

Success of the Implementation of Elderly Welfare System Policy Under Sustainability Principles in the Northeast of Thailand

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Abstract

The research at hand is a study of Research and Development (R&D) aimed at 1) examining the success factors of implementing policies for the elderly welfare system in the northeastern region of Thailand. 2) comparing the success of implementing policies for elderly welfare under the sustainable development principles in the northeastern region, classified by the characteristics of the sample population. 3) explaining the relationship between factors that affect the success of implementing policies for elderly welfare under the sustainable development principles in the northeastern. 4) evaluating the success of implementing policies for elderly welfare under the sustainable development principles in the northeastern region of Thailand. 5) proposing a model for the success of implementing policies for elderly welfare under the sustainable development principles in the northeastern region. The population is elderly with welfare of 3,386,357 people in 20 provinces in the Northeast. The researcher has determined the sample group used in the study at the confidence level of 95 percent using the Krejcie & Morgan (1970). A total of 400 samples were used in this study by stratified random sampling and purposive sampling methods. Key informants are fifteen government agencies involved in policy implementation requirements (with at least seven years of policy driving experience) by using the purposive sampling method and having a focus group.

A data analysis of the elderly welfare system's needs revealed that, in general, the demand for the elderly welfare system is high ($\bar{x} = 3.64$, $SD = 0.43$). The analysis of the data regarding the needs of the elderly welfare system reveals that the implementation of elderly welfare policies, in general, is at a high level ($\bar{x} = 3.95$, $S.D. = 0.51$). According to the management structure that emphasizes working according to function and top-down command, management is

carried out in the form of "covering the ground" and overlooks the potential and diversity of the area.

Keywords: success factor; policy introduction; elderly welfare system; sustainability

Introduction

Thailand is poised to fully transition into an aging society by 2022, with an anticipated 20 to 30 percent of the population falling into the elderly category. Looking ahead to 2031, the nation is projected to evolve into a super-aging society, akin to Japan, with 28 percent of the population aged 60 and above. Globally, around one billion people are classified as elderly, constituting approximately 10 percent of the world's population. Within the ASEAN region, 11 percent of the population is aged 60 and over, with seven countries already crossing the threshold into an aging society. Singapore leads the way as the country to fully embrace an aging society with over 20 percent of its population aged 60 and above. Extending the retirement age emerges as a viable short-term solution, offering economic relief. Singapore, for instance, has raised the retirement age from 65 to 67 years, while South Korea plans to increase it from 55 to 60 years. Japan, having previously allowed the elderly to work until the age of 62, aims to extend this limit to 65 years by 2025. Thailand is also contemplating an increase in the retirement age for workers, considering a shift from 55 to 60 years.

The changes underway have profound implications at the individual level, particularly within the working-age group, as the responsibility of caring for the elderly intensifies. In Thailand, the current labor force ratio stands at 4:1:1 (labor force: elderly: children), and it is anticipated to adjust to 2:1:1 by 2036. The increasing number of elderly individuals poses challenges to maintaining a good quality of life for all stakeholders, especially with poverty emerging as a significant issue during retirement. As the number of elderly individuals rises annually, the working-age labor pool diminishes, resulting in a labor shortage. This may necessitate increased reliance on machinery, tools, or foreign workers. With such a challenging scenario, elderly families are expected to tighten their budgets. Consequently, Thailand's domestic consumption is likely to decrease as a majority of the population becomes old and financially strained. The decline in purchasing power will lead to reduced savings, placing a burden on the working-age population. The Thai government may need to boost welfare expenditure for social services and health for the elderly, contributing to a decrease in national savings and investments. The higher proportion of

the elderly also impacts the reduction of the Gross National Product (GNP) or national income, leading to a decrease in average income per person and production quality. However, according to information from the United Nations (United Nations), it was found that Thailand the country is in the process of transitioning into a completely aging society (Aged Society). The United Nations has identified which countries have the highest population. Aged 60 years and over in proportion to more than 10 percent of the entire country's population, the country is considered to be entering into an aging society or Aging Society and will be a "full elderly society" (Aged Society) when the proportion of the population aged 60 years increases. has increased to 20 percent, with figures from Thailand predicting that in 2021 Thailand will enter a completely aging population society with people over 60 years of age exceeding 20% of the total population (United Nations, 2015)

When the government increases expenditures on health, medical expenses, and social services for the elderly, there is a need for an expanded budget to assist impoverished elderly individuals. Additionally, tax income collection may decrease, given that a larger proportion of the elderly may have no income. The working-age population faces an increased workload and added responsibility of caring for the elderly. Mental health threats are a significant concern for policymakers, as many elderly individuals experience mental security, loneliness, and feelings of being a burden to their children. Simultaneously, physical health issues are inevitable, necessitating preparation through savings or investment planning for expected future expenses, or utilizing accumulated savings towards the end of life (Department of Elderly Affairs, 2021).

