 1) The Community Theatre Project 2) The Life Quality Development Project to Prevent Child Prostitution by YMCA, Phayao 3) The New Path Project 4) The Project of Co-operation for Risk Prevention of Ban Huay Krai School, and 5) The Protection of Hill-tribe Children from Sexual Exploitation Project by Hill Area Development Foundation. The main objective of these projects was to prevent girls from entering the sex industry. The advisory team from the Institute for Population and Social Research at Mahidol University provided technical support and synthesised the lessons learned from the projects.

This report summarises the lessons learned from the partner projects. The information was gathered from the individual project reports together with information obtained from all project-partners during seminars and meetings that took place throughout the two-year period. The advisory team assisted in gathering more information, which included statistics, documents, and books concerning this issue, and are summarised it in this report. The writers hope that these lessons learnt will be useful to people interested in this issue or who wish to work with a similar development project in the future.

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Executive Summary

This report reviews the 1998-2000 child-prostitution prevention projects in northern Thailand, undertaken by five NGOs and working groups that were supported by ECPAT/Taksvarkki. These projects include:

1. The New Path Project located in Lamphoon, which established community youth networks to prevent child prostitution and child sexual exploitation.
2. The Huay Krai School Project in Chiang Rai, which gave students occupational training and life-skill education.
3. The Protection of Hill-tribe Children from Sexual Exploitation Project undertaken by the Hill Area Development Foundation, which helped prevent hill-tribe children from entering sex work.
4. The Life Quality Development Project to Prevent Child Prostitution run by the YMCA in Phayao, which provided a youth centre and networked with related organisations dealing with child sexual exploitation.
5. The Community Theatre group, which gave children the opportunity to learn through drama.

The overall lessons learned include:

- Poverty, cultural norms, and materialism are still the main factors forcing children into prostitution.
- The five projects' main achievement was their ability to raise awareness about child prostitution among children, parents, and communities. The promotion of children's rights helped prevent them from being at risk of sexual exploitation.
- The five projects' strategy was to work closely with children, through life-skill learning. Participatory teamwork about different cultural beliefs and life-styles of indigenous people was an important contributing factor for the projects' success.
- Careful considerations should be made before providing any kind of job skills or occupational training to children. These include considerations about how likely that a child could earn income from these occupations, how much money is needed to actually start the occupation, how to sell the products and how to assess the market's needs.
- All project staff perceived that child sexual exploitation is an urgent issue, which needs external assistance.
- Networking with related individuals and organisations helped promote project sustainability. After the project completion, a working group network dealing with child sexual exploitation

has been established in Phayao and is being developed in Chiang Rai.

- The ECPAT/Taksvarkki Co-ordination Team in Chiang Rai participated actively in planning and working together with the project partners, and did not simply provide funds to the participating organisations.
- Participation by the academic team helped data management. However, the academics should be based in the Upper-Northern region so frequent contact with partner projects can be made.

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Introduction

About “Sprouting Tree”

Why is this report entitled “Sprouting Tree”? There are three reasons for choosing this title. The first reason is that it reports the lessons from five different partner projects. An advisory team from Mahidol University provided technical support to all partners and synthesised the lessons learned about the prevention of child prostitution. “Sprouting Tree” refers to the five partner projects, or “branches”, which developed individually, but still remained part of the collective “tree”. This provided an opportunity for each project to learn from the activities of the other partners. Their main purpose was to address the issue of child prostitution and develop solutions to prevent its occurrence. The upper northern region of Thailand includes the cities of Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Lamphun and Phayao. The project co-ordination office is in Chiang Rai. ECPAT/Taksvarkki supported all of the projects for two years. Most funding agencies support a single project, which does not provide the staff with the opportunity to learn about the work process, obstacles, problems and solutions. In this case, the partners supported by ECPAT/Taksvarkki had the chance to learn from each other through workshops and meetings organised by the project co-ordinator every three to four months. With this co-operation, the different partners did not feel as if they had the sole responsibility of addressing and solving the problems that arose. This arrangement also provided an opportunity for staff who lacked experience working with children and youth groups to learn and exchange ideas with others who were more knowledgeable about child prostitution. This exchange of ideas is included in this report so that the readers can learn from the experiences of the different partners.

The second reason for entitling this report “Sprouting Tree” is that the issue being addressed by these projects concerns the children and the youth in the upper northern area. These children are the “Sprouting Trees” that will grow to be part of the society. After two years, a number of these children were able to successfully escape the sex industry, due to the dedication of the workers in increasing awareness of this problem. The actual impact on the numbers of children prevented from entering the sex trade is unknown. However, the success of the project shows that change is occurring. Providing an alternative may be an important factor in this success. The director of Ban Huay Krai School, one of the partner projects, spoke about the occupational skill activity (making sweets): “...*students don’t have the chance to continue studying because of poverty and other factors. Even if only one or two of them don’t enter prostitution but use the skills being learnt here for their future career, then it could be said that this project is successful*” (From an interview on September 28, 1999).

The third reason for naming this report “Sprouting Tree” is the growth of communication

and co-operation between the academic team and the development workers (NGO), which previously was not prevalent in Thailand. Differences in thinking, communication skills and work methods generated a gap between these two groups. The current direction of development work in Thailand is towards integration and co-operation, involving more participatory efforts. To work separately in development issues is no longer practical. This report details the lessons learned from the participatory work of this project.

Chapter 1

Children and Prostitution: Problems and Situation before the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Prevention Project

Introduction

Many people in Thailand believe that it is natural for men to release sexual emotion, therefore it is necessary to have sex workers. High demand for paid sex has resulted in many women in Thailand entering sex work. Poverty is the main reason that these women have entered the sex industry. It is a way that women can help solve family financial crises. Thus several organisations have a strategy to solve the problem by providing opportunities and developing careers for women and families. Nevertheless, some people argue that some women choose to be sex workers because it is an easy way to earn money, which allows them to purchase many things that they desire while still having money left over to send to their families. One important concern about the sex industry in Thailand, which needs special attention, is how to prevent child prostitution. This report provides information about the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Child Prostitution Prevention Project in the Upper-Northern region of Thailand in which five NGOs and working groups received funding for five years to work with children and people in rural communities.

Children Who Enter Prostitution: Definition and Situation

"Sopheni Dek" or child prostitution was not a common phrase used in Thailand a long time ago despite the fact many females working in the sex industry were younger than 18 years old. The phrase "Tok Kiew" (green harvest) refers to the recruitment of child prostitutes. The original meaning of this phrase is that a broker pays in advance for an agricultural product, such as rice or fruit. This product is purchased when it is still green and unripe. This phrase has been used often to describe young girls who are bought and sold, in an agreement between brokers and parents. The new meaning for this phrase is girls who are deceived by brokers. These brokers pay the family when the girl is still in school or is not yet grown up with the understanding that when the girl graduates from school, she must work with the brokers in order to pay back the money. The brokers pay an advance to the parents, thereby "reserving" the girl. Nevertheless, today it is not clear if this system still exists.

The question is not whether child prostitution exists, because it was occurring before it became a major public concern, but why it has played such a prominent role in the society over the past 10 years. The answer may lie in the fact that HIV/AIDS has encouraged men to change their behaviour in order to protect themselves from a disease that can be contracted from sex

workers. Some men stopped going or reduced the frequency of their visits to sex workers. Other men used condoms. But some men, generally rich older men, have tried to find young girls, especially virgins, so that there is no risk of contracting HIV/AIDS (Im-em, 1996). The fear of receiving HIV infection gave notoriety to the “Tok Kiew” situation of the girls in the northern area. Because of its prevalence, the government was forced to find ways to solve the problem. Finally, the statute of prevention and suppression of child prostitution in 1996 replaced the old penal laws and the 1990 statute was rescinded (see details in Appendixes A and B). Emphasis was placed on the offenders and not the children who were in prostitution.

Despite the law, children are still victims of prostitution, as seen by media reports:

- “Child prostitution ... the product of the tourist year” (Thairath, September 1, 1992.)
- “The local police are the millionaires ... the brothels send a poll tax every month” (Daily Siamrath, June 7, 1990.)
- “Selling cows and buffaloes is not enough ... sending daughters to be prostitutes is better” (Daily News, January 22, 1989)
- “The Centre for the Protection of Children’s Rights showed that the government data are based on old numbers: the country is full of child prostitutes, their parents force them to do this work” (Daily Siamrath, January 16, 1988)
- “The girl’s path to hell was set by her mother (Daily Siamrath, December 7, 1989)

Another situation that is developing rapidly and is being noticed by the public more and more is cross-country prostitution. Many media broadcasts frequently reported that Thai women were arrested or supported for prostitution abroad, including in the neighbouring countries of Malaysia and Singapore, or even in Japan, Australia, Europe, and America. Meanwhile, girls from neighbouring countries, such as Burma, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, China and Eastern Europe come to Thailand to supply the needs for the Thai sex industry. Although the number of non-Thai child prostitutes is increasing, it is not clear whether migrant girls and displaced children will be protected by the 1996 statute on prostitution prevention and suppression.

How Children Enter Prostitution

Presently, information about child prostitution in Thailand is limited. Based on existing studies, it is generally believed that children enter the sex industry in two ways: those that chose to enter and those that are deceived. From interviews with 62 children who were sex workers in Pattaya area in 1994, Prasitrattasin and others found that the majority of them were not forced to work.

Friends or acquaintances persuaded most of them into this work. However, some girls were deceived because of their innocence and youth, so they were unable to protect themselves. What follows are selected case studies of girls who entered sex work (adapted from Podhisita et al., 1994, 16-21; Wongsupab, 1994, 189-109, Im-em, 1996, Prasitrattasin et al., 1994, pp. 62-64).

Daughter wants to help her poor family

Kaew is a daughter in a poor family. She completed the fourth grade when she was 15 years old. A few years later, she asked her parents if she could join her friends near the ocean and become a sex worker. She wanted her family to own the land and house they used. At first, the family did not agree to this arrangement, but after explaining the reasons, everyone felt they had to accept it.

Sold into prostitution

Mook is from Srisaket province and has finished grade six. When she was 14 years old, she moved to Bangkok to live with her aunt and work at a factory. She made many friends, with whom she went out at night. The second time she sneaked out at night, her lover pressured her to have sex. After they had sex, he left her. She felt so badly about this that it started affecting her life. She finally resigned from her job and ran away from her aunt's house because they started quarrelling. Mook met a couple in the park who said they could find her a job. They brought her to the owner of a brothel in Mahachai District, where she has been working ever since. She is 24 years old at the time of interview and still works as a sex worker.

Sold to a brothel by parents

Som comes from a poor family of farmers. She has seven brothers and sisters. When she was 13 years old, someone from her village asked her to work in town. Her parents knew that this person was a sex worker, but because they were poor and in debt, her parents allowed her to go. She lost her virginity to a client when she was 13 years old. At that time, her father came to the brothel to retrieve the money from the owner. Som eventually left the brothel to work as a tailor. A few months later, she returned because her income as a tailor was not sufficient for the family.

