THE STUDY OF PUBLIC INTEREST FROM CHILD PROTECTION GOVERNMENT FUND

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Abstract- This study investigates the fund, in accordance with the Child Protection Act 2003, which Thai Government has been granting since 2005. All these years, the fund has aided suffering children and family for more than 35,000 persons, and also financially supported public and private sectors to drive activities/projects assisting, protecting, and improving child behavior for more than 800 organizations and 850 projects. The style and operation of the fund have been developed continuously, particularly the way to grant public and private sectors, which is the essential key driving the funding process to achieve the objectives of Child Protection Fund establishment in conformity with the Child Protection Act 2003. This research examines elements and factors measuring values of the work of Child Protection Fund, likewise investigating problems and obstacles for resolutions. It also expects to create policies and better operations. The 3 main goals of this study are, firstly, to evaluate values and factors driving the fund. Secondly, it aims to analyze perspectives of everyone involved with the Child Protection Fund. Finally, it proposes ways to improve the operation of Child Protection Fund. The result reveals that, firstly, the values of Child Protection Fund consist of the value of policies and strategies protecting child (Policy-based); (2) the value of the area, both the benefits and results (Area-based); (3) the value of developing organizational network (Agency-based); and (4) the value of developing individuals and the service system (Service-based). Secondly, the most important result was policy dimensions that found the Child Protection Fund expresses its values in developing the policies of national child protection and improving education and society for the children.

Index Terms— Child Protection, Government Fund

I. INTRODUCTION

"There is no trust more sacred than the one the world holds with children. There is no duty more important than ensuring that their rights are respected, that their welfare is protected, that their lives are free from fear and want and that they can grow up in peace."
(Kofi Annan, Ex-Secretary-General of the United Nations)

Thai Government established Child Protection Government Fund that well-known in "Child Protection Fund" for main objectives were support, protect and promote good relation in family's behavior accordance with the Child Protection Act 2003. All these years, the fund has aided suffering children and family for more than 35,000 persons, and also financially supported public and private sectors to drive activities/projects assisting, protecting, and improving child behavior for more than 800 organizations and 850 projects. The style and operation of the fund have been developed continuously, particularly the way to grant public and private sectors, which is the essential key driving the funding process to achieve the objectives of Child Protection Fund establishment in conformity with the Child Protection Act 2003.

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II. METHODOLOGY

The research employs mixed methodology by reviewing literature, surveying involved people with the Child Protection Fund, together with in-depth interviews and small-group discussions with National Child Protection Committee, the Child Protection Executive Board, the Follow-up and Evaluation Board of Child Protection Fund, the Child Protection Fund Project Screening Subcommittee, the Provincial Child Protection Fund Subcommittee, and Child Protection Fund officers of all regions.

A. Child Protection: From Practical to Policy

Many of reports and studies about Thai Government policy have demonstrated correlation between children quality of life and public services. As summarized of UNICEF report (2012) for most of the key-result indicators, these disparities are seen in household wealth and mothers, education levels as well as between regions and rural and urban populations in Thailand. This report notes, for example, that the adolescent birth rate is significantly higher among girls from poorer families, among girls with only a primary education and/or girls who live in rural areas. The results show that only 58 percent of children under the age of 18 – fewer than three out of five – live with both their parents. In addition, the survey found that one of every five children – some 20 percent – live with neither of their parents (though both are living).

In addition to study about consequences of children quality of life explains the reasons of this problem that family income and government solve solution are mains point of this issue. Duncan and Brook-Gunn (2000) suggest the path of solve solution is policy implications that should focus primarily on situations involving deep and persistent poverty that occurs early in childhood. Actually the goal of child protection is involving more than alone poverty. The health promotion is another issue of public policy that associates with child protection.

And if the goal is to promote the healthy development of children, it is to go beyond cash transfers and consider service-delivery programs such as those providing nutrition supplements and education; medical care and housing. Finally many of academic researches (Gomby, Culross & Behrman, 1999; Olds, Henderson & Kitzman 1994; Ramey & Ramey 1998;) about the pathways to shift child protection practical to success policy any program policy should be made to implement and test, on a large scale, program that focus on enhancing parenting behavior or integrating promising approaches into current federally-funded programs such as Even Start, Head Start and Early Head Start.

