

## **Theoretical Perspectives on the Development of Social Welfare Services : Which Perspective is Relevant to Thai Society ?**

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Social welfare services have their own history of development in each country. However, different perspectives exist on the reasons for the emergence of social welfare services. Some say that social welfare services emerge in response to social problems arising from the development process. Others argue that social welfare services increase when economic development creates resources needed to support them. Others have firmly stressed the importance of political components as different groups struggle for their own interests.

The objective of this paper is to describe the circumstances surrounding the development and/or non-development of social welfare services in Thailand by discussing the three main factors : social, economic and political. Emphasis has been given to the last component.