Loss of virginity justified becoming a sex worker

Yai finished the third grade and claims that she is not smart since she had to repeat the first grade several times. She forced herself to finish the third grade, then left school to help her parents by working in the rice field. She had sex with her boyfriend when she was 15 years old but their relationship did not last. She ran away from home with three friends to become a sex worker. She

felt that since she was no longer a virgin, having sex was a good way to make money. She sent money to her parents, but they did not know the source of the income.

Family problems caused her to run away from home

Auang is 22 years old and has been working in a massage parlour for six years. She comes from a middle class family, with both of her parents working as teachers. She first had sex with her boyfriend when she was 16 years old. Her parents were so angry when they discovered this. They could not accept her actions and claimed she disappointed them. She did not know where to turn, and was eventually persuaded to work in a massage parlour.

ECPAT/Taksvarkki Child Prostitution Prevention Project

Between 1988 and 1990 a study was conducted by the Ecumenical Coalition on Third World Tourism in several Asian countries. It aimed at uncovering the facts regarding child prostitution in three Asian countries. The results suggested that the situation of child prostitution in these countries were exacerbated by tourism. The results were presented to a consultation meeting in Chiang Mai in May 1990. Following this meeting, a campaign called *End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism (ECPAT)* was started in Thailand with the aim to fight against tourist related sexual exploitation of children in Asia. The main objectives of ECPAT in the first six years were:

- To stop child prostitution and to raise awareness among the general public about the situation of commercially sexually exploited children;
- To promote legislation to punish tourists who sexually exploit children in destination countries.

Subsequently, following a World Congress against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Stockholm in 1996, ECPAT became an international NGO dedicated to End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes. It is now called ECPAT International.

ECPAT International was interested in working closely with local organisations in northern Thailand where the situation of child prostitution was known to be more severe than in the rest of the country. This interest was fulfilled and financially supported by Taksvarkki Dagsverke (Finland). Thus the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project to Prevent Children from Prostitution, a collaboration between ECPAT International and Taksvarkki Dagsverke (Finland) was established in early 1998. A total of \$370,000 was obtained to cover the two-year ECPAT/Taksvarkki project activities. The money came from one-week annual fund raising activities in Finland led by

students, youths, labour unions, non-governmental organisations and the Finnish government. Through Taksvarkki Dagsverke, ECPAT funded the community based development project of five non-governmental organisations/working groups to prevent child prostitution in northern Thailand covering the period between 1998-2000.

The overall objectives of the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Child Prostitution Prevention Project were:

- To provide appropriate viable alternatives for children and their families to prevent child prostitution
- To support networks of NGOs and other related organisations to reach target groups
- To develop and disseminate culturally appropriate learning materials on child rights
- To promote child rights through informal education, vocational training and awareness raising programs
- To disseminate the lessons of the project to local and international NGOs working in this area.

The ECPAT/Taksvarkki committee selected projects according to their objectives on preventing child prostitution in the upper north of Thailand. Out of 13 projects, five projects were selected for two years each (1998-2000). The projects are detailed below:

- The Project of Co-operation for Risk Prevention, the teachers of Ban Huay Krai School, Chiang Rai
- Protection of Hill-Tribe Children from Sexual Exploitation Project, Hill Area Development Foundation (HADF), Chiang Rai
- New Path Project, Lampon Women and Youth Project, Pasang District, Lampon
- The Community Theatre Project on Issues of Preventing the Child Sex Trade in the Northern Thai Region, the Community Theatre Group, Chiang Mai
- Life Quality Development Project to Prevent Child Prostitution, YMCA Bangkok, Phayao Branch.

Various characteristics of the organisations and their teams were considered in the selection process. The Project of Co-operation for Risk Prevention is run by a group of teachers at Ban Huay Krai School, which worked with other teachers and students in the school. The New Path Project is an organisation for the people in one of the villages in Pasang District, Lampon. The project's leader has worked with children and communities for many years. The YMCA in

Phayao was established to help children at risk focusing on job skills for women and participatory development work with communities and villagers. The Hill Area Development Foundation has worked with indigenous people, knowing their cultures, their ways of life, and the situation and problems in the area. The community theatre project connected the work of these partner projects by enacting them in skits. Because the partners were so widespread, this team had to travel to many areas. Academic support for the whole ECPAT/Taksvarkki was obtained from Mahidol University. The ECPAT/Taksvarkki Co-ordination Office in Chiang Rai was the main co-ordinating centre for technical support provided to the partners and for project implementation.

Chapter 2

ECPAT/Taksvarkki Partner Projects

Project of Co-operation for Risk Prevention

By Teachers of Ban Huay Krai School, Mae Sai District, Chiang Rai

Ban Huay Krai School is an extension school providing free education for students. It is under the responsibility of the Primary Education Office of Mae Sai District, Chiang Rai province. There are 52 teachers and 1,241 students from kindergarten to the ninth grade. Among the students, 70% are lowland Thais, while 30% are Chinese, Yunnanese, Ahka, Lahu and Shan. Five percent of these children do not have Thai citizenship. Children from villages in Mae Chan, Mae Sai and Mae Fa Luang Districts attend the Ban Huay Krai School. Several of these children are at risk of entering into sex work. Their families are poor and their communities have changed rapidly, with materialism taking on more importance. A number of women in these villages have returned with relative large amounts of money after working as sex workers. Because of the value placed on materialism, these women gained the respect of the villagers. With this influence, students living in such communities are more prone to entering into sex work. In addition, having sex at a young age is another risk factor for entering into this type of work. A follow-up monitoring of students between 1991-1997 found that 10% of girls dropped out because they had sex and 6% of those entered sex work. Of those that finished the ninth grade, 10% worked as waitresses, masseuses, karaoke girls, or singers, and are at risk of becoming sex workers. Based on these observations, the teachers of Ban Huay Krai School organised this project to prevent students at risk from becoming sex workers.

Objectives

1. To build up protection and install suitable values and attitudes.
2. To build affection and understanding within the family.
3. To build self-awareness with regard to job skills, so children can make appropriate decisions concerning their future jobs.

Project Team

Fifteen teachers of Ban Huay Krai School implemented this project. The director of the school served as the project's director, one of the teachers acted as the co-ordinator, and two other

teachers were responsible for the evaluation and follow up. Another 11 teachers were responsible for the project activities. The rest of the teachers occasionally participated in these activities. At the start of the program, the implementing team held a meeting with all teachers at the school to introduce the project. During the first year, there were many obstacles. Many teachers felt they could not commit their time to the project because they were also responsible for teaching classes. The director then supported the integration of the project activities into the daily lessons, which gave more teachers the time to get involved. Life-skills training were provided for teachers, so they would be able to integrate this issue into their regular teachings.

Work Experience with Children and Youth

The teachers were able to develop a close relationship with the target group because they are in such close contact on a daily basis. Some of them worked with the Handicraft Centre Project in the school that was supported by ILO/IPEC. The project aimed to develop the students' job skills in an attempt to prevent them from getting involved with drugs. They also addressed the issue of child prostitution, before ECPAT/Taksvarkki funded the project, but their target group comprised only of students at risk. Additionally, the Handicraft Centre project was not implemented systematically. Nonetheless, the team from Ban Huay Krai School has had experience working with children, but what they lacked was experience in monitoring their project.

Target Groups

Five hundred students from Ban Huay Krai School in the fifth grade through the ninth grade in 1998-1999 and 20 families of students were included in this project. The project selected students who were at risk of entering the sex industry, such as having sex while still at school, spending money lavishly, and coming from poor or separated families.

Activities

1. Staff development training focusing on life-skill learning was given to all schoolteachers, so that they could better understand the problem and causes of child prostitution.
2. The local wisdom club encouraged students to take pride in themselves, their communities, and their culture.
3. Local music and dance club built up protection and instilled positive values and attitudes of their lives.
4. Youth volunteer activities focused on developing leaders for the girls, to campaign about

children and women's rights. They also taught about the right to say "yes or "no", gender roles, democracy, and child labour to promote understanding about the child sex industry. The student council was also organised in the school.

5. A family camp was provided to help develop relationships between students and parents. The families that participated in this activity were selected from the students at risk.
6. Counselling was provided to students so that they could discuss issues concerning self-awareness and their decision-making abilities about future jobs.
7. Job skills were developed so the students would be better prepared to make employment decisions.
8. An in-house radio program was managed by the students to provide information regarding the project. They also conducted a media campaign to prevent child prostitution.
9. Relevant information was gathered in the form of a survey. The information collected included the students' background, the understanding of the teachers of life skills, the attitude and values of the students, the relationship between students and their families, and the level of interest, satisfaction, and participation in the activities provided.

Life Quality Development Project to Prevent Child Prostitution

By YMCA Bangkok, Phayao Branch.

The YMCA Foundation in Bangkok is a non-government organisation established in 1992. Its main mission concerns social development, social welfare and human resource development, especially with children, youth, women's groups and disadvantaged people. The Life Quality Development Project for Northern Children and Families is a development project initiated in the northern region by the YMCA. The project was implemented in 1994 in Phayao, Lampang and Chiang Rai. The project began mainly by providing scholarships for disadvantaged children. There was also a vocational-skills centre for children and their families. The staff followed up these families and supported the development of alternative careers based on their lives in the communities. However, a lack of manpower and funding impeded the implementation of the project.

However, the support provided by ECPAT/Taksvarkki has enabled the Life Quality Development Project to Prevent Child Prostitution. This project focuses on creating awareness of children and women entering the commercial sex industry. It also presents possible solutions to this problem. Their philosophy is that everyone needs to work together so that the target

group is able to survive and so that there is a network of children, families and communities. Before working with ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project, the staff at the Life Quality Development Project to Prevent Child Prostitution discovered that the youth from the lowland areas, within the project region, thought that working to improve one's family situation was more important than having higher education. Many young girls went to work in the city after they finished primary school. Some became sex workers, as their now wealthy neighbours did before them. Some decided to work because they were poor, but others simply wanted more material goods. Some children were pressured by their parents to repay a debt. Some had sex with their boyfriends out of wedlock, which resulted in a feeling of impurity, so they decided to become prostitutes. A lack of information about child prostitution is another reason that children enter sex work. Others have parents that are addicted to drugs, so the children are encouraged to become prostitutes to provide money.

Objectives

1. To stop children at risk in the target area from being deceived or forced to enter the commercial sex industry.
2. To develop skills and attitudes for children and families in order to eradicate sexual exploitation and to respect other people.
3. To support community groups to solve their problems and reduce sexual exploitation in the community.
4. To support housewife groups and young women's group by providing training on making handicrafts and sewing in order to earn additional income.
5. To create a network among government and non-government organisations that opposes the commercialisation of sex with women and children.

