**Performance Evaluation on National Policies and Strategies for Child Development**

Ujsara Prasertsin\*, Chirdsak Khovasint, and Somjet Viyakarn

Thailand attended the 27th United Nations General Assembly’s Special Session on Children (UNGASS), which was held during the period of 8-10 May 2002 in New York, in order to follow up on progress made by member countries, and formulate future agenda for children. The Special Session culminated in the adoption by member states of its outcome document known as “A World Fit for Children” as the new agenda for children for the new decade (2000-2010). As a result of the adoption, member countries have obligations to develop, and implement, their National Plans of Action in pursuant of the goals and targets set forth in the document’s Declaration.

Recommendations from these assemblies were taken into account in the development of the NPA, which resulted in the expansion of key priorities from the original four as set forth in “A World Fit for Children” to 11 as it was felt would make the NPA more comprehensive. As a result, Thailand’s policies, strategies and plan of action on child development focus on 11 key priorities.

The purpose of this research was to evaluate effectiveness, efficiency and result of management and performance in national policies and strategies for child development by mixed methods evaluation.

The evaluation was based on mixed methods evaluation in form of triangulation design. For quantitative research, survey study was employed in form of questionnaire for 448 of child development-related organization staff. Besides, focus group was applied in 129 people from 16 provinces in qualitative study. The two studies were analyzed to be compared for similarities and differences, as well as data accuracy (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2007). The evaluation form was CIPP Model 7 of Stufflebeam (2002, 2007) which four aspects were focused-context, input, process and product. Then other four parts were divided for better model- impact, effectiveness, sustainability and transportability

The evaluation results showed that: **context-**provincial officers ran the operation as general work, not mission emerged from the strategies; **input**-the plan was standardized target groups, and its budget was adequately allocated; **process**-the plans were appropriate and effective, and monitoring and quality assessment were run; **effectiveness-**the percentage of target group children did not go down as planned; **impact**-the plan officers concentrated on target group children’s behavior, not skill or proficiency improvement; **sustainability**-the society needed planned operations and offered help and support for cooperation; **transportability**-the central national strategies and plans could not operated effectively, so each province was supposed to run its own plans and strategies with supports from the center.

The evaluation staff used quality administration framework called P-D-C-A and found that: P-Plan-the objectives of the operation were appropriate and effective for child development; D-Do-each of the provinces ran and develop the administration to meet the plan objectives, needs and satisfaction in administration and operation aspect; C-Check-all operation staff found that it was medium success in all aspects, no strengths and weakness; and A-Action-a staff meeting after each activity should be conducted for better work achievement and satisfaction, and problems found must be solved for better operations.

 Here were four recommendations on policy and strategy performance: (1) child development-related organizations in national and provincial level had to establish data base of children and youths; (2) co operations and data exchange between divisions, departments and provinces were needed for networks; (3) it would be better to get adjustments from reactive to proactive method, visions for protection, and child improvement rather than problem tackling; and (4) independent entity should be formed by representatives from originations, local people and youths.

\*Ph.D. Candidate Student in Educational Research Methodology Program at Department of Educational Research and Psychology, Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand. E-mail: ubib\_p@hotmail.com