The current elderly pension, a universal payment ranging from 600 to 1,000 Baht per person per month, falls short of meeting minimum living expenses. Relying solely on the basic pension system presents challenges for sustenance in old age. The government pension's expenses continue to increase significantly compared to the number of people granted rights; the existing pension system does not cover all groups, particularly informal workers. Although the government has established a National Saving Fund to encourage savings, the rules for payment upon reaching old lack motivation for participation.

From such importance, the researcher recognizes the significance of studying policy mechanisms driving elderly welfare within the framework of sustainability principles in the northeast of Thailand to ensure successful implementation and practice. The northeastern region boasts the highest concentration of elderly individuals in Thailand. The researcher analyzed 20 provinces, examining elderly welfare initiatives in each province to facilitate comparison and

evaluate the impact of policy implementation on sustainability. This endeavor aims to serve as a model for the development of more effective policy plans in the future.

Research Objectives

To study the success factors of the implementation of the elderly welfare system policy in the northeast of Thailand.

To compare the success of the implementation of the elderly welfare system policy into practice under the sustainability principles in the northeast of Thailand classified by the population characteristics of the sample

To describe the relationship among the factors affecting the success of the implementation of the elderly welfare system policy into practice under the sustainability principles in the northeast of Thailand

To assess the successful implementation of the elderly welfare system policy under the sustainability principles in the northeast of Thailand

To propose a model for the success of the implementation of the elderly welfare system policy in practice under sustainability principles in the northeast of Thailand

Literature review

Current Situation of the Elderly in Thailand and Future Trends

Based on research studies including statistical data from institutions, organizations, and academics responsible for improving the quality of life of the elderly, the following can be summarized.

Evolution of Welfare Policy

The concept of a welfare state, in its collective sense, denotes a state or nation that institutes an inclusive social welfare system for its populace. As articulated by Asa Briggs (1966), the welfare state embodies three overarching characteristics:

1. The state pledges to ensure a minimum income for all members of society, irrespective of their identities, occupations, or wealth.
2. Assurance of life security for individuals and households is guaranteed through the accumulation of sufficient savings to withstand various crises.

3. Equitable provision of social services to all citizens, maintaining optimal and uniform standards, regardless of class, status, or origin.

The post-World War II establishment of the welfare state in England, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Germany was primarily driven by the social policies of the Labor Party, the Social Democrat Party, and the socialist ideologies in Europe. These politician entities, representing the majority of the industrial society comprised of wage earners and the middle class, advocate for progressive taxation policies. In this context, government collection of property and inheritance taxes was emphasized to generate substantial funds dedicated to social welfare. The overarching goals were to enhance the quality of life and foster wealth creation for the entire societal populace. It is essential to note that while these tax policies contributed to social welfare objectives, they also impacted the security of the elite and bourgeoisie.

Concept of Welfare Policy

The concept of welfare policy has been elucidated by scholars both domestically and abroad. Turner (1974) defines “social welfare” as an endeavor aimed at fostering a stable basic standard of living for individuals. It encompasses services to both individuals and communities, focusing on social development and empowering individuals to confront challenges related to physical and mental well-being, and socio-economic issues, and endeavors to eliminate people’s state of self-sufficiency. Friedlander and Apte (1980) expand on the concept, characterizing “social welfare” as the regulation of policies, benefits, and services aligning with societal needs. They emphasize its fundamental importance in facilitating rapid and lasting improvements from challenging situations to more favorable conditions. In contrast, Barker (1987) provides a broader interpretation, framing social welfare as a means to address social, economic, educational, and public health needs essential to societal existence, encompassing the overall well-being of individuals within a nation or community.

The Social Welfare Promotion Act of 2003 offers a legal definition, stating that social welfare constitutes a system of social services aimed at preventing problems of social development and enhancing social security to meet the people’s necessities. The goals include achieving a high quality of life and fostering complete self-reliance. Social welfare, as per this definition, contributes to elevating equality in education, health, housing, work, income, recreation, and justice. The underlying principle is that all citizens possess the right to receive and participate in social welfare at all levels.

Pattamawadee Pochanukul Suzuki (2009) provides an economic perspective on the term “social welfare” defining it as the well-being associated with the utility or satisfaction of individuals. In economics, welfare is conceptualized as the societal goal of well-being. Activities like market relief and the provision of allowance support and projects by the state are not welfare in themselves but rather tools or services that contribute to achieving well-being.

In conclusion, the ideas of welfare from both domestic and foreign scholars converge on the notion of a process that promotes social needs, assisting individuals in meeting social, economic, educational, and public health needs to enhance convenience and safety, ultimately contributing to an improved quality of life.