Project Team

The staff of the YMCA foundation implemented this project. They were divided into two teams, as follows:

1. A policy team, which consisted of the executive committee and the head of the development section of the YMCA in Bangkok. They were the consultants who controlled the direction of the fieldwork. They were also responsible for the budget, and co-ordinated with government organisations.
2. A fieldwork team, which consisted of the staff at YMCA Bangkok and Phayao. They were

responsible for planning and implementing project activities, designing appropriate curricula and strategies for the target group, following up with the projects, and evaluating them. This team was responsible for the accounting and finance. The administration audited these financial accounts and reported every three months.

Work Experience with Children and Youth

YMCA Bangkok Foundation, Phayao branch implemented the Life Quality Development Project for Northern Children and Families for many years before working with ECPAT/Taksvarkki. Most members of the staff had experience in development work with children and communities. They had worked on sexual rights issues for more than three years. Training on issues related to the project was provided.

Target Groups

Of the areas that the project was implemented, 70% were in hill-tribe communities. The target groups were divided into three groups of children and two groups of adults.

1. There were 49 children with scholarships in the YMCA shelter. They included Lisu, Mong, Mien, Ahka as well as lowland Thais. In September 1999, there were 39 children in the formal school system and 10 children from villages in Chiang Rai, Lampang and Phayao Districts. The criteria for selection of students for scholarships were:
 - 1.1. A member of the child's family or a neighbour used to be a sex worker.
 - 1.2. They were at risk for being sexually abused or had been abused.
 - 1.3. Children whose parents have attitudes that might encourage them to become prostitutes.
 - 1.4. Children that come from villages where many women have become sex workers.
 - 1.5. Children from broken families.
 - 1.6. Children without Thai citizenship, a birth register or other documents.
 - 1.7. Children who drop out of school or do not take their studies seriously, or those not attending school and not working.
 - 1.8. Children 8 to 18 years old.
 - 1.9. Children from poor families.
2. Eighty children were selected to receive a scholarship from the project.
3. About 70 children who were at risk and who also lived in one of the seven communities

participated in the project activities. The staff also worked with the teachers in these areas.

4. About 400 parents of these scholars, both in formal and non-formal education, received information about child rights and sexual rights. Information on income generation was also available. About 10,000 women in the target areas learned about reproductive health issues.
5. Teachers from nine schools and 12 community leaders in the target areas created a network through which they could communicate and continue to work together.

Activities

1. Providing children with the following activities:
 - 1.1. Monthly follow up visits to the families of the scholarship students.
 - 1.2. Meetings held twice a year, providing information about the progress of the communities and families of the scholarship students.
 - 1.3. Continuous follow up and co-ordination with families, schools and community leaders.
 - 1.4. Creation of a children's council to encourage leadership and develop the self-confidence needed to make their own decisions and solve problems by themselves.
 - 1.5. Promotion of different cultures to install ethnic pride.
2. Providing training for the children in the formal education system, such as embroidery, sewing, cooking, and other job skills for children who are not able to continue studying.
3. Training to develop life skills for the children and to create an understanding of sexual rights and leadership. The work process included training sessions and camps to provide information about reproductive health and sex education. Also included were a field trip to learn about a typical teenager's life in the city, a camp to produce media materials on preventing child prostitution and child abuse. The children were responsible for managing the campaign activities in their areas.
4. Working with the communities to promote sustainable and alternative agriculture for families, such as fruit tree and integrated farming. Training on pesticides and their dangers to health, herbs for agriculture, and agriculture on the high lands were provided. The project also supported a revolving fund for alternative agriculture.
5. Creating a network among government and non-government organisations at the local level for preventing child prostitution and sexual exploitation in three provinces of the upper northern area.

Community Theatre Project on Issues of Preventing the Child Sex Trade in the Northern Thai Region

By the Community Theatre Group, Chiang Mai

The community theatre project is a drama group established in Chiang Mai in 1996. They believe that “drama” is an alternative that allows audiences and the performer to learn from each other. They believe that the power of drama offers not only fun but influences the development of learning, vision, feeling, mind, attitude, personality and taste on adjusting to appropriate human behaviour. The main activities of the project are; 1) Drama training for youth and people development and 2) Mobile performance for the youth, the community and street theatre.

Objectives

1. To install appropriate attitudes toward prostitution for the youth and children.
2. To set up 14 local community theatre groups in eight provinces in northern Thailand.

Project Team

There was only six staff in the project. There was the leader of the project and a staff member who worked in the field and took care of the office. Four volunteers worked directly in the field to set up the youth theatre groups in the target areas. The project focused on teamwork. They always worked in remote areas. The number of the staff was very important because all of them had to fit together in one van with equipment and materials. The team had to be flexible but active.

Activities

The community theatre project was the only project that had the opportunity to work with the four other project-partners in the three provinces; Chiang Rai, Lamphoon and Phayao. The project also worked in Mae Hong Son, Lampang, Nan, Tak and Chiang Mai. There were two groups of activities:

1. Drama Training for Youth Development: The team went to each area 14 times to work with children to set up 14 theatre groups. Training was provided for the children. An evaluation was conducted after establishing the youth theatre groups. The following are details of the work process.
 1. Co-ordinated with people and organisations in the target area.

2. Selected areas and target groups.
 3. Conducted training of drama process for development; ice breaking, building the relationship and unity in the children's group, seeking the potential or the expertise of children and introducing basic drama.
 4. Introduced the project and team to the people in the areas, built up relationships with parents and communities.
 5. Trained children about issues.
 6. Provided other skills and drama techniques.
 7. Illustrated local wisdom and children's problems through drama.
 8. Evaluated continuously.
1. The Mobile theatre performed the "House Behind the Flag", which was produced by gathering information from children, parents, teachers and villagers. The story showed another side of northern young girls' lives who become sex workers. Some came home with HIV. The performance was showed 30 times in eight target provinces and in Bangkok.

Five Target Areas

1. Drug areas that had a high number of users and sellers.
2. Areas where the villagers do not have land and their children lack the opportunity to study.
3. Areas where women in the past have been sex workers and where communities accept prostitution.
4. In urban areas where children and youth have problems such as with broken families, sexual abuse and street children.
5. The border area where migrant children come to work in Thailand.

New Path Project

By Lampon Women and Youth Project, Pasang District, Lampon

Local volunteers established the Lampon Women and Youth Project. They have worked on prevention and support of disadvantaged children since 1991 by providing scholarships to poor students. It also taught students about AIDS, child prostitution, labour law, child and women rights, and the environment. The team realised that there were children and youth at risk of

entering into the sex trade. Pasang district is not far from an industrial area. The villagers are poor and agriculture is their main income. Teenagers who stop studying early are likely to go to work in the factory. Lamphoon has a high number of AIDS patients. This could reflect the fact that some children and youth might be involved in the sex trade either as buyers or sellers. Besides, there are other kinds of problems that might force the children into prostitution such as materialism, drugs, pressure from the media or friends, family problems and sexual abuse.

Objectives

1. To raise awareness, preventing and solving children's rights violation and child prostitution.
2. To ensure that children's attitudes are based on the values of the local culture so that they are able to protect themselves.
3. To strengthen the children's organisation in order that children can prevent themselves and their communities from rights violation and child prostitution.

Project Team

This organisation was established by local people who included a project's leader, a project co-ordinator, administrator and four volunteers who were teachers in the target areas. The project works closely with the teachers and schools. The project leader's house is also the office and the centre for children and youth. Group discussions, training on job skills and other activities were arranged for the children and parents in the area.

Activities

The project co-operated with people and organisations through the following:

1. Co-ordinated with organisations in the province, district and sub-districts in the target areas, also the leaders of the communities, women, children, youth and teachers in the target schools. Organised seminars, training and meetings to exchange experiences and analyse the situation on child prostitution issues in Lamphoon and Thailand.
2. Selected the target children using project volunteers who were teachers, women and children leaders in the target areas.
3. Provided a budget of about 10,000 baht to each target secondary school and 5,000 baht for the primary schools. Each school sent a project proposal on campaigning in the school about child prostitution and prevention.
4. Arranged classes in seven target schools on the situation of child prostitution, sexual

exploitation, self-protecting, preparing for the future and the laws of prostitution and child rights.

5. Appropriate activities for the target children such as vocational skills, through an information centre and drama training.
6. Meetings and seminars for parents of the target children to ask for their co-operation, report the progress of their children and the situation of child prostitution.
7. Training for children once a year, the first year on child prostitution and the second year to exchange the lesson-learned with the seven target children group.
8. Followed up and evaluated the project by visiting the target children and volunteers.

Target Group

The target group was children from seven villages and seven schools in Pasang and Lee District, Lamphoon. The process of selecting the children were based on the following details:

1. The volunteers who were teachers and community leaders selected the children at risk.
2. Some schools invited students who were interested to participate in the project, then selected the children most at risk to join the project. However, some children at risk were not interested and some parents did not want their children to participate.
3. Some children who were not considered at risk joined the project because of their friends. They participated with some project activities such as developing vocational skills.

Protection Hill-tribe Children from Sexual Exploitation Project

By the Hill Area Development Foundation

The foundation has worked to strengthen people's organisation in Mae Chan-Mae Salong watershed area since 1985. The organisation's activities focus on non-formal education and people's organisation in environment and natural resource conservation. The foundation realised the problems of hill-tribe children who have not received Thai citizenship. They have not been supported fully in education, legal matters, and thus lack the opportunity to develop skills to be able to protect themselves from the economic crisis and others social problems.

The hill-tribe communities lack land ownership, face problems of soil erosion, poor soil quality and low incomes. These problems mean that families are unable to send their children to school and most teenagers leave the village to work as labourers or temporary employees to help

their families. Some young girls have become sex workers and have come back to die at home with AIDS. The prostitution problem of hill-tribe women has been known for a long time. There are women who enter the sex trade voluntarily while others are deceived. Some parents sold their daughters to brokers who then sold them to brothels.

Objectives

1. Study the different factors that cause hill-tribe children to enter the sex trade.
2. To ensure that children develop skills to protect themselves from child prostitution.
3. To improve the quality of life of hill-tribe children.

Project Team

Three staff members were responsible for the ECPAT/Taksvarkki project. All of them had been responsible for other foundation activities. Even though they had not worked on child prostitution they had worked with hill-tribe communities for a long time. They understand the cultures and ways of life of the hill-tribe people. Some are able to speak the local languages fluently and are accepted by the hill-tribe communities.

Activities

1. Study and analyse the different factors that cause hill-tribe children to enter the sex trade. A survey gained information from children aged 7-12 years old in four villages. Case studies were carried out of children who had entered prostitution and of related persons such as parents, relatives, community leaders and village elders.
2. Prepare hill-tribe children if they go to work outside their communities.
3. Campaigning and information dissemination to students. Conducting 14 lessons on self-awareness for fourth and sixth-grade students.
4. Mobile education for the people in the target communities to provide them with information about child prostitution and on how children entering the commercial sex industry.
5. A family camp for Lisu, Lahu and Ahka children and their parents. There were 82 people from 18 families who participated in this activity.
6. Training on child rights for women groups.
7. A vocational fund for children and youth to earn an income by making sweets, brooms and raising cat fish.

