



LEGAL EMPOWERMENT FOR THE POOR



By
Suwanee Khamman
Deputy Secretary – General,
NESDB

Outline

- **Empowerment of the poor**
- **“Legal” and “Non – Legal” Empowerment**
- **The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy**
- **Government’s policies**

Why empowering the poor?

Because the poor....

- ☐ Lack of access to basic social services
- ☐ Lack of access to resources
- ☐ Lack of access to useful information
- ☐ Are excluded from development participation

EMPOWERMENT

EMPOWERING THE POOR

“Legal Empowerment”

- ❑ Implementing by Government
- ❑ Parliamentary approval
- ❑ Systematic operation and procedures

“Non Legal Empowerment”

- ❑ Informal implementation
- ❑ Collaborating among agencies including NGOs and private sector

Legal Empowerment

- **Government Policies**

- **Decentralization Act**

- **The Royal Decree on Provincial Development Plan**

- **The National Health Act**

- **The Education Act**

- **Laws Concerning Disadvantage Groups**

Government Policies for the Poor

- ✚ Free 15 years basic education covered tuition fee, books and equipments, uniforms
- ✚ Universal Health Insurance Scheme
- ✚ Debt restructuring
- ✚ Land reform for low – income people
- ✚ Housing scheme

Poverty Reduction Measurement

Public Health

- # Free medical services
- # Health protection for people with disability, older persons
- # Improving community healthcare system

Education

- # Budget allocation for Student Loan Fund
- # Promoting life-long learning

Social Protection

- ◆ Transferring cash for low income employee
- ◆ Old-age allowance
- ◆ Labor protection

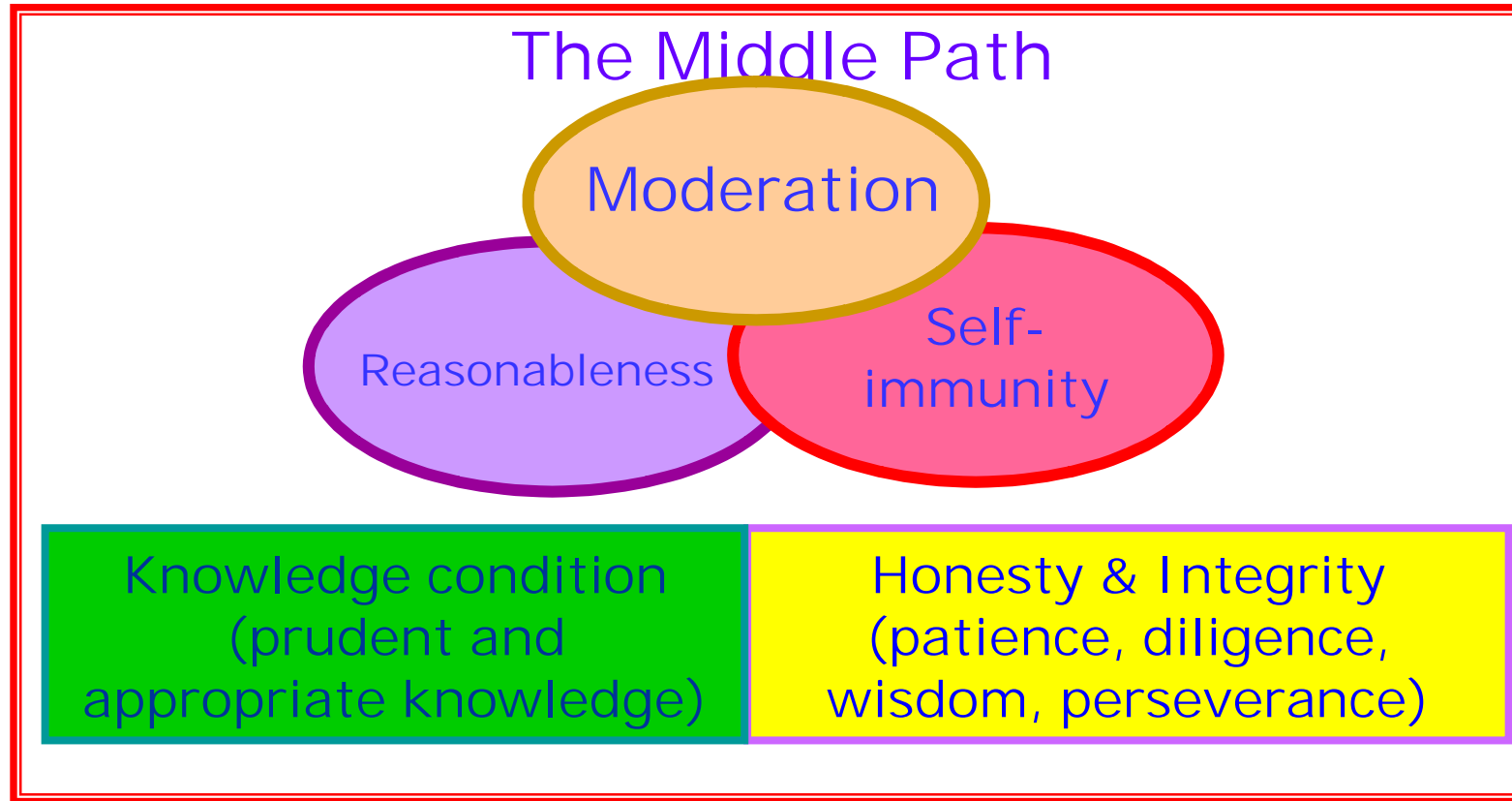
Economics

- Providing jobs for new entrances and laid off workers
- Promoting "Sufficiency Economy Project for Community Empowerment"
- Widening access to revolving fund
- Support community's products