III. RESULT

The result reveals that, firstly, the values of Child Protection Fund consist of: (1) the value of policies and strategies protecting child (Policy-based); (2) the value of the area, both the benefits and results (Area-based); (3) the value of developing organizational network (Agency-based); and (4) the value of developing individuals and the service system (Service-based). On the other hand, the factors enhancing the operation of Child Protection Fund includes: (1) the mechanism supporting the operations of child-involved agencies; (2) networking operation; (3) individual and project support; (4) nationality and race free; (5) the supported budget in accordance with Child Protection Act 2003; and (6) the reinforcement of framework to provide Child Protection Fund. In addition, the obstacles of the Child Protection Fund are found to be: (1) the public relations; (2) the project writing; (3) limited budget; (4) limited target group participating in the project; (5) employees running the Child Protection Fund; and (6) the follow-up and evaluation.

Secondly, when analyzing perspectives of persons involved with the operation of Child Protection Fund, it can be concluded that: (1) policy dimensions - the Child Protection Fund expresses its values in developing the policies of national child protection and improving education and society for the children. Moreover, the Child Protection Fund is also found to reveal its values in reducing child abuse and reinforcing the integration of educational, social, and child development policies sustainably; (2) benefit and result dimensions – it is found that the Child Protection Fund reinforces activities and operations with communities, leading families, children, as well as the community leaders for better relationships from doing activities together. It brings better understandings among people with different ages. It can then be said that the area-based operation yields satisfied results for the sample groups being granted the budget from Child Protection Fund; (3) network dimensions – it can be concluded that the Child Protection Fund is essential for the operation and activities of budget granted agencies, as well as for the network expansion to protect and take good care of children, as the fund supports granted agencies with activities and projects for improving quality of life and achieving the rights of child protection; (4) individual development dimensions – the result reveals that the Child Protection Fund should pay more attention to the improvement of the Child Protection Fund officers, including those granted the fund, to be able to expand the working network of child protection in the future, as the problems of officers unable to help or understand ways to protect or take care of children appropriately are found.

This study has 2 main suggestions: policy and operation. For the policy, the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, the National Child Protection Committee, and the Department of Children and Youth should assign the Child Protection Executive Board to set up a study group to examine and conclude the data to revise the Child Protection Act 2003 by proposing the Child Protection Fund to be granted the annual budget from the division of excise tax of alcohol, cigarettes, including lottery, for the budget of the Child Protection Fund, which should take 1 fiscal year for the process. Another proposal is to set up a working group in collaboration with all regions to plan strategies protecting Thai child 4.0, conforming to the identity and values of Thai society that the government expect to be in the future. Additionally, the annual budget should be planned for worthy fund spent for activities continuously. The authority, duty, role, and the host of the operation should be assigned clearly.

At last, for the operational suggestion, the Department of Children and Youth should assign advisors to develop workshops on the process of project operation for those granted the budget to be able to write project proposal, project report, project summary, and project lesson learned, which will encourage the process of reporting the project efficiently. The advisors should also conclude the workshop to enhance the process of project management of the budget grantees, which shall also lead the Department of Children and Youth, including the Child Protection Fund Executive Board, to learn the achievement and future goals. Moreover, there should be workshops for the Provincial Child Protection Fund Subcommittee to plan strategies and ways to support the annual budget and individual grant. It also expands the working network of children and creates better understandings at the area level,

which shall bring closer communication between the public sector and budget grantees.

CONCLUSION

The values of Child Protection Fund consist of the value of policies and strategies protecting child (Policy-based); (2) the value of the area, both the benefits and results (Area-based); (3) the value of developing organizational network (Agency-based); and (4) the value of developing individuals and the service system (Service-based). Secondly, the most important result was policy dimensions that found the Child Protection Fund expresses its values in developing the policies of national child protection and improving education and society for the children.

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