8. The foundation and ECPAT/Taksvarkki co-ordination office together built up the network from various organisations in order to help children who had been sexually exploited in Chiang Rai.
9. Mobile training to build skills and children organisations was conducted by Wide Rainbow Group with ECPAT/Taksvarkki co-ordination office of Chiang Rai.

Target Group

In the beginning of the project the project team expected to work in 27 villages and seven schools. Later it was reduced to four villages and an extension school in Pa Tung sub-district, Mae Chan district, Chiang Rai. The target groups are children aged between 7-18 years old of Ahka, Lisu, and Lahu background who might be at risk of entering into prostitution.

Academic Advisory Team

By the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University

Three persons from the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University composed an advisory team for the partner projects for two years. The team advised on project proposals, report writing and evaluation. They gathered information to write the lessons-learnt report of ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project by visiting the project areas and discussing with teams and target groups of each project once a year. Information in this report was also gathered from the partner project reports, documents, textbooks and related data. The advisory team had the opportunity to talk with the project teams, children in and outside the project, teachers, parents and related persons. There were four training sessions for the project teams: 1) Training on building an understanding of the project proposals about objectives, work process and evaluation; 2) Partner meeting on presenting the progress and evaluation of the project after the first year; 3) Training on writing the lessons-learnt report, and 4) Partner Meetings on presenting the lessons-learnt of each project.

Co-ordination Office of ECPAT/Taksvarkki, Chiang Rai

The role of the co-ordination office of ECPAT/Taksvarkki Prevention Project, Chiang Rai, was to co-ordinate with the project partners and to provide training and seminars to develop knowledge, experience and to produce the newsletter. It was the centre of information exchange and helped transfer children to the related organisation. The team followed up each project four to five times a year. In brief, ECPAT/Taksvarkki and the partner project shared the same goal of preventing

and solving child prostitution in the region.

Chapter 3

Lessons Learned from ECPAT/Taksvarkki Partner Projects

Project of Co-operation for Risk Prevention

By Teachers of Ban Huay Krai School, Mae Sai District, Chiang Rai

All project members were teachers from Ban Huay Krai School and that significantly helped facilitate the project management. The working team comprised of 15 of the 52 teachers who received permission from their director to implement the project under the school's name. The budget received from the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project assisted the teachers to undertake previously prepared activities. For instance, the budget was used to buy a cooking oven and kitchen tools to provide cooking lessons, as well as to provide costumes for children to join classical music performances and dramas as part of the project's activities. In the second year of the project the working team was able to integrate the project's activities into the school curriculum, which assisted the participating teachers by reducing their workloads.

An important lesson from this project is that key figures, such as the school director, school administrators and other teachers not directly involved in the project should be informed about the project's details. Throughout the first year of the project, the working team spent too much time explaining to their colleagues that their participation in the project did not give them extra benefits. The project consisted of various activities, which took a lot of the team member's time. Throughout the first and the second year there were several meetings organised by the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Co-ordinator and the Academic Advisory Team. The meetings required the key project members to leave their classes forcing other teachers to replace them, creating complaints from the teachers not involved in the project. Most of the project members worked extra hours to catch up with their regular work and often became discouraged as they felt that the project placed too high expectations on them. The lack of time did not allow the project members to be able to monitor the activities properly. The lack of time also prohibited the teachers to complete the expected activities within the given period.

During the two-year project the working team learnt that to successfully achieve the project's objectives, they needed to communicate with other teachers about the project details, and that they needed to receive strong support from the school administrators. Also, as the

project aimed to promote life-skill education all the teachers in the school needed to receive adequate knowledge and training about this topic. Building trust was important to allow the students to openly discuss problems with their teachers, thus the teachers needed to know how to keep the students' private information confidential. Although the working team worked closely with students considered to be in a high-risk group, it was impossible to predict whether or not these students would enter the sex trade. On the other hands, students not considered to be at risk may later be at risk if their situation changed. Thus to prevent the school students from entering the sex trade, the project working team perceived that it was important to work with all students. Life skill education was used to promote self-confidence and to prevent students being trapped in any kind of social problem, not only prostitution.

Life Quality Development Project to Prevent Child Prostitution

By YMCA Bangkok, Phayao Branch.

YMCA had prior experience working on projects preventing child prostitution and thus the project started with clear objectives and a manageable plan of action. The backup support received from the project advisors based in Bangkok helped frame the project with a systematic work plan. Most project team members lived with the children at the youth development centre which allowed the team members to have regular brain storming sessions to monitor the project closely. Their close contacts with people in the communities helped facilitate the project co-ordination.

In terms of the project's barriers, a large number of the target groups were hill-tribe children who lived in remote areas. The project members were not able to communicate with the children effectively even though some project members were able to speak the different languages. Some target areas were far and difficult to reach by car and there were not enough cars for frequent visits, which led to inconsistent co-ordination with people in some remote areas. Some villages had major drug problems creating dangers for the project workers. Furthermore, the working team found that various hill-tribes had different cultural values, which meant different approaches were needed. The patriarchy belief dominated in most hill-tribes made it difficult to deal with sexual assaults, as the ways that the hill-tribe communities wanted to solve these problems were different from that proposed by the project members. It was difficult to introduce concepts about individual's rights as the target groups and the working team had different values. It was learned that it is important to work closely with men as well to promote mutual understandings

and to fill-in the gap between sexes, which would help prevent sexual exploitation of children and women.

Community Theatre Project on Issues of Preventing the Child Sex Trade in the Northern Thai Region

By the Community Theatre Group, Chiang Mai

The Community Theatre Group comprised of a small working group travelling to target areas with everything loaded in a van, enabling them to travel to out of reach areas. Drama was used not only to entertain audiences, but also to communicate with communities through the participation of their children. It helped raise awareness about social problems, particularly issues related to child prostitution and the sexual exploitation of children. The attempt to promote local youth drama groups reflected the project's goal to introduce drama as a tool to work with communities.

One of the main problems for project implementation was that the target areas were spread out in eight different provinces, which required the project members to spend a lot of time co-ordinating with local contact persons. Communication was difficult in some areas, as they could not be reached by phone. Sometimes the target areas were not well prepared thus the working team needed to spend more time preparing the target groups before implementing the project activities.

The geographic spread of the target areas made it difficult for the working team to cover all areas successfully. Even after reducing the number of target areas, it was still demanding for the working team to establish and monitor 11 youth drama groups located in different areas. Moreover, the working team themselves had to perform 30 rounds of a play called "Baan Lung Tung" or a house on the hill in eight provinces. The working team was overworked with frequent travel and acting duties and their active participation in the running of the project.

Other problems faced by the working team were that they were unable to communicate with the different hill-tribes effectively, even though one of the team members is a hill-tribe member herself. Some people, as well as parents of the children in the target areas, did not fully understand why children should participate in the project activities, thus it was difficult to convince older children to participate as their parents required them to help with farming or

housework. A number of areas approached had a serious drug problem, which prevented the working team from working closely with these communities. Some areas had little exposure to outsiders thus making it difficult to establish a relationship in a short time. Therefore, it was learnt that to encourage active participation of the people the working team needed to spend time familiarising themselves with the people before activities could be introduced directly to the children. Local organisations or local schools were often used as the co-ordinating centre for the project prior to the arrival of the team. However, it was found that the local co-ordinators often had their own interest in participating, which was not necessarily the project's goal. For instance, many participating schools hoped that their students would be more professional in providing entertainment to the public, which was not the project's objective.

Another lesson from the project was the development of tools to monitor the project's achievements. Questionnaires were developed to assess the project's success by asking children participating in the plays and audiences attending the plays. Nevertheless, such approach was new to the project members who felt that the task was too demanding, and required a lot of their time to collect and analyse the data.

New Path Project

By Lampoon Women and Youth Project, Pasang District, Lampoon

The New Path Project was unique as many government officials volunteered to take part in the project. Many volunteers were local teachers. As all project members were from the target communities, they were well perceived by the people making it easy to implement the project. The house of the project leader was turned into a youth centre so children in the area could spend their free time together and also to learn various activities organised by the project members. Nevertheless, the target areas were spread out in seven villages and seven schools but the youth centre was only established at the house of the project leader. Children in the other areas lacked an appropriate place equipped to promote their activities.

The disperse locations of the project made it difficult to co-ordinate the project as a whole. The project volunteers could not be fully responsible for the project activities even though all of them were highly dedicated to the project. However, each volunteer had their own interest and approaches how to work with children. The lack of a full-time staff member led to the inability to

monitor the project effectively. In remote areas the project activities totally relied on volunteers who received only a small sum of money to implement activities. They also received little recognition from the core project team, their roles as part of the project team were not promoted.

It was found that the project staff lacked experience. Only the project leader had experience working with people in the community. The two other staff members in the project lacked experience in program management, even though they were monitoring the project. The volunteers who were monitored by them did not feel comfortable and conflicts occurred. Thus the selection of the project staff was crucial to the project success. In addition, frequent discussions among the project members were needed to minimise miscommunications, conflicts and to ensure information sharing on how to deal with problems in different settings. Although the project had a large number of project members as shown in Appendix D, many of them were not able to actively contribute.

It was found that a large number of children and parents were interested to participate in the project. However, children at risk were not able to participate in the project actively, as they often had to work for their parents. Thus children participating in the project were those less likely to face social problems. However, these children were promoted to be the youth leaders with a hope that they would help strengthen their peers.

Protection Hill-tribe Children from sexual Exploitation Project

By the Hill Area Development Foundation

Three staff members from the Hill Area Development Foundation were responsible for the project. All of them had a long experience working with the hill-tribes people in the area and were able to communicate in the local languages. They were known to the local people and were well accepted by the community even in areas known to have drug problems. The Foundation's history of working in the area of development was a strong supporting factor for the project's implementation. Further, a network of local youth volunteers helped with the project. However, the main problem was that those targeted by the project often moved out of the area looking for work, which made it difficult to maintain the project's continuity.

The major challenge for the project was to prevent young hill-tribe males and females from

leaving the community to earn their livings elsewhere, which was a common practice. The young women remaining in the village were those getting married at very young ages. For single people, it was a challenge to go away and return home with success and money. It is a dream for the children to leave the community when they grow up. They admire those returning home with their different looks. Nevertheless, many hill-tribe children were taken advantage when working, receiving low wages, if any. Others were frightened that their employers would turn them to the police. Although it is assumed that some young hill-tribe females were pressured into prostitution, it is unclear whether they actually did so. Nevertheless, the project's attempts to promote their income with occupational training, providing information and taking them on tours of high risk areas were not enough to make them stay in the communities. It was important for the young people to earn enough money to support their families. To work outside the community was still highly attractive despite the risks encountering them. Thus the project's strategy was later modified to help strengthen the young people to prevent them from being taken advantage, particularly for young women entering prostitution against their will. As the young people often moved in and out of the villages it was hard to target them. Thus the project in the second year aimed to deal with school students instead.