Research Conceptual Framework In the study

In this study, the researcher has conducted an extensive review of both domestic and foreign documents and research pertinent to the implementation of policies, aiming to enhance the conceptual framework of greater potential. The following figure is presenting the research's

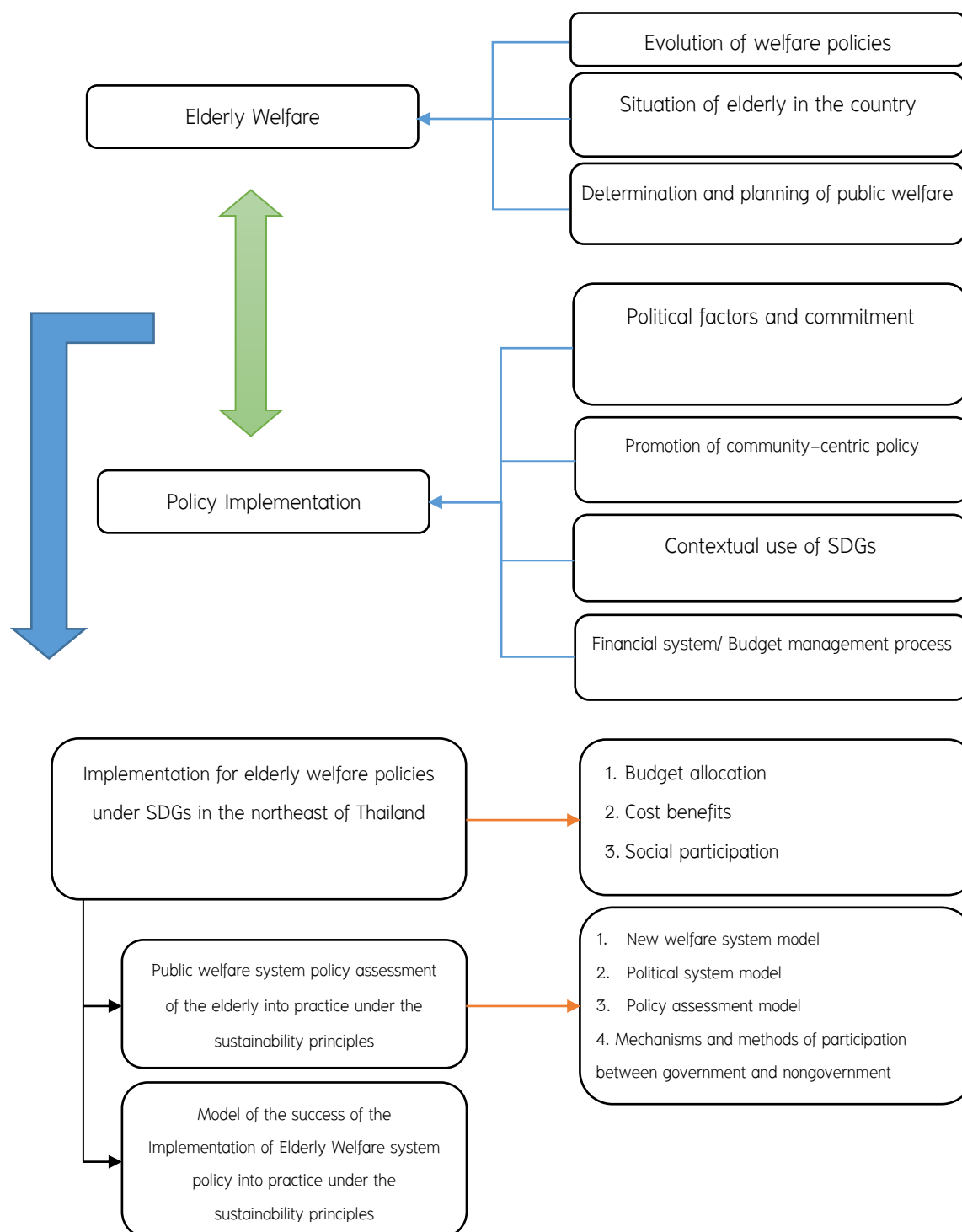


Figure 1 Research Conceptual Framework Materials and Methods

Research Methodology

Step 1: To study the success factors of implementation of the elderly welfare policy into practice under sustainability principles in the Northeast of Thailand

Component 1, the content aimed at the assessment and analysis of the model in the implementation. The researcher adopted the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) principle, which has four perspectives, namely the effectiveness perspective, service quality perspective, performance perspective, and organization development perspective to use as the content in the assessment.

Component 2, Indicators and Assessment Criteria synthesize indicators and criteria from Policy Framework for Elderly Welfare into Practice Under Sustainability Principles (2002–2022).

Component 3, Methods used for assessment: the researchers used a variety of methods to obtain information. This corresponds to the reality of the implementation of the elderly welfare policy into practice under sustainability principles in the Northeast of Thailand. In this study, interview methods were used. Data item inspection, documentary review, and inquiry are ways to evaluate the development results.

Component 4, Assessor: the researcher used the performance appraisal principles which use a comprehensive assessment.