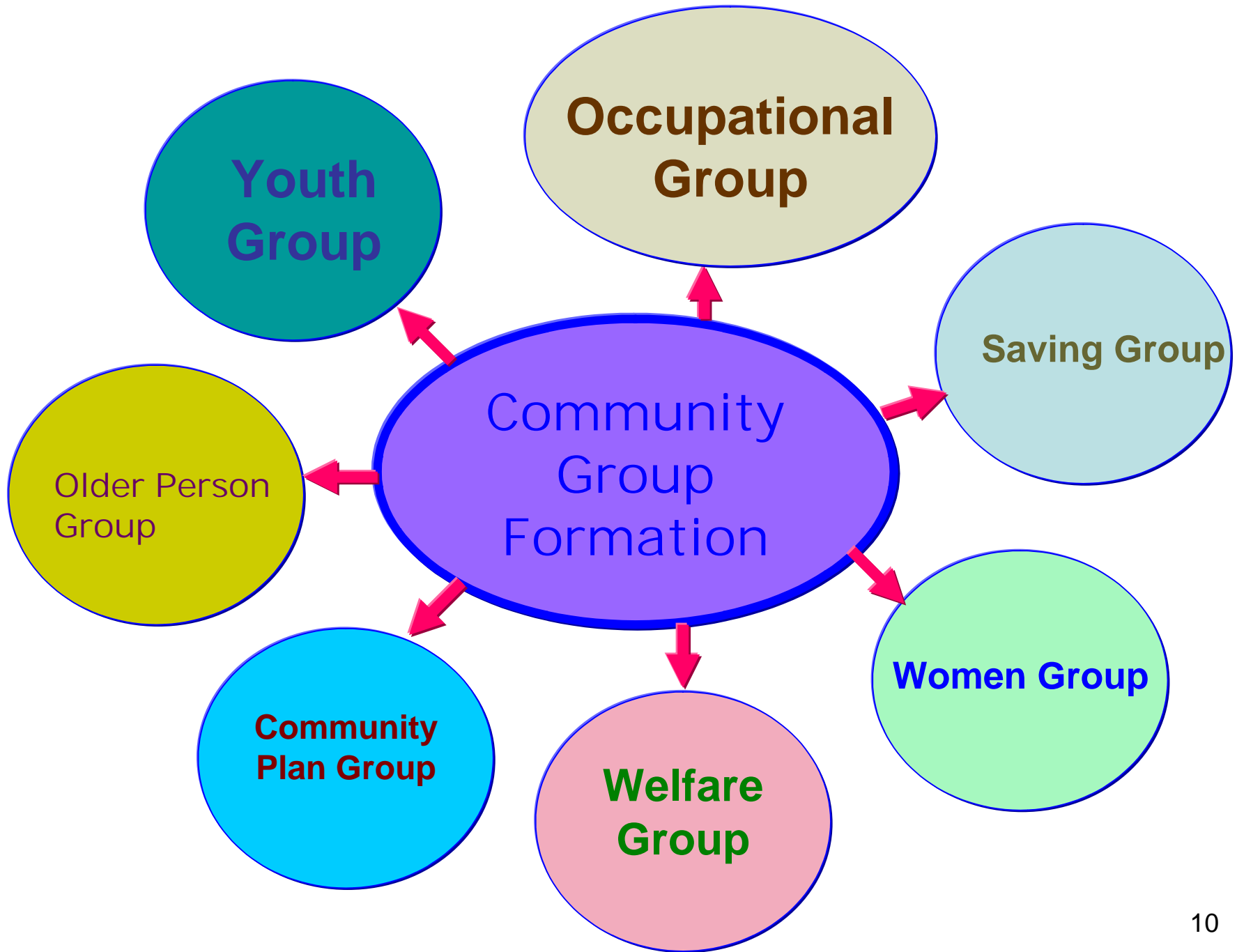
Non Legal Empowerment

- # Apply the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy
- # Establish various community's groups

Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy



**Progress of life/economy/society/environment
in a balanced, stable and sustainable way.**



RESULTS

- Poverty incidence declined from 14.93% in 2002 to 8.48% (5.4 mil.) in 2007
- Most people have access to Health Insurance Scheme (98.95% of total population in 2009)
- Thai children has equal rights in access to free basic education
- Poor people have access to revolving funds

THANK YOU

