

Participatory Management of the Community Health Fund: The Innovative Model for District Health Services Management



Assistant Professor Dr.Chanuantong Tanasugarn,
Deputy Dean for International Relations,
Faculty of Graduate Studies, Mahidol University

Envisioning Thai people having equal right to access quality health care services with no limitations to health care expenditure. The Universal Coverage Policy (UCP) was introduced in 2001. The National Health Security Office (NHSO) has been established not only to provide curative care but also to carry out disease prevention and health promotion programs. The Health for All philosophy is used as the guideline for primary care services and primary health care programs.

NHSO has reformed the financial system to create a single source of funding or national insurance program. The capitation system was set up and adjusted by succeeding government to pay the service package. Through a series of discussions and research, different characteristics of the universal coverage health system were developed and strengthened. One of which is the emphasis on public participation leading to a sense of ownership, through which can be defined as sharing the program or health service costs, as well as participating in overseeing the process and evaluating the outcomes of the program.

The Community Health Fund (CHF) was initiated and 800 CHFS were piloted in 2006. An escalation is needed at present. To achieve the goals of CHF and UCP, a capacity building model has been requested. This project selected 6 communities which have had different levels of CHF achievements including communities without CHF, recently formed CHF communities, and CHF pilot communities. Through **the learning and empowerment process model**, each CHF has realized that more of the community need to be involved in CHF management along with the local government, and the NHSO should established the web-site and the on-site visit to the concerned community in order to enlighten them about the decision making process. Moreover, "Empowering Visit" to the newly established CHF communities are needed to support a higher level of community participation and acquisition of CHF management skills for the CHF committee. To promote sustainability of the CHF, knowledge management using show and share, appreciative inquiry, and constructive learning processed is highly recommended.