2. Survey of opinions on the success of the implementation of the elderly welfare policy and its implementation into practice under sustainability principles in the Northeast proceed as follows:

2.1. Population and sample the population is elderly with welfare of 3,386,357 people in 20 provinces in the Northeast (Statistics of the elderly in Thailand, 2021). The researcher has determined the sample group used in the study at the confidence level of 95 percent using the Krejcie & Morgan table (1970). A total of 400 samples were used in this study by stratified random sampling and purposive sampling method.

2.2 The tool used to collect data is the opinion questionnaire about the success of the implementation of the elderly welfare policy into practice under the sustainability principles in the Northeast and the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) of developing the success of the implementation of elderly welfare policy into practice under sustainability principles in the Northeast and interview data of those involved

2.3 To create a tool used to collect data obtained from the study of documents and related research, the researcher set a framework for creating questions that are consistent with

the success of the implementation of elderly welfare policy into practice under sustainability principles in the Northeast.

2.4 To determine the quality of the tools used to collect data by checking the validity of the content by five qualified persons considering the coverage and corresponding to the content with the Index of Item–Objective Congruence (IOC) by selecting only the items that have a value between 0.6–1.00 and using the questionnaire to improve according to the recommendations of experts Reliability was based on Cronbach's alpha coefficient method and try–out tested with samples that were comparable to the population and not a sample of 30 people used in the research to find the reliability of the questionnaire.

2.5 Data Collection by sending a letter of cooperation asking for cooperation from target groups and collecting questionnaires from directly involved agencies.

2.6 To improve and develop the model until it becomes an important body of knowledge or concept, verification criteria, and goodness of fit index (GFI), the researcher can apply the goodness of fit index of research models with empirical data.

2.7 The qualitative data was analyzed with the suggested data from the questionnaire and information from the synthesis in the document. The researcher used the content analysis method and created the summary

Step 2. Creating a model for assessing the success of the implementation of elderly welfare policy into practice under the sustainability principles in the Northeast

Step 3: Consideration of the Elderly Welfare Public Policy to be implemented under Sustainability principles in the Northeast to try–out

Step 4: Implementation of elderly welfare public policy under sustainability principles in the Northeast that has been successfully developed to be used in all provinces and evaluate the implementation in the overview of the province.

Data Analysis

Step 1: Study the factors influencing the success of implementing elderly welfare policy in the sustainable development framework in the Northeastern region.

Data analysis according to Objective 1 was conducted to study the success factors of implementing elderly welfare policy in the Northeast region of Thailand.

According to the basic data of the questionnaire respondents, it was found that the majority of respondents were female, aged 71–75 years old, with education below a bachelor's

degree, had worked for 5–10 years, had family status, worked as a hired worker or salesperson, had a family income of 10,000–30,000 baht, and had main sources of income from self-employment.

A data analysis on the elderly welfare system's needs revealed that, in general, the demand for the elderly welfare system is high ($\bar{x} = 3.64$, $SD = 0.43$). When considering each aspect, there are two aspects with high levels of opinion, namely life safety, with a high level of opinion ($\bar{x} = 3.90$, $SD = 0.53$), followed by public health, which has a high level of opinion ($\bar{x} = 3.67$, $SD = 0.35$), and two aspects with moderate levels of opinion, namely education, which has a moderate level of opinion ($\bar{x} = 3.21$, $SD = 0.42$), and housing, which also has a moderate level of opinion ($\bar{x} = 3.17$, $SD = 0.50$), respectively.

The analysis of the data regarding the needs of the elderly welfare system reveals that the implementation of elderly welfare policies, in general, is at a high level ($\bar{x} = 3.95$, $S.D. = 0.51$). When considered on a specific point basis, it was found that the opinion level is high in every aspect, including the use of sustainable principles ($\bar{x} = 3.98$, $S.D. = 0.52$), financial management/budgeting processes ($\bar{x} = 3.97$, $S.D. = 0.53$).

Analysis of quality by interviewing data on the implementation of elderly welfare policy under the sustainable principle in the Northeastern region

According to the management structure that emphasizes working according to function and top-down command, management is carried out in the form of "covering the ground" and overlooks the potential and diversity of the area. This has led to problems and obstacles in development, both at the policy and operational levels.

In summary:

Separation of social and health services: The division between social and health services results in a lack of continuity and strength in service delivery.

Political Changes Impacting Projects: Political changes have led to a lack of continuity in various projects related to elderly welfare.

Budget and Personnel Shortages: There is still a shortage of budget and qualified personnel with expertise in elderly care, particularly at the local organization level.

Inadequate Social Welfare: The social welfare provided by the state for elderly individuals is insufficient and fails to fully meet the real needs of the elderly, including those who are entitled to receive such benefits.

Dependency Reinforcement: The current welfare provided by the state reinforces a sense of dependency among the elderly rather than promoting pride and responsibility, leading to a lack of sustainable quality of life. As a result, the elderly is unable to have a good quality of life despite receiving support from the government.

