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Aspirations, Capabilities and Negotiations: Understanding Livelihood Strategies to Pursue Wellbeing Among Households in Northeastern and Southern Thailand

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Abstract

Thailand development process following the modernization model brings about rapid changes in various aspects and effect people aspirations and livelihoods strategies. The wide expansion of the market economy urges local people to adjust some of their aspirations and forces their livelihood strategies to adapt in order to meet these aspirations and achieve their wellbeing. Pluriactivity and diversification of activities are increasing within each household with the main purpose to secure their livelihoods. Young members are inclined towards non-agricultural activities. Full-time farming is no longer common among rural and peri-urban households. As access and ability to make use of different types of resources differ among households in different socio-economic categories while their aspirations are generally similar, negotiations between initial aspirations and abilities to aspire are often common in the process of making their living. Although different types of resources and their transformation contribute to the fulfilment of aspirations, material resources are substantially significance in the livelihood process as their transformation can be easily made. The importance of human resources is widely seen as increasing given that other types of resources are decreasing in amount and level of using.

Keywords: Wellbeing, Aspirations, Livelihood Strategies, Resource Transformation, Northeastern and Southern Thailand.

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