As the project members were also responsible for others Foundation's responsibilities, they were often frustrated and pressured to successfully implement the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project. A problem was that they were working in an area that they lacked prior experience. Therefore, the implementation of the ECPAT/Taksvarkki was later integrated into the Foundation's other activities so they were not over worked. However, their work plan lacked reviews to adjust the activities according to the limited resources they had.

To deal with the issue of child sexual exploitation, the project staff comprised of two men and one woman. However, the male staff could not work closely with the female target groups on this issue. The male staff should work closely with young men to find out about their attitudes about the sexual exploitation of women and to find ways to develop appropriate values about women.

Academic Advisory Team

By the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University

Three academic experts from the Institute for Population and Social Research, Mahidol University assisted in transferring the project's lessons learned. Although they were approached

to work in the project from the beginning, they were not part of the steering committee that selected the five project proposals for funding. Thus it was not clear what criteria were used to select the ECPAT/Taksvarikki Partner Projects. A review of submitted proposals found that most project proposals lacked clear objectives and it was unclear how the project could be implemented. It was learned later that the selection committee selected projects in which organisations had skills and experience dealing with child prostitution. Due to the lack of indication on how to monitor the project, the Academic Advisory Team proposed four meetings/workshops to allow the different projects to share their lessons while providing information about program monitoring and evaluation. The information obtained from these meetings and visits made to each project were used to compose this report.

There were a few obstacles between the Academic Advisory Team and the Partner Projects. Firstly, they had different orientations, which made it difficult to learn from each other in a short time. Nevertheless, the frequent meetings organised by the ECPAT/Taksvarikki Co-ordination Office helped them learn from each other. The Partner Projects were able to adopt the information gained from the Advisory Team to strengthen their projects, such as to review their project proposals to make it clearer, to develop the program monitoring and evaluation strategies, and to discuss how to share their project's lessons. Secondly, the Advisory Team lacked time to be with the Partner Projects as they were not from northern Thailand. Communication through the Internet, although useful, did not help to facilitate close discussion among the projects. Thirdly, the different projects were not clear about the role of the Advisory Team who often asked them to clarify some issues during field visits. They perceived that the Advisory Team was monitoring the projects, while the Advisory Team believed that they needed clarifications to make the project implementation clearer to outsiders. It took time to solve conflicts between the two parties.

Co-ordination Office of ECPAT/Taksvarikki, Chiang Rai

The ECPAT/Taksvarikki Project was the first time that ECPAT International took part in co-ordinating projects with people at the grass root level. The previous focus of ECPAT International was to raise awareness, work on policies and to work with organisations fighting child prostitution.

The budget received from Taksvarikki, Finland established the ECPAT/Taksvarikki Project.

The location of the office in Chiang Rai helped the Project Co-ordinator to respond quickly to the requests made by the partner groups. The Co-ordinator Office also promoted a network comprised of the partners and facilitated governmental and non-governmental interactions.

Each project was different forcing the Project Co-ordinator to be familiar about each project. The ability to link the five partner projects together was crucial in allowing the project members to work together even though they used different philosophies and approaches. Through the Co-ordination Office lessons were shared and projects were appropriately modified.

Each project was run differently and this required flexible management by the Co-ordination Office. Some projects were financially supported fully by ECPAT/Taksvarkki while other projects received only partial support, and were integrated into other organisations' activities.

The lack of adequate information given in the project proposals led to difficulties in the project implementation. Some projects adjusted their projects according to the mandate of their organisation in which the focus was not necessarily on preventing child prostitution. Several project's implementation was not in accord to the proposed budget, forcing other adjustments. Some projects lacked experience so it was difficult for them to handle the project properly. Nevertheless, the support given by the Co-ordination Office helped promote smooth adjustments. In a new phase of the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project it will be necessary to carefully select organisations or that will implement projects preventing child prostitution.

The Co-ordination Office had attempted to establish a local network of interested individuals and organisations to deal with the problem of sexual exploitation of girls and young women in the area. However, it has taken too long to establish the network and it is important to work with individuals who have a strong interest in this area. Members of the network need to share a common goal to deal with the problems together.

Conclusion

The Partner Projects taking part in the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project had different working backgrounds prior to project implementation. The information given in this chapter did not attempt to magnify the strengths or weaknesses of any particular project, as each project was unique. The YMCA project was able to implement their project more systematically than the other projects, as they had been working against child prostitution for several years prior to this project. The Huay Krai School Project was implemented by a group of teachers. Their ability to

implement the project was limited by their role as teachers within the framework of the school's administration. The New Path Project had prior experience in working with children. However, their project was located in an area where local people did not strongly perceive that child prostitution was a serious problem so it was difficult to convince people to participate in the project. The Hill-Area Development Project was dealing mainly with hill-tribes children using a community-based approach. The Community Theatre Project was able to develop a nine-step working process as the project outcome. The lessons from the different partner projects will be beneficial for future projects in the fight against child prostitution.

Chapter 4

Lessons Learned from Main Project Activities

Overall Achievements of the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project

Although each project had specific objectives, all shared a common goal preventing child prostitution. One of the main achievements was to push groups of people to work for this goal. It led to the establishment of a network of local people in the Upper-North provinces working to prevent child prostitution and child sexual exploitation. The development of this network, comprised of people with different skills and backgrounds, clearly showed the success of the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project. Continuing these projects will help prevent child prostitution in the project areas. These groups were able to assess the current situation of child prostitution and to develop appropriate strategies to deal with the changing situation. It can be said that the support given by the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project has laid a strong foundation for future work in this area.

The results of a brainstorming session after the project completion suggested the following outputs and outcomes.

Outputs

- No child participating in the project entered into prostitution.
- An understanding of the problems and factors encouraging children to enter prostitution.
- Participation between individuals and organisations helped prevent child prostitution.
- Teamwork development was crucial.
- Established a network of people to fight child prostitution.

Outcomes

- Individuals or groups of individuals are interested to continue working in this area.
- Established networks of local people who are interested to work against the sexual exploitation of children in various forms.
- Established a network of local NGOs who share the same common goals.
- Familiarised children, parents and community leaders, which will help with a better co-ordination in the future.
- The project lessons will be disseminated to those interested.

Current Situations Which May Influence Children to Enter Prostitution

Amphetamine addiction

All the projects found that amphetamine addiction was a serious problem. The situation in some areas, particularly those along the Thai-Myanmar border, was so severe that there were dangers to the project workers if they stayed there too long. Amphetamine addiction and trade was also common among school students. Addicted parents created family conflicts, arguments, and domestic violence, often forcing their children to earn money to buy drugs. Some children were pressured to quit school to help earn money possibly forcing some daughters into prostitution. Moreover, it was found that several drug addicts were children who consequently became delinquents and who would do anything to earn money, placing themselves at risk of being sexually exploited.

Gambling

Gambling is a way of life for several hill-tribes. It was popular among all kinds of people even among children. Some families have been forced to sell everything to pay their debts. Gambling was often accompanied by drug addiction creating unpleasant living conditions for children. Some children were living in dysfunctional families creating pressures for them to leave home. They could be easily persuaded to leave the community or to enter prostitution due to a lack of awareness. Nevertheless, it was learned that if the community had a strong internal network, problems of gambling and drug addiction could be minimised by people in the community themselves.

Sexual engagement and sexual exploitation of children

One reason forcing young women to enter prostitution was that they had a sexual relationship at a young age or they were sexually exploited as a child. All project members agreed that school students were increasingly likely to engage in sexual relations. However, the conservative attitude that “men gain and women lose” after having sex is still dominant in Thai society. Sexual assaults of girls, either by strangers or their relatives, were another problem that the project working team had struggled to solve. Thus almost every project provided information about sexual rights and child rights to their target groups. The aim was to raise awareness among young children that nobody could invade their body against their will. The Co-ordination Office organised a workshop to provide knowledge in this area to the project members. The case study below was

used to introduce knowledge to children about sexual rights.

A young girl aged 13 years old who appeared to be mildly mental retarded often complained to her friends that *“I don’t know what to do. My dad often helps me to get dressed. Actually I can do it myself. Dad often helps scrub the skin for me when taking a shower”*

The above case was used in a brainstorm exercise with children. The children perceived that the girl was being physically exploited and that her father should no longer touch her even if he did it as a routine job since she was young. The girl probably feels embarrassed and wishes that her father would not do this. She may grow up to be a paranoid person and may lack trust in men or in developing close relationships with them. The girl might not feel comfortable when she is at home. Nevertheless, it may be implied that in this case the father acted inappropriately as he lacked knowledge of the girl’s physical development.

Children and materialism

In the past poverty and the need for basic material possessions had often forced young females into prostitution. Nevertheless, the project team members agreed that children today had grown up surrounded with people greatly appreciating wealth and materials goods. This had made people struggle to earn more money regardless of how they did so. Some young children wanted to buy brand name products and they spent money more than they had. Some children participating in the project received scholarships from the project, as they were disadvantaged; however, some of them spent the money to buy clothes or cosmetics instead of using it to support their education. Further, some parents borrowed the scholarship money from their children to pay debts. Materialism could easily persuade children to enter prostitution voluntarily.

A wide-discussed issue in Thai society nowadays is the concern about the willingness of students to sell sex in exchange of money. Students selling sex are not necessarily from poor families, but they tend to overspend on clothing or entertainment. However, strategies dealing with this form of prostitution will be different from those used to prevent young women in rural areas who are pressured into prostitution against their will. Income generation activities such as cooking, handicraft making, or farming, which were introduced as alternative means to prevent children entering prostitution, would not be attractive to those who enter prostitution because of their high spending lifestyles.

Factors Related to Sexual Exploitation of Children

Selling daughters

Selling daughters for prostitution was a known phenomenon in the Upper-North provinces. Information obtained from the communities and the project members dealing with hill-tribe communities suggested that in the past few years, a small number of people in the area allowed their daughters to leave the community with an agent in exchange of money. The girls were easily pressured into prostitution. Some of the parents may not have been fully aware that the agent could pressure their daughter into prostitution. Some may have been aware but they lacked alternatives to earn a living. Very few families sold their daughter directly to owners of sex establishments for money. It is important to note that during the project implementation between 1998-2000 not one girl in the target groups was sold into prostitution.

Internet: A new danger for children

One factor possibly placing children at risk but had been left out of the ECPAT/Taksvarkki project was the Internet, which may be placing urban children at risk of being sexually exploited. Presently, Thailand lacks strategies to handle the dangers caused by the Internet to children. The exposure of children to the Internet allows them to communicate to many strangers and their lack of communication experience may place them at risk. Thus it is important to raise awareness among the project members particularly those working with urban children so that they are aware of the risk that the children may be exposed to.

Homeless children

The number of homeless children has increased in the past few years and they are targets of sexual exploitation. Some of these children are from neighbouring countries and lack skills placing them at risk of sexual exploitation. They tend to earn their living by selling flowers, polishing shoes, begging, or selling sex. Nevertheless, as homeless children mainly live in urban areas ECPAT/Taksvarkki had not been able to work with them even though the Community Theatre had tried to work with street children in Chiang Mai. However, the lack of trust with strangers prevented them from participating in the project continuously.