Lack of Awareness of Rights: Many elderly individuals are unaware of their rights as outlined in the Elderly Persons Act of 2003, hindering their access to government-provided services.

Lack of Community Participation: Insufficient involvement from the public and relevant agencies as problem owners has resulted in a lack of genuine cooperation in addressing elderly welfare issues.

Shifting Values of the Young Generation: The younger generation's perception of aging as a natural process involving suffering and death, rather than something to be developed or improved, poses a significant obstacle to elderly care and the preservation of traditional social values.

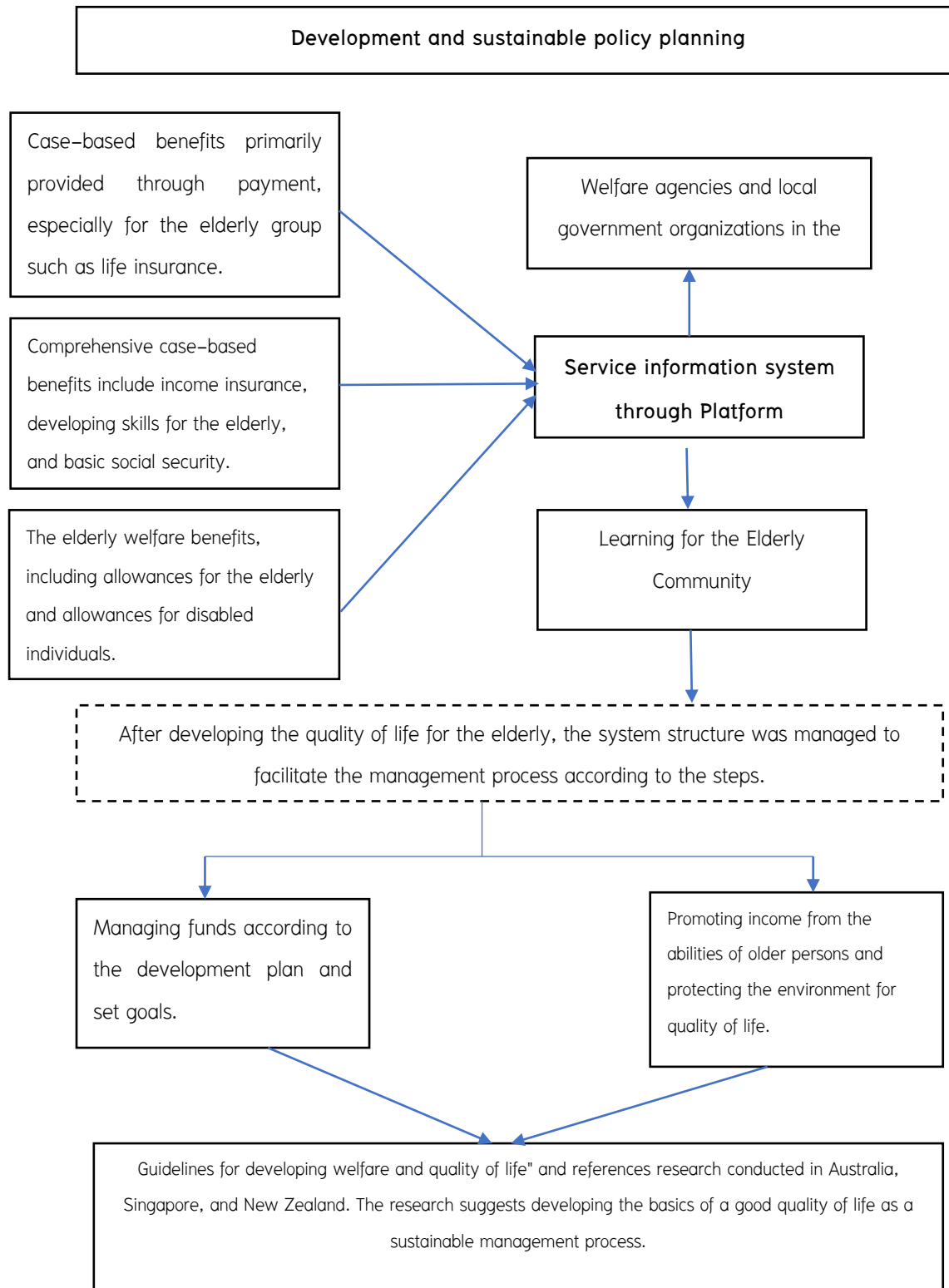


Figure 2. The new model of the welfare system source

Comparison of Budgeting and Elderly Welfare Management

Studying the management of elderly welfare by comparing it with Singapore's approach indicates that the presentation of information in Singapore effectively assists low-income elderly individuals. The key aspects of their approach include:

Each individual is required to contribute approximately eight to ten percent of their annual income to prepare for their elderly years, which is supplemented by government support.

The government covers 95 percent of the expenses for home improvements to make them suitable for the elderly.

