

Transfer Knowledge to the Public to Improve Quality of Life and Enable Them to Escape Poverty



1 NO POVERTY



OVERVIEW

NIDA is dedicated to creating wisdom for society and developing leaders for national and global sustainability. To achieve this aim, the institute formulates local, regional, and national policies, supports local communities in developing financially sustainable businesses, and encourages faculty members, researchers, and students to conduct research that maximizes national benefits in a balanced and sustainable manner. Specifically, guided by this mission and the late King's Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, NIDA creates, applies, and shares knowledge with people at all levels through various forms of dissemination—all aimed at addressing poverty, supporting low-income populations, and eventually advancing Thai people's quality of life.

RESEARCH/ FUNDING

Promoting research for sustainable social solutions

One of NIDA's key research projects, "Employment of Thai Older Adults," funded by the Office of the Science, Research and Innovation Promotion Board (TSRI), has been conducted twice a year since 2014. The fifth round of the survey was carried out between July 2024 and January 2025 using CAPI interviews via the Qualtrics program, covering 4,129 households nationwide.

The findings revealed that most older adults (58.05%) were unemployed, with only 41.9% still engaged in work or economic activities. Of those employed, 63.10% were self-employed, while 36.90% were wage earners. Employment rates declined with age, especially for wage earners. Women tended to be more self-employed than men, and elderly people in non-municipal areas had higher employment rates. Most respondents (over 80%) expressed a desire to continue working, with no plans to retire.

In terms of income, the main source was the state allowance (47.34%), followed by income from work, welfare benefits, and pensions. However, most working seniors earned less than 100,000 baht per year, particularly those outside municipal areas. Pension income was unevenly distributed between municipal and non-municipal areas. The highest expenditure category was food, followed by financial support for children/grandchildren, housing rent, and medical expenses.

Most seniors possessed assets valued under 1 million baht and had low debt levels, with 95.55% owing less than 1 million baht—indicating the economic vulnerability of Thai seniors. Policy recommendations emphasize promoting productive aging through measures such as delaying retirement, improving work environments to suit older workers, and supporting work-life balance to enhance the economic security and self-worth of Thailand's aging population.

In recent years, NIDA has conducted a wide range of research projects contributing to poverty reduction and social sustainability, such as:

- Enhancing participatory agrotourism potential in Ban Juang, Phitsanulok Province
- Strengthening grassroots economies through social enterprises: a study of social enterprise governance in Thailand
- Documenting lessons on sustainable solutions to farmers' debt through community welfare funds
- Analyzing the role of social capital in sustainable community-based tourism development
- Evaluating economic, social, and environmental returns in sustainable agricultural communities
- Exploring pathways to strengthen household and community economic resilience for sustainable development
- Analyzing factors influencing the use of social capital in community-based tourism in Thailand
- Financial security of Thai older adults: Surveys (Rounds 5–7) and evaluation of policies related to the transfer of subdistrict health promotion hospitals to provincial administrative organizations

TEACHING & LEARNING

Bridging theory & practice gap through community services in Phang Nga Province

NIDA promotes academic services and research among students that generate tangible social benefits. For example, under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Patthareeya Lakpetch, master's students from the Phuket campus conducted field research and brainstorming sessions to bridge theory and practice in the project “Upgrading Marina Pier Development to Connect with Tourism in Khlong Khian Subdistrict,” Takua Thung District, Phang Nga Province.

The project aimed to disseminate knowledge to the community, provide policy recommendations to the Khlong Khian Subdistrict Administrative Organization (SAO), and integrate findings into the tourism pier development plan to stimulate sustainable community-based economic growth.

<https://nida.ac.th/nida-phuket-marina-community-tourism/>



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Bridging communities & innovation for a sustainable future

NIDA is committed to alleviating societal poverty and fostering sustainable development by engaging communities through a joint project, publications, and a training workshop.

To start with, NIDA held a joint project “Enhancing Community Capacity for Sustainable Development in Lat Bua Khao Subdistrict” between YUNUS Student Club, NIDA Student Union, and the Rural Development Volunteer Club at NIDA Sikhio Campus, Nakhon Ratchasima Province. The project focused on empowering older adults through communication skills, leadership development, and personal growth, enabling them to become high-quality seniors.

<https://nida.ac.th/sikhio-lat-bua-khao-subdistrict-community>



NIDA also disseminates academic outputs through its website via NIDA Digest, a platform for sharing insights on development administration and national progress. Articles include:

- “Redesigning Our Common Future for Sustainable Transformation”
- “Economic Crisis Warning: Worse Than the Tom Yum Kung Era—SMEs Facing Liquidity Shortages and Turning to Informal Loans”
- “GSB Yuwaphat Rak Thin 2024 Project.”

<https://nida.ac.th/article/nida-digest/>

Additionally, NIDA hosted a workshop titled “The Igniting Power of Digitalization in Tourism and Hospitality” in Chachoengsao Province to prepare tourism and service entrepreneurs for digital transformation. The event was part of the program to develop an innovation-based ecosystem and enhance workforce capabilities for digital and sustainable tourism.



OPERATION

Investing in their future: Financial aids for graduate students

NIDA offers various financial aids to graduate students of all nationalities to reduce their financial burdens. The funding sources include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Graduate scholarships (Type 1, 2, and 3) are offered to eligible applicants upon admission. There are three types of financial support.
 - **Type 1:** A full-tuition waiver plus monthly stipend throughout the program of study
 - **Type 2:** A full-tuition waiver throughout the program of study
 - **Type 3:** A half-tuition waiver throughout the program of study
2. Research and teaching assistantships (RA/TA) are granted to students providing teaching or research services to their School and faculty members by assisting them in either teaching or research conducting duties.
3. Thesis and publication scholarships are offered to students who have passed their thesis or dissertation proposal defenses.