Children at Risk of Prostitution

All project teams agreed that the following groups of children were at risk of prostitution and should be given priority:

- Children coming from communities in which people perceive prostitution simply as another kind of occupation for women. For these children entering prostitution is a way to show their debt of gratitude to their parents
- Children who have friends or relatives working as prostitutes
- Children who are drug addicts or sell drugs, or those coming from families or communities with drug problems
- Children coming from problem families such as those whose parents are separated, orphaned children, children living with stepparents, children from poor families, those with a many of siblings or those from families with domestic violence
- Children who have strong materialistic values
- Children who have been sexually exploited or those living in situations that place them at risk of being so
- Children who engage in sexual relations at a young age
- Hill-tribes children who lack Thai nationality
- Homeless children

Analysis of Main Project Activities

Providing seminars, meetings and workshops

All the partner projects organised meetings, held training sessions and workshops so to raise awareness and ensure that the children had appropriate attitudes about their own lives. It provided a forum for the children to share their opinions openly and to learn from each other. Nevertheless, it was found that the selection of participants for these activities should be based on their age, sex, education, previous experience and that the core objective of such meetings should be clearly stated so that a mutual understanding could be shared. Providing information to the children should be participatory so to stimulate children's thinking. The expected outputs from the activity must be clear to all participating members well before the implementation of the activity.

Prevention campaigns

The campaigns used in the project were implemented in two different ways; one by children and the other by project staff members in co-operation with related organisations. Students in the Huay Krai Project organised a radio program to broadcast daily at the school to raise awareness about various social problems. In addition, several campaigns were carried out during school hours. The YMCA trained children to become youth leaders who initiated prevention campaigns. The children in the Community Theatre Project introduced information through their plays. The New Path Project gave children opportunities to initiate campaigns together as a team. The Hill-Area Development Project disseminated information through billboards and discussions with small groups of people in the community.

Educational field visits

All projects provided field visits for children and their project staff so they could be exposed to different surroundings and to gain more knowledge. A parallel benefit was that the trips made the participants feel close to each other facilitating the project implementation. Nevertheless, the trip organiser needed to be clear about the objective of the trip so appropriate selection of participants could be made.

Youth camps

Youth camps gave children opportunities to exchange their opinions and to learn from each other. For instance the YMCA project focused on life skills to provide knowledge to the children on how to take care of themselves in harmful situations. Knowledge about reproductive health and hygiene was also given to them. For the Hill-Area Development Project children from five different villages were brought together for various activities. The Co-ordination Office also held a youth camp for children representing each project so their voices and opinions could be heard and shared.

Promotion of family values

All projects implemented activities to strengthen family values. For instance, the Huay Krai Project organised activities to strengthen family ties for children at risk and their parents. Parents and children received knowledge about child sexual exploitation and shared their ideas about ways to prevent it. Teachers participating in these activities had a better awareness about the family

problems of their students. Other projects provided home visits to learn more about their living conditions and to make the students feel close and turn to them when they had problems.

Dissemination of information children

All projects disseminated information to the children through various activities. For instance, adding discussions about social problems with students during an occupational training. Information about child prostitution, sexual exploitation of children, sexual rights and child rights were also included. Nevertheless, how much the children learnt was not adequately assessed.

Occupation training

Occupational training was a main activity for all the projects, except for the Community Theatre Project. The training included how to make handicrafts, clothes, fertilisers, flowers, how to cook, farm and to run fish and bird farms. However, each project had different objectives in providing occupational training. Some projects gave training to children and to their parents so as to increase their occupational skills and thus their incomes. Others provided occupational training so as to provide a forum for children to discuss particular issues. However, this was unknown to the children, so they did not pay attention to the discussions. Most income generating activities introduced to the target group did not provide adequate supplement income to them. Often, the participants requested the project staff to produce other products hoping that they could earn more money. It was learnt that occupational training should be provided if it was in the interest of the group, that there was the investment to undertake new activities, that there are available raw materials, a market need, skills to produce the products, and management skills.

Each project had a different way to financially support the occupational training. Some projects directly provided the training; others lent money to the participants after completing the training so they could use their newly acquired knowledge to initiate a supplementary occupation. Further, some projects combined occupational training with a small library or an advisor to give specific information to the students.

Promotion of cultural values

The project teams believed that it was important to promote the local cultures. Various kinds of activities were introduced, for instance, the New Path Project provided classes for children to

play traditional music. The Huay Krai Project motivated children to make merit with the monks, their parents and senior people. Also included was traditional self-defence for boys and traditional dancing for girls. Some projects took the children to visit historic places such as the old Thai capitals to motivate their interest in Thai culture. The children also participated in community festivals, performing plays to raise awareness about community problems.

Leadership building

All projects promoted leadership skills for the children. The Huay Krai Project selected 27 students who were considered to be at risk of entering child prostitution to receive training to become youth leaders. They were expected to work closely with the teachers to provide life skill education to junior students. However, the younger students did not perceive these students to be good role models. The YMCA project supported the children to run a Children Council, a forum adopted by the children living at the YMCA Youth Development Centre to look after themselves with their own administration.

Project Self-Monitoring and Evaluation

The following methods were used by various projects to monitor and evaluate their projects.

Methods	New Path	Community Theatre	Hill Area	Huay Krai	YMCA
1. Family survey			/		/
2. Staff meetings	/	/	/	/	/
3. Observation	/	/	/	/	/
4. Case studies			/	/	
5. Baseline data collection	/	/	/	/	/
6. Informal discussions	/	/	/	/	/
7. Meetings, training, or workshops	/	/	/	/	/
8. Progress Reports	/	/	/	/	/

Chapter 5

Summary and Recommendations

The ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project comprised of seven partner projects with more than 30 staff members working closely for two years to prevent child prostitution in the Upper-Northern provinces of Thailand. Based on the shared lessons learnt throughout the project what follows is a summary of the various activities and recommendations for the next phase of the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project.

5.1 Overall Picture of the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project

- The ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project was a grass root movement preventing child prostitution and raising awareness about factors pushing children into prostitution.
- The ECPAT/Taksvarkki Partner Projects worked closely with individuals and organisations in Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Phayao and Lampoon. The target group was children, those younger than 18; mostly who were girls living in rural areas. More than half of the targeted children were in hill-tribe communities and the rest were those in rural areas, very few were urban children. The projects worked with both in school and out of school children. The projects also worked with related local organisations, teachers, parents and communities.
- The objectives of the projects could be divided by the target groups as follows:
 - Children and Youth**
 1. To protect children by introducing them to appropriate attitudes and values
 2. To prevent children from entering into prostitution whether it is voluntary or not
 3. To teach children appropriate occupations
 4. To develop the children's quality of life, and to promote their abilities
 - Children and Families**
 1. To promote love, understanding and good relations within the family
 2. To promote skills and attitudes that respect the children's prestige and confidence
 - Communities**
 1. To raise awareness about the problem of child prostitution in the local area
 2. To study and analyse the situation of child prostitution and ways to prevent it
 3. To minimise child sexual exploitation in the local area
 4. To promote volunteers and individuals to solve community problems

Network

1. To promote networks of related individuals and organisation in the area to prevent the violation of children rights and child sexual exploitation
 2. To promote a children's network to provide them the opportunity to share their voices and their opinions
- The operations of the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project comprised of various activities. Activities included formal and informal meetings, workshops, occupational training, scholarship support, field visits, home visits, youth and family camps, campaigning, and networking among related individuals and organisations. The Community Theatre Project served as a mobile team working with every project. All project staff promoted life skills education to help develop the children so they would have the self-confidence to make proper decisions when they were in crisis.
 - Although all projects implemented similar activities, there were management differences. Some projects implemented several activities without connecting them or carefully selecting the participants. The lack of participatory planning weakened their implementation. Thus their overall achievements were diluted. On the contrary, the partners with direct local experience were able to develop their projects successfully. Their action plans were frequently adjusted taking the views of all stakeholders.
 - A success of the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project was the establishment of networks of interested people and organisations to prevent and solve child prostitution. More than 30 persons from all projects worked jointly under the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project for two years sharing their experiences. The Co-ordination Office organised workshops and meetings for them four to five times a year so they had the opportunity to create their own forum to deal with child prostitution. The collection of insights obtained through this process enabled the partner projects to strengthen their activities.
 - Besides the network of partner projects within the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project, every partner established their own networks of individuals, communities and organisations. The YMCA Project successfully set-up a local network to deal with sexual exploitation problems in Phayao in the last six months of the project. The Co-ordination Office and the Hill-Area Development Project jointly initiated a similar network to deal with problems in Chiang Rai. The Community Theatre Project hoped that the children receiving training from them would

be able to set up a youth network in the Upper-Northern provinces. The New Path Project attempted to expand its network and the teachers in the Huay Krai Project shared their experiences with other schools.

- The ECPAT/Taksvarkki Co-ordination Office used a participatory approach to assist the running of the different projects. The co-ordination office not only provided funding but also participated in project planning and problem solving. From their close contacts with the different partners, plus spending time in the field with children, the project co-ordinators were flexible and made adjustments where needed.
- Another success of the ECPAT/Taksvarkki Project was the ability to raise awareness among local people about the problems of child prostitution. The project staff realised that child prostitution was caused by multiple factors not only poverty and inappropriate values. A major issue, that every project gave special attention to, was sexual assaults on children. All project staff agreed that this is an urgent issue, which needed immediate action. The abusers were likely to be those close to the children so it took time to find out the details of the attack from the children. Often in the past, the adults attempted to solve the problem among themselves, denying the abused child appropriate support and counselling. A major problem dealing with this was the lack of local organisation concerned with this problem. Thus it was learned that there should be a local network to help prevent and solve all kinds of child sexual exploitation not only child prostitution.
- Even though poverty and inappropriate values are the main factors forcing children into prostitution, the project teams agreed that other factors leading to child prostitution had changed significantly recently. There are increasing number of girls who voluntarily have sex in exchange of money. Also, homeless children in urban areas are at high risk of selling sex but it is difficult to approach them for preventive interventions as they often move. The popularity of the Internet among children could also place them at risk of exploitation. Thailand lacks a policy to effectively control the use of the Internet by children.
- The project achieved its main goal of preventing children entering prostitution. Not one child who participated in the projects entered into prostitution during the two years period of the project. It was, however, reported that two girls who had been involved in the project entered prostitution voluntarily. This represented an amazing success for the project as they were based in areas known to have children at high risk of becoming child prostitutes. Further, the

particular children selected to participated in the project were from high risk groups as they came from poor families, or families with particular problems, or had relatives who were sex workers. It is the view of the project members that without the projects a number of these children would have entered into prostitution. By participating with the projects the children were now able to prevent themselves from being taken advantage.

- Amphetamine addiction was found to be a major problem in all project areas. The eradication of amphetamines could not be done by the project but needs appropriate collaboration with related organisations.