Elderly individuals, if unable to sustain themselves and requiring medical assistance, receive SGD 1,180 (approximately THB 28,000) per month. Supplementary financial aid might also be accessible to them.

The government provides an additional monthly allowance of SGD 300–700 (approximately THB 8,000–18,000) for the lowest 20 percent of elderly individuals who do not receive support from their families.

Elderly individuals who are pioneers in Singapore or have changed their citizenship can receive up to SGD 800 (approximately THB 19,000) per year, along with other supplementary benefits.

Brunei's government has implemented several programs for the elderly, such as tax exemptions, healthcare services, education, and housing support, along with a monthly pension of 6,000 baht.

In Hong Kong, there are daytime care centers available for the elderly, providing various activities, counseling services, and more.

Japan has started using robotics for elderly care and offers computer programs accessible through mobile phones to support their daily lives.

In the Philippines, particularly in Makati region, the government provides healthcare services, movie vouchers, birthday cakes, and an additional 100,000 pesos (approximately 60,000 baht) as a pension.

Sri Lanka offers pensions ranging from 20,000 to 50,000 baht, and the government also provides low-interest loans specifically for the elderly.

In Taiwan, elderly individuals aged 65 and above receive support.

Turning to Thailand requires the involvement of government agencies to support the elderly population. With approximately 7.3 million elderly individuals, accounting for about 10.5

percent of the population, there are around 730,000 vulnerable elderly individuals who require substantial assistance, representing roughly 10 percent of the elderly population. Caring for each individual costs approximately 500 baht per day, totaling 79,935 million baht per year, which amounts to only 2.8 percent of the national budget. This budget allocation is limited but aimed at providing meaningful support to the elderly population.

Discussion

A report on the results of an analysis conducted for the first objective has revealed that, in general, the demand for elderly welfare systems is high ($\bar{x} = 3.64$, SD = 0.43). When examined on an item-by-item basis, two areas of concern were found to be highly ranked: safety in daily life ($\bar{x} = 3.90$, SD = 0.53) and healthcare ($\bar{x} = 3.67$, SD = 0.35). Two other areas, education ($\bar{x} = 3.21$, SD = 0.42) and housing ($\bar{x} = 3.17$, SD = 0.50), were ranked at a moderate level. Furthermore, the analysis of data regarding the implementation of elderly welfare policies indicates that, overall, their implementation is at a high level ($\bar{x} = 3.95$, SD = 0.51). When examined on an item-by-item basis, opinions were found to be highly favorable in all areas, including sustainable principles ($\bar{x} = 3.98$, SD = 0.52), financial management ($\bar{x} = 3.97$, SD = 0.53), community policy promotion ($\bar{x} = 3.94$, SD = 0.56), and welfare system establishment ($\bar{x} = 3.92$, SD = 0.55). According to research conducted by Insuk and Rojanatrakul (2021), which studied the provision of social welfare for the elderly in the Kamphaeng Din sub-district, Sam Ngam district, Phichit province, the results showed that:

1. Overall, the opinions of the elderly towards the provision of social welfare for the elderly in the Kamphaeng Din sub-district were largely positive.
2. The study found that the opinions of the elderly towards the social welfare system for the elderly in the Kamphaeng Din sub-district did not differ significantly, even when considering different personal factors.
3. The recommendations for improving the provision of social welfare for the elderly include focusing on providing care and assistance for the elderly, promoting self-development, of the elderly, and involving families, local government, and community organizations in the provision of social welfare.

This research is consistent with the study by Chaiyasat (2021), which examined the development of the potential of the elderly in the lower northeastern region, and identified the

need to improve the provision of social welfare for the elderly in various areas, including family, local government, and community organizations.

According to the study, it is in line with the development process of policies and the needs of elderly welfare. The development is aimed at sustainable development in terms of community-based health and welfare. This is part of the promotion and collaboration efforts to encourage government and private sector agencies to promote and plan for the next phase of operations.

Furthermore, currently, the structure of elderly welfare integration reflects significant variations in terms of budgeting and management approaches. This disparity has been observed through a comparative study of different countries' elderly welfare systems.

Elderly individuals receive a monthly allowance of 1,180 Singapore dollars (28,000 baht) if they are unable to support themselves due to illness, with additional support if necessary.

The government provides an additional monthly allowance of 300–700 Singapore dollars (8,000–18,000 baht) for the lowest 20 percent of elderly individuals who do not receive family support.

Elderly individuals who become Singapore citizens or contribute to the country's development are eligible for an annual allowance of up to 800 Singapore dollars (19,000 baht) and other supplementary benefits.

These examples demonstrate how Thailand's government can stimulate the implementation of similar initiatives by aligning budget allocation with activities related to social welfare. The northeastern region of Thailand, which shares similarities with the eastern region of Singapore, can serve as a model for the country.

