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## **Country Report**

Thailand

NFE Innovations

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### **Distance Non-formal Education Programme via Thaicom Satellite in Thailand**

Thailand has acquired its first satellite, Thaicom, which was sent into orbit from the city of Kuru in the French Guyana on December 17, 1993. His Majesty the King graciously bestowed the name Thaicom, a shortened name for Thai Commanacom (meaning Thai communication) upon this satellite.

Distance education through television programmes via satellite has therefore become an alternative technology for the implementation of the government's policy of expanding basic education from six to nine years.

The scope and objectives of the Distance Education via Satellite Programme are:

#### **1. Quantitative objectives**

- 1.1 To provide distance education via satellite through the use of television programmes under the Department of Non-Formal Education's curriculum on a self-taught basis to at least 3,099,475 adult learners.
- 1.2 To provide distance education via satellite through the use of television programmes as supplemental teaching materials to students in both government and private schools under the curriculum of the formal education system.
- 1.3 To provide distance education via satellite through the use of television programmes for general viewing by population over 15 years of age throughout the country.

#### **2. Qualitative objectives**

The project aims at providing the same quality and standard of education to all target groups as well as providing alternatives in education to the general population.

Important aspects of the operations of the Distance Education via Satellite Project between 1994-1999 can be summarized as follows:

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1. The establishment of a television station or ETV and installation of a television signal transmission system via satellite.
2. The provision of signal receiving equipment for viewing of educational television programmes via satellite.
3. The transmission and broadcasting of educational television programmes via satellite.
4. Production of educational media for distance education via satellite.

### **Programme Outcomes**

1. For instructional purposes:

Television programmes were used as instruction materials for formal and nonformal curricula. Programs for the preparation of university entrance examinations were also designed as a combined effort of the Department of Non-Formal Education, the Thaicom Foundation, and the Center for Continuing Education, Chulalongkorn University. There were a total of 13,444,326 viewers for these television programmes; 9,798,376 of whom were students in the formal education system and 3,645,950 were those in the non-formal education system.

2. For the promotion of quality of life:

This involved the use of general educational programmes on such topics as health, hygiene, environment, and politics to improve viewers' general knowledge and awareness of current issues. There were a total number of 2,713,890 viewers. Details of viewers appear in the following table:

### **Educational Television Programme Viewers by Target Groups**

Fiscal Year	Formal curricular Students	Non-formal curricular	General education viewers	Total
1995	68,082	20,562	67,007	155,656
1996	346,547	198,754	135,862	681,163
1997	2,482,652	1,020,114	953,604	4,456,370
1998	3,437,005	1,197,508	797,038	5,431,551
1999	3,464,085	1,209,012	760,329	5,433,476
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,798,376</b>	<b>3,645,950</b>	<b>2,713,890</b>	<b>16,158,216</b>