5.2 Lessons about the roles and responsibilities of the partner projects

- At the start of the ECPAT/Taksvarkki project there was limited time to consider project proposals, most of which were unclear. It was necessary to improve and adjust their objectives as well as their substance several times during the projects. During the first year it was found that a number of work teams had different understandings with their leaders on how to carry out their projects. Some project volunteers and field-workers did not know their own work plans. They never read the project proposals or received any data about them. The clarity of the project proposals therefore should not be overlooked; instead it should be given importance to make sure that all the workers have a common understanding.
- Some participants may have had particular purposes to join the projects, which may not have been consistent with the projects' objectives. The core leaders and co-ordinators should review who is and why they are joining their teams. These cautionary measures would help prevent mental pressure as well as some conflicts.
- Every member of the working teams should understand the project objectives, meaning that colleagues at all levels should take part in the planning so that they know how they should manage or administer the project.
- Every one should be aware of their readiness, in regard to knowledge and basic interest, in solving child prostitution. They should have appropriate attitudes to deal with this problem and have skills and experiences in working with children.
- Those who work closely with children should possess suitable communication skills. This

does not mean only an ability to understand and speak local languages, but also an ability to communicate and build trust, so as to be accepted by the target groups. They should be good listeners and ardent observers. Besides, it is important that those who work closely with children in this field must be good at keeping secrets. Personal data of children must not be disclosed without due consideration, otherwise it would give negative impacts to the children themselves.

- Assignments given to individuals should be carefully considered so to match their knowledge, experiences, and interests.
- The vagueness in dividing roles, duties, and responsibilities could cause some performers to work poorly. They may lack knowledge and experiences needed for the job. These factors may cause them to be unacceptable to their colleagues, and cause a lack of precision in working with the target groups. This would create obstacles to the project operation.
- Personnel have to be responsible for many tasks. In some projects there were problems of linking together all the many tasks being carried out by the staff. Further, some workers already had their own regular duties adding to their burden. Such problems should be considered at the planning stage, right from the beginning, they should not be left unsolved.
- Project teams with too few staff attempting to carry numerous activities in different geographical areas should have extra staff provided or have their expected outcomes reduced.

5.3 Lessons and recommendations: Activities to prevent child prostitution

- Every project has worked to increase children's self-confidence and ability to make sound judgements, by using life skills and promoting children's rights. The projects should be participatory enabling the learners and teachers to jointly analyse the problems that occur in their daily lives.
- Working with the children in short bursts does not provide good results. Promoting children's rights and self-confidence takes time and must be done continually to ensure changes. To let the children partake in activities only once or twice in short periods would not help them.
- Sexual violation against children is a crucial issue that every project must give importance to.

Each project would have its own way of doing this. Some projects promoted children's rights to children individually others to groups. Sometimes the children may have memorised their rights without proper understanding them. Some other projects promoted children's rights systematically by holding training sessions and providing stages for them to exchange their opinions.

- To present information solely on child prostitution was felt by some to be boring. Messages about the dangers of child prostitution need to be carefully presented using numerous sources and actors to ensure that it is understood. Respected people such as senior members of the community need to participate so that those at risk here from them of the dangers of this type of sexual exploitation.
- Child educational funds were successful, although changes need to be made. Some children did not use the funds for their education buying personal items unnecessarily. In some other cases guardians took the children's money for their own use.
- It was found that children's behaviour during school hours and out of school hours differed. Activities should also be arranged for them during weekends and during holidays so that they use their free time constructively. Some guardians, especially those of older children, expected their children to help earn money while they were not in school, placing them at risk of child prostitution.
- Drama could be used as a communication medium effectively with children. However, a problem with this program was that they had to travel constantly, meaning that they were in communities only for short periods. They should be there longer and the activities should be sustained. To reduce the areas they were in would lessen travel, enabling them to study the communities more comprehensively.
- More importance should be given to the roles of women and families, especially among hill-tribe groups where male-domineering attitudes prevail. Women have not been accepted to be decision-makers regarding important family issues. Attitudes of community people should be gradually changed to accept equality between the two sexes.
- Preventing child prostitution calls for co-operation from individuals and organisations. A network is therefore needed for co-ordinating various branches of work that is being carried

out by agencies and local organisations to assure continuity. Every project should have a clear understanding how it fits into that network and how their members do so. Each organisation should provide clear documentation about their functions and various activities.

5.4 Lessons and recommendations: Occupational training

Objectives: To provide vocational training to children to provide them with new choices.

Targeted groups: Children, guardians, housewives and family heads.

Types: Duck raising, fish raising, quail raising, mushroom planting, dress making, embroidery, hair dressing, Thai sweets making, broom making, batik clothes producing, fertiliser making, running co-operative stores.

- Some of the participating children in these vocational training courses have come with purposes inconsistent with the work teams' intentions. Some children joined the courses because they hoped to earn money as a compensation for their sacrifices for joining the project. The managers of such activities, however, aimed to use the vocational training to bring children together so as to provide an opportunity to teach them the dangers of child prostitution. The children found the activities boring and refused to join them regularly.
- No vocational training definitely improved real incomes. Many training courses resulted in losses, partly due to a lack of experience on the part of the managing teams. They did not possess enough knowledge to carry out the project successfully. To provide successful vocational training it is necessary to ask for co-operation of the people who directly earn their living by such occupations.
- To choose a vocational training course, the interest of the trainee should be given due importance, as well as the marketability of trained persons in such fields. The possibility of getting local raw materials for use in the training activities is also of extreme importance.
- Children entering into prostitution voluntarily have increased, while the use of force by guardians and the practice of Tok Kiew have decreased. New methods are needed to prevent and solve child prostitution.

5.5 Lessons and recommendations: Working with the target groups

- Participating children in the project can be divided into two groups: children in general and children at high risk of entering prostitution. Children in general gained greater awareness of the problems. While the children at risk were involved in more activities receiving greater details. Greater attention was given to these individual children.
- Villagers in some areas were unwilling to participate in projects believing that prostitution is shameful and not a problem of their communities. However, they were more willing to cooperate on issues related to child sexual abuse, premature sexual relations, inappropriate social values, materialistic behaviour, the vulnerability of the family, and drugs. It is advisable therefore to work more closely with communities in order to understand the living conditions and interest of their members.
- Working with families is important while dealing with children. Most guardians did not have time to give to their children and did not see that anything was wrong with their children. Adults being close to their families would gain a deeper understanding of the problems facing their children.
- Working with men who could be both buyers and traders of sex services was given little importance. Attitudes that to buy sex is normal have not changed. Attention should also be paid to men and drugs, as addicted men were violent to their children and partners.
- The problem of not having Thai nationality among tribal children has deprived them of their rights. It is a constraint that must be taken into consideration when arranging activities for these children.

5.6 Lessons and recommendations: Network building

- The absence of organisations dealing directly with sexually abused children delayed handling this problem efficiently. In the past, doctors, nurses, police officers and other concerned persons with this problem lacked a proper understanding, leading to inappropriate solutions. Temporary safe lodging for abused children was not available. Further, psychologists and counsellors could not be found for long term treatment.
- Building a network is a time consuming undertaking, however, selecting the right persons to serve on the network is important. Genuine interest in joining the network must be assured.

Sometimes people's participation would be only perfunctory, being bound by their current positions or being asked by their superiors. It is advisable to let policy planners at local levels join the network as well.

- Regular meetings should be held among all members of the network to maintain a common understanding of issues. Co-operation should be constantly encouraged, not only at times of crises. Frequent exchanges of solutions to problems and experiences would help in the discovery of new ways to deal with issues.

5.7 Lessons and recommendations: Administration, monitoring and evaluation

- The work teams have debated about fixing indicators, as a component in the operational framework. Some people argued that having indicators was not useful, some said that to talk about indicators was a waste of time. How can an inflexible framework be consistent with a changing reality? Others, however, saw indicators as important to measure successes and failures, as they could show whether past work had been appropriate, and what actions should be adjusted. Currently fixing indicators for monitoring projects in Thailand has not been given due attention, even though it has been requested by large funding organisations.

Lessons from the ECPAT/Taksvarkki project have shown that introducing indicators in small projects is difficult and time consuming. However, it was also shown that having indicators staff were able to work to clear objectives. It allowed all the staff to partake in the analyses, debates and discussions, to make adjustments of operational directions, as well as adaptations to their roles and work methods appropriately.

- Project evaluations used by the different partners were not standardised. It was found, however, that some projects collected too much information without any clear understanding of why they were doing so or how to put it to use. Many projects did not keep their records systematically.
- The lack of a data collecting system has caused some projects to be unable to use existing data for work plans. A proper data collection system must be established.
- Monthly or quarterly reports would reflect progress or changes in the projects. Every project therefore should provide clear details of their activities.

5.8 Lessons and recommendations: the transfer of the project's lessons

- The transfer of lessons, at times, lacked crucial information. Some partners collected few details about case studies. This is because most of the working teams were not familiar with data recording or report writing. Many viewed data collection as unnecessary, because they could remember the details of various cases, as they themselves had been the responsible handlers of such cases. Some projects, however, avoided the task of keeping records about children, claiming that this information was confidential.
- The lack of data has made it impossible for the consultants to validate the success of projects. They had to ask for more details from the case handlers, creating uneasiness among the work teams. To avoid future problems the partners should have opportunities to read prepared reports in order to check the accuracy of the substance to keep mistakes to a minimum.
- The consultants who joined the operation should be living in the region so that they can be in a good position to serve as advisors to the different partners.

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Appendix A

The Penal Code Amended in B.E. 2535 (1992)

Section 282*

Whoever, in order to gratify the sexual desire of another person, procures, seduces or takes away for indecent act a woman, even with her consent, shall be punished with imprisonment of one to ten years and fine of two thousand to twenty thousand baht, no matter if such activities forming the offence have been committed in different countries or not.

If the commission of the offence according to the first paragraph is occurred to a girl or a female person not yet over eighteen years of age, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of three to fifteen years, and fine of six thousand to thirty thousand baht.

If the commission of the offence according to the second paragraph is occurred to a girl not yet over fifteen years of age, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of five to twenty years and fine of ten thousand to forty thousand baht.

Whoever, in order to gratify the sexual desire of another person, obtains a girl or a female person who is procured, seduced or taken away according to the first, second or third paragraph, or support in such commission of offence, shall be liable to the punishment as provided in the first, second or third paragraph, as the case may be.

Section 283**

Whoever, in order to gratify the sexual desire of another person, procures, reduces or takes away for indecent act a female person by using deceitful means, threat, doing an act of violence, unjust influence or mode of coercion by any other means, shall be punished with imprisonment of five to twenty years and five of ten thousand to forty thousand baht no matter if such activities have been committed in different countries or not.

If the offence according to the first paragraph is occurred to a girl not yet over eighteen years of age, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of seven to twenty years and fine of fourteen thousand to forty thousand baht, or imprisonment for life.

* The original provision was revoked and replaced by the provision as printed in its place, by section 5 of the Act of the Amendment of the Penal Code (8th edition) B.E.2530 (1987).