A study conducted for the second and third objectives has found that the evaluation criteria and number of indicators in the form of performance assessment for promoting the sustainable elderly welfare system in the Northeastern region (Dimension 1: Effectiveness) show the highest score of 98 points with an average value of 0.92. In terms of the quality-of-service provision (Dimension 2: Quality of service), the success rate in driving the alert and assistance system for accessing welfare throughout one's life has the highest score of 83 with an average value of 0.34. In terms of efficiency (Dimension 3: Efficiency), the highest score of 89 with an average value of 0.34 was found in the success of developing policies towards global aging and sustainable quality of life for the elderly. Moreover, in terms of organizational development (Dimension 4: Organization development), the highest scores were found in evaluating the results of promoting sleep and brain exercise, delaying aging, and proposing policy standards, as well as

promoting environmental health for healthy elderly people, which scored 88 with an average value of 0.26. These results are consistent with the research conducted by Karma et al. (2021), which surveyed the health needs of the elderly. The elderly is the fastest-growing group in our population due to the close relationship between the number of elderly people and healthcare costs. Promoting successful aging with happiness and health is crucial for the well-being of our society.

According to the study, there is a correlation between community involvement and social stability. Additionally, the study's indicators suggest that focusing on healthcare risks and disabilities through nurse-led home visits may be an effective way to support the elderly population. Moreover, the study shows that activities can be used as a mechanism to promote learning and development among older adults.

A recent analysis of Objective 4 shows that evaluating the success of implementing policies for elderly welfare requires sustainable measures. In Northeastern Thailand, this has been demonstrated through an experiment in four sample areas where policies were implemented to enhance elderly learning and development, policy planning and budgeting, network infrastructure development, and coordination between stakeholders. This has led to the need to improve the quality of life of communities and the elderly population, as well as to build knowledge and skills before entering old age. This is consistent with the research conducted by Sumini et al. (2020) Elderly care services are important to provide in response to the rapid growth of the elderly population. In developing countries like Indonesia, the speed of growth of the elderly population does not simultaneously occur, so the needs for care services vary. This study discusses the emergence of home care services in response to the increase in the elderly population. By taking the case of community home care services in Sleman, this study found the pattern and process of the emergence of local initiatives in-home care services. This study also revealed an important factor affecting the implementation of community home care services, that is, leadership. The government also encourages individuals with higher incomes to participate in private insurance. This is achieved by levying fees on individuals with higher incomes, ranging from 1% to 1.5% of their income if they do not use private health insurance and refund methods. This approach supports individuals who are considered capable of purchasing private insurance to relieve the public healthcare system.

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Initiative

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) initiative is a cornerstone of Australia's healthcare system, providing subsidized medications to residents based on doctor's prescriptions. This program ensures that Australians have affordable access to a wide range of essential medications, promoting patient involvement and safety. Key features of PBS include subsidization of cost of medications prescribed by doctors, making them more affordable for patients. PBS legislation includes a safety net threshold to reduce out-of-pocket expenses for patient and their families.

Benefits of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Program

The Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) is a government-funded initiative that subsidizes and allocates medications as specified. Prior to the establishment of the government's health insurance scheme in 1948, healthcare policies were generally focused on 'medical care,' but the PBS is managed by the Australian government's health insurance (previously known as the Health Insurance Commission) under the Health Insurance Act of 1973, with data on other aspects of well-being, such as the pharmacoeconomic benefits for empowered individuals.

Mutual Health Care Agreements

While PBS subsidies are specific to residents in Australia, individuals from certain foreign countries also have entitlements under mutual healthcare agreements. These agreements ensure healthcare coverage between Australia and the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Malta, Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, Norway, and Slovenia.

Public Health Care in Australia

Public health care in Australia is governed by both private and government institutions. The central government, led by the Minister of Health, currently Peter Dutton, manages health policy through the Department of Health. The delivery of health services, such as hospital operations, is carried out by government-run entities. Medicare, a government-funded program, receives partial funding from a 1.5% Medicare levy (with exemptions for low-income earners) and is supplemented by general government revenue. An additional 1% levy is imposed on high-income earners without private health insurance. Similarly, government health insurance separates the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) as a significant subsidized medication program. The funding structure for healthcare in Australia demonstrates the importance of politics and government in shaping national healthcare policies. However, the complexity of administration and

lack of coordination at the national level have led to criticisms of slow responsiveness and inefficiency.

In conclusion, to ensure the success of health care policies, government agencies need to collaborate and increase efficiency in providing services to older adults at all levels while aligning expenditure plans with budget allocations.

