



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy
Michael Sieng

Will defend his prospectus

**Tools for Evaluation of Positive Youth Development Programs:
A case study in rural Thailand and Phoenix**

Abstract

Positive Youth Development (PYD) programs include intentional efforts by peers, adults, communities, schools, and organizations to provide opportunities for youth to increase their skills, abilities, and interests in positive activities (Catalano, Berglund, Ryan, Lonczak, & Hawkins, 2004). The goal of PYD is to provide positive outcomes viewing youth as resources to be developed rather than problems to be managed. Future generations rely on youth as active contributing members of society and PYD programs promote sustainable futures for young individuals and the community. PYD programs started in the United States and grew out of interest in prevention programs targeting risky behavior of youth (Bumarger & Greenberg, 2002; Lerner, 2000; Lorion & Sokoloff, 2003).

Recently, there has been a growing tendency to expand PYD programs internationally as they promote resilient characteristics and life skills - in particular, interest is growing in rural Asia. However, given the interdisciplinary nature of PYD programs, there are no standard assessment metrics or tools in place. Without standards, comparing PYD programs effectively is impossible. My proposed work will (1) establish the need for and importance of PYD programs in rural Asia, (2) determine the efficacy of metrics and tools currently being used in the field, and (3) develop and apply a refined PYD assessment tool critical to the success of PYD programs.

First, a review of primary and secondary literature has been done to understand current PYD program evaluation practices, and which evaluation tools are currently being applied in developing countries in Asia. I will detail the need for evaluation of a "train-the-trainer" model intervention program and explore the settings and components that produce high yield transformation.

I will then develop a method, including an assessment matrix and comparative scoring system, to investigate the efficacy of PYD assessment techniques. I will investigate various tools including: questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, focus groups, activity analysis, and social network analysis, and conduct a meta-analysis to assess what weaknesses and strengths exist in these applications. Further, I may apply various tools in the field to determine best practice for practitioners in the field of PYD.

Finally, I will use the approaches described above to develop an enhanced PYD assessment tool that can be used both in rural Asia and abroad. I will accomplish this by conducting a pilot study with my universal tool and will then apply it in a rural community in Thailand and in the Phoenix metro area where PYD programs take place.

My research could lead to the further improvement of current PYD programs and their intervention role, while also promoting a universal PYD assessment technique.

Friday, January, 22, 2016

3:30 PM

ASU Tempe Campus, WGHL 401

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:

Scott Cloutier (Chair)

Kevin Dooley (Member)

James Eder (Member)

Marek Wosinski (Member)