** The original provision was revoked and replaced by the provision as printed in its place, by Section 5 of the Act for the Amendment of the Penal Code (8th Edition) B.E.2530 (1987)

If the offence according to the second paragraph is occurred to a girl not yet over fifteen years of age, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of ten to twenty years and fine of twenty thousand to forty thousand baht, or imprisonment for life, death.

Whoever, in order to gratify the sexual desire of another person, receives a girl or a female person being procured, seduced, or taken by deceitful ways according to the first, second, or third paragraph, or support in such commission of the offence, shall be punished according to the first, second, or third paragraph as the case may be.

Any person has no other apparent or sufficient means of subsistence and

- (1) is found residing or habitually associating with one or more prostitutes;
- (2) takes board and lodging, or receives money or other benefit arranged for by a prostitute, or
- (3) takes part in order to help any prostitute in her quarrel with other persons associated with prostitutes, shall be presumed to live on the earnings of the prostitutes, unless such person can satisfactorily prove to the contrary.

Section 284*

Whoever takes away a female person for indecent act by using deceitful means threat, doing any act of violence, unjust influence or mode of coercion by any other means, shall be punished with imprisonment of one to ten years and fine of two thousand to ten thousand baht.

Whoever conceals a female person who is taken away according to the first paragraph shall be liable to the same punishment as the person who takes away. The offence according to this Section is a compoundable offence.

Section 286***

Any person being over sixteen years of age, subsists on the earning of a prostitute, even it is some part of her incomes, shall be punished with imprisonment of seven to twenty years and fine of fourteen thousand to forty thousand baht, or imprisonment for life.

Reference

Institute of Population and Social Research, Mahidol University. (1994). Sharing Force and Love: Facts about Prostitution and AIDS Problems. IPSR Publication No.178, Mahidol University,

*** The original provision was revoked and replaced by the provision as printed in its place by Section 5 of the Act for the Amendment of the Penal Code (fifth Edition) B.E.2525 (1982).

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Appendix B

The Prostitution Prohibition Act B.E. 2539 (1996) (Selected sections)

Prostitution means an acceptance of sexual intercourse or other acts, or an agreement to perform other acts in order to gratify the sexual desire of another person, which is considered promiscuous, in return for wages or any other kind of interest. Persons of the same sex or of different sexes can commit this offence.

Place of prostitution means any place that is arranged for performing sexual intercourse in return for money or a place that prostitution is permissible. It also includes any place being used for making contacts or securing persons for prostitution purposes.

Section 5

Any person approaches, persuades, introduces oneself, follows or insists another person on the road or in a public place, or acts as such in any other place for the purpose of soliciting prostitution openly and shamefully or causing public disturbance shall be punished with fine of not more than one thousand baht.

Section 6

Any person indulges in a place of prostitution for the purpose of prostituting oneself or another person shall be punished with imprisonment of not longer than one month or fine of not more than one thousand baht, or both.

If the offence according to the first paragraph was committed due to being coerced, or being unable to avoid or resist it, the offender is guiltless.

Section 7

Any person publicises or agrees to publicise or introduces oneself with printed matters or any act of publicising with any means apparently seen as prostitution solicitation of oneself or another person shall be punished with imprisonment of six months to two years or fine of ten thousand to forty thousand baht.

Section 8

Any person has sexual intercourse or perform any other act, in order to gratify the sexual desire of oneself or other persons, on sexual desire of oneself or other persons, on a person over fifteen years but not yet eighteen years of age, with or without that person's consent shall be punished with imprisonment of one year to three years and fine of twenty thousand to sixty thousand baht.

If the offence according to the first paragraph is committed to a young person not over fifteen years of age the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of two to six years and fine of forty thousand to a hundred and twenty thousand baht.

If the act according to the first paragraph is performed on one's own spouse, without any purpose of gratifying the sexual desire of another person, the doer is guiltless.

Section 9

Whoever manages to procure, seduce, or take away any person for the purpose of prostitution even with consent of that person, no matter if the acts forming the offence have been committed within or outside the kingdom shall be punished with imprisonment of one year to ten years and fine of twenty thousand to two hundred thousand baht.

If the offence according to the first paragraph is committed on a person over fifteen years but not yet over eighteen years of age, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of five to fifteen years and fine of a hundred thousand and to three hundred thousand baht.

If the offence according to the first paragraph is committed on a young person not yet over fifteen years of age, the offender shall be punished with imprisonment of ten to twenty years and fine of two thousands to four hundred thousand baht.

If the offence according to the first, second, or third paragraph is committed by using deceitful means, threat, physical violence, immoral pressure, or coercive methods, the offender shall be liable to heavier punishment as provided in the first, second, or third paragraph, as the case may be.

Whoever, for the purpose of prostitution, receives any person known to him or her as having been brought them to by a procurer, or having been taken away according to the first, second, third or fourth paragraph, or supports in such offence, shall be liable to the punishment as stated in the first, second, third or fourth paragraph, as the case may be.

Section 10

Whoever, being father, mother, or guardian of a person, known to him or her, as not yet over eighteen years of age, being victimised according to the second, third or fourth paragraph of Section 9, while that person is within his or her guardianship, takes part or conspires in such offence, shall be punished with imprisonment of four to twenty years and fine of eighty thousand to four hundred thousand baht.

Section 11

Whoever owns prostitution business, looks after or manages prostitution business or a prostitution place, controls prostitutes in a prostitution place shall be punished with imprisonment of three to fifteen years and fine of sixty thousand to three hundred thousand baht.

Reference

The Prostitution Prohibition Act B.E.2539 (1996). Published by the Occupation Assistance Division, Department of Public Welfare, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare B.E. 2540 (1997)

Appendix D

Project Members Involved in ECPAT/Taksvarkki Partner Projects

➤ ECPAT/Taksvarkki, Bangkok

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Alexia Huxly | Programmer Director |
| 2. Olivier Perrais | Programmer Director |
| 3. Jamnonglux Nakviroj | Office Manager |

➤ ECPAT/Taksvarkki Co-ordination Office, Chiang Rai

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Jutharatna Tanskul | Project Co-ordinator ¹ |
| 2. Supavadee Chimmanee | Assistant Project Co-ordinator |
| 3. Yowanit Sristaporn | Assistant Project Co-ordinator |

➤ Protection of Hill-tribe Children from Sexual Exploitation Project

Hill Area Development Foundation, Chiang Rai

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Mrs. Tuanchai Deetes | Secretary of the Foundation |
| 2. Miss Sukchai Suksatit | Manager of the Foundation |
| 3. Miss Suwadee Tanubamrungsas | Chief Administrator (Office Division) |
| 4. Mr. Arun Teerapaedchart | Accountant (Office Division) |
| 5. Mr. Pallop Larba | Fieldworker, Division of Agriculture |
| 6. Miss Chalerm Sri Aree | Fieldworker, Division of Agriculture |
| 7. Miss Jutarmas Rajprasit | Chief of Technical Division/Publicity |
| 8. Mr. Kasian Chantorn | Project Officer ECPAT |
| 9. Mr. Nid Puangkaew | Co-ordinator for the works along the Mae Salong River |
| 10. Mr. Choldol Piapa | Fieldwork Officer |
| 11. Miss Sureeporn Leejar | Project Officer ECPAT |
| 12. Mr. Sithichai Kaewkerd | Project Officer ECPAT |
| 13. Mr. Supot Leejar | Chief of Fieldwork |
| 14. Mr. Pin Sommuang | Chief of Vehicles Division and Premises Maintenance |

➤ New Path Project

Advisory Committee

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Nongyow Nowarat | Centre for Lanna Women's Studies |
| 2. Krongkaew Aswin | Senator |
| 3. Nopporn Ninarong | Lamphun Forum Group |

¹ Kusumal Rajvongs was the first Project Coordinator, functioning during the period from February-June 2541 (1998)

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4. Provincial Development Officer
 5. Mr. Boonsong Wesyasirin Community Development Officer
 6. District Development Officer
 7. Pradit Chunsit Assistant Education Officer of Pasang District
 8. Chetana Muangmool Pasang Primary Education Publicity Officer
 9. Boonsoom Inkong-ngarn Pasang Education Publicity Officer

Executive Committee

1. Srinual Pengkantar Project Director
2. Yupin Wongyow Treasurer
3. Woradej Malasam Academic Support
4. Tanom Wongyow Academic Support
5. Sawaeng Chairangsi Academic Support
6. Sasiwimol Prakorbkit Member
7. Nujaree Na Nan Member
8. Chanchai Na Nan Member
9. Tasnee Kamwiang Member
10. Tabtim Langapin Member
11. Pimsoam Pengkantar Secretary
12. Praparpan Pothacharoen Secretarial Officer
13. Chakkrit Karbket Volunteer
14. Tawan Moolrangsee Volunteer
15. Praparporn Kamyard Volunteer
16. Charnwit Panyawai Volunteer
17. Anukool Saewangkam Volunteer
18. Chaiyuth Boonlert Volunteer

➤ **Project of Co-operation for Risk Prevention**

Huay Krai School, Chiang Rai

1. Parng Polchai Director
2. Sukhon Panturat Academic Support
3. Anong Pilalai Co-ordinator
4. Sunthorn Pilalai Member
5. KaewKarn Tanlar Member
6. Mokaranon Wichaipan Member
7. Saengduan Chirenuwat Member
8. Piyasak Chanachai Member
9. Surarnng Saokamket Member
10. Pongpew Chullanand Member

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| 11. Khunawat Kaewitoon | Member |
| 12. Npalai Kaewitoon | Member |
| 13. Sumalee Meesamran | Accountant |
| 14. Saengchan Saengkaew | Evaluation |
| 15. Nitya Mernyaem | Evaluation |

➤ **Life Quality Development Project to Prevent Child Prostitution**

By YMCA Phayao

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Boriboon Ditkamol | Director YMCA, Bangkok |
| 2. Sunan Adulyachart | Secretary of the YMCA Foundation, Bangkok |
| 3. Npachuen Powkanta | Accounting Officer |
| 4. Saengwan Mneewan | Project Manager, Payao |
| 5. Suwan Limsampan | Chief of Development Work Section |
| 6. Nisamnee Kusolpinyo | Fieldwork Officer |
| 7. Somsong Uamboon | Fieldwork Officer |
| 8. Sowanee Wongrawd | Fieldwork Officer |
| 9. Krisna Kanjana | Fieldwork Officer |

➤ **Community Theatre Project, Chiang Mai**

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Amrin Plengrasmee | Project Co-ordinator |
| 2. Sasithorn Kamrit | Accounting and Activity Officer |
| 3. Soepah Mahawatna-angoor | Fieldwork Officer |
| 4. Meebur Laeser | Volunteer |
| 5. Umarporn Reungchan | Volunteer |
| 6. Komsan Manketkit | Volunteer |

➤ **Academic Support Team**

From the Institute of Population and Social Research, Mahidol University.

1. Assistant Professor Dr. Wassna Im-em
2. Assistant Professor Dr. Uraiwan Kanueng-sukasem
3. Kullawee Siriratnamongkol