New Knowledge from research

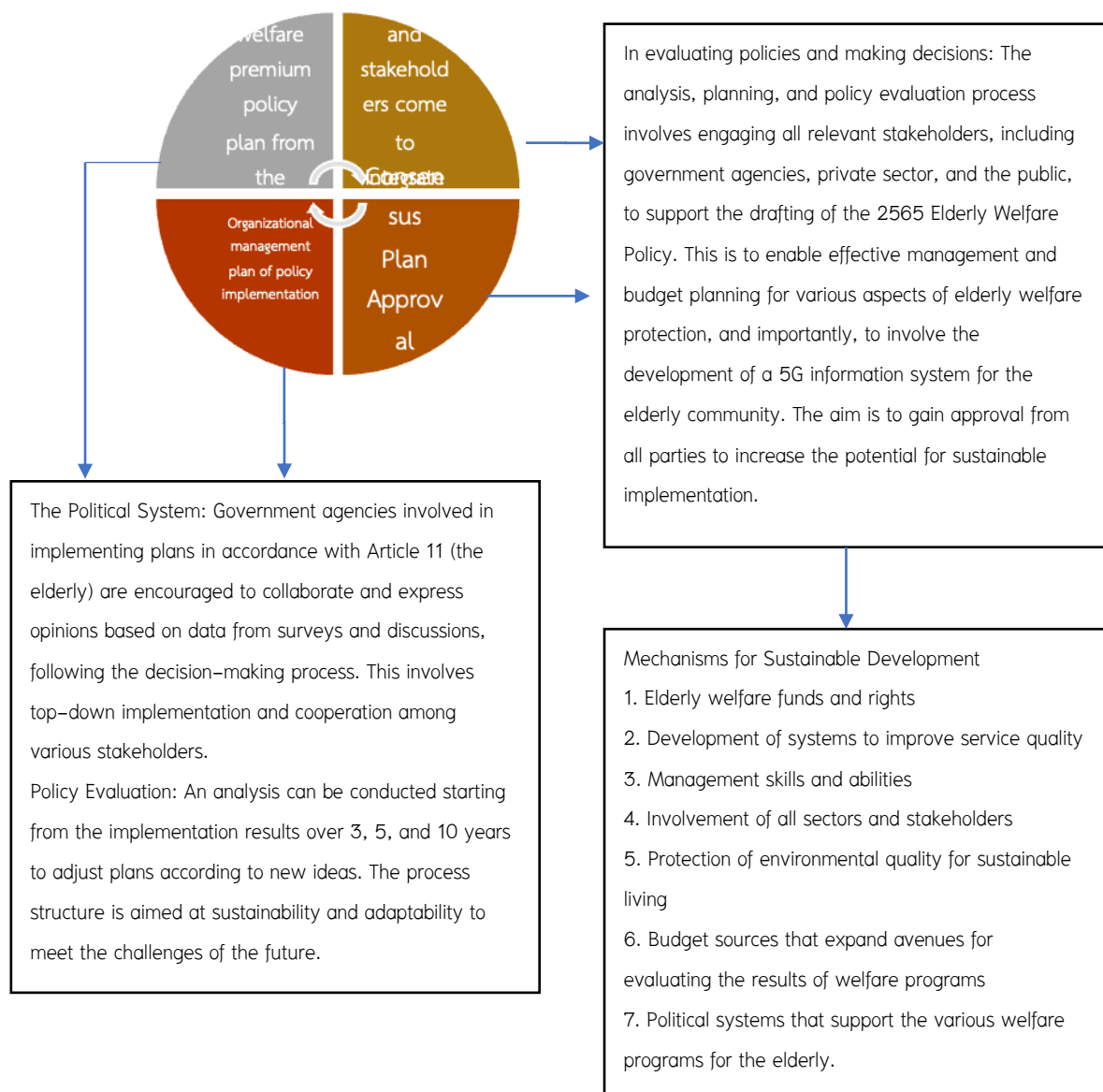


Figure.3 Success of the Implementation of Elderly Welfare System Policy Under Sustainability Principles in the Northeast of Thailand

Conclusion

Nowadays the increasing population of the elderly in the demographic structure and planning and policies aiming to meet their needs have become an important issue all over the world. The economic, social and physical limitations and inadequacies that occur with old age affect both the social life and active participation of the elderly individuals and their relatives in different areas. Improvements concerning this population group; will affect the social, economic and social welfare levels of the current population, and will support social sustainability by increasing the welfare levels of future generations. The 'development plans' programmed to meet social demands, along with the policies that guide the development of the country, also set out the service targets for the changing population structure. The five-year development plans prepared by the Ministry of Development are strategies and policies targeting the country's developments in social.

Recommendations

Social network development: The management has a responsibility to participate in planning and budget allocation, which will lead to the achievement of goals. Public sector organizations must comply with development plans and social welfare.

Sustainable Development Plan: The sustainability and stability of the plan can be analyzed through evaluation and testing to ensure that resources are managed and provided sustainably in the future.

Future Research Recommendations

The evaluation process should include all necessary components and a network of public and private organizations should be established to evaluate plan implementation at intervals.

Qualitative research should be conducted in a systematic way to test the implementation process to evaluate results based on indicators, to achieve more sustainable plan implementation.

The deliberation process should follow ethical standards and include political systems to create mutual understanding and agreement at all levels to drive toward the goals and plans for the future.

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