



Conduct Innovative Research to Alleviate Poverty & Promote Healthy Aging



OVERVIEW

NIDA advances research and initiatives to reduce inequality in economic development and social well-being. CEGIS studies income distribution, poverty, and local governance to inform policy reforms, while CASR's HART project provides insights into aging and social disparities. Beyond research, NIDA promotes inclusion through youth entrepreneurial training and USR projects, such as donating calendars to produce Braille learning materials, and supporting education and empowerment for marginalized groups.

RESEARCH

Research on reducing inequality

NIDA's research centers — the Center for Economic and Governance Inequality Studies (CEGIS) and the Center for Aging Society Research (CASR) — have continued conducting research focused on reducing inequality in economic development and addressing challenges related to an aging society, respectively.

CEGIS Study:

The Center for Economic and Governance Inequality Studies (CEGIS) studied how income distribution and poverty changed during the COVID-19 pandemic and how these factors affected social class and human capital ([Kasetsart Journal link](#)). The study found that pensions, farm and non-farm incomes, remittances, and government transfers were the main sources of inequality. During the pandemic, 22.18% of the population lived below the poverty line, earning about 286 Baht less than the threshold each month. Landless farmers were the most affected, with 41% living in poverty and a 187% higher risk of being poor than other groups. CEGIS also found that since 2019, the population and number of households have been declining in most municipalities and district administrations in Thailand. The smallest administrative areas had around 7,765 people, while the largest had 239,367. The study recommended merging small and inefficient local administrative bodies and reforming laws to expand local tax bases. It also suggested using economic incentives to improve local efficiency and strengthen resilience in the face of global warming and green trade challenges.

CARS Study:

In 2024, the Center for Aging Society Research (CASR) continued its longitudinal survey and study on aging under the Health, Aging, and Retirement in Thailand (HART) project, which began in 2014 and has now entered its fifth wave.

<https://hart.nida.ac.th/about-hart/>.



"Our main purpose is to collect survey data to support research and inform policymakers."

We gather nationally representative data on health, retirement, and economic well-being to help researchers understand aging and help decision-makers create informed policies.

The HART dataset has been widely utilized by researchers in Thailand and abroad. Notable 2024 publications using HART data include:

Anantanasuwong, D., Pengpid, S., & Peltzer, K. (2024). Time-varying lifestyle and mental-ill health risk factors for the longitudinal development of daily activity limitations among middle-aged and older adults in Thailand. *Translational Medicine of Aging*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tma.2024.05.002>

Pengpid, S., Peltzer, K., Hajek, A., et al. (2024). Determinants of depressive symptoms among persons 80 years and older: longitudinal national evidence from the Health, Aging, and Retirement Study in Thailand, 2015–2022. *BMC Geriatrics*, 24, 880.

TEACHING & LEARNING

Entrepreneurial skills training to strengthen the grassroots economy

On February 24, 2024, NIDA's School of Business Administration, School of Tourism Management, and School of Environmental Development Administration collaboratively provided entrepreneurial skills training to participating students in the 2024 Government Savings Bank Youth Development Project, aiming to enhance and develop products, services, and local wisdom to strengthen and sustain the grassroots economy.

<https://nida.ac.th/nida-aomsin-yuwaphat-2567/>



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

From old calendars to new opportunities: Support for the visually impaired

On March 13, 2024, NIDA's Corporate Communications Division, International Affairs and Organizational Communications, and NIDA Library jointly delivered old desk calendars donated by NIDA faculty, students, alumni, and staff to the Educational Technology Center for the Blind in Nonthaburi Province. The donation was part of the NIDA USR project "We Request Old Desk Calendars," which aims to support the production of Braille books and other learning materials to promote education, skill development, and the empowerment of visually impaired individuals.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/19eHmzZzU5/>

