## THE USE OF TRANSACTIONAL AND TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP APPROACHES INFLUENCING ON EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION IN THAI FAMILY BUSINESSES

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Thematic paper entitled THE USE OF TRANSACTIONAL AND TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP APPROACHES INFLUENCING ON EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION IN THAI FAMILY BUSINESSES

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All in all, I hope this research will be useful for all related organizations especially, family business or SMEs as the research is conducted base on family business cases.

Saralee Khaophuthai

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this research is to investigate the use of transactional and transformational leadership approaches influencing on employee satisfaction in Thai family businesses. The in-depth interview and non-participant observation were used to identify the leadership style and employee satisfaction among subordinates in the organizations. The purpose of increasing the satisfaction of employees is to increase the productivity within SMEs as they are the major contributors to Thailand's economy. The number from previous studies show that there are up to 99 percent of SMEs of total enterprises in Thailand, and SMEs contribute 41.1 percent of the country's GDP. There is some room to grow from SMEs but they need to be improve their management to adapt to the changes. This case studies will identify the problem and the use of leadership styles in family business (SMEs), and it found that most of the Thai family businesses are more likely to be transactional leadership style, so if they can apply more transformational leadership altogether, it will increase employee satisfaction which will impact on the productivity and solid foundation of the companies, so companies can improve themselves bit by bit till it helps improve the country's economy.

KEY WORDS: Family Business/ Transactional Leadership /Transformational Leadership/ Employee Satisfaction

32 pages

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# CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

Small and medium-sized enterprises or SMEs are the form of business found in every country, and they normally play the crucial role in economy of a particular country as they help reducing the unemployment rate and boosting up the economy to drive the country. They share some mutual attributes which is the owners of the enterprises are normally family members to operate the business based on trust and connections, so the business is more likely to be family-like culture. Therefore, whether companies will be successful or not, it depends on the owner's' vision, managerial styles and supports from the related parties.

SMEs play one of the most important roles for Thailand's economy as in 2015 SMEs accounted for over 99 percent of all the enterprises in Thailand which is 2.7 million and 80.44 percent or 10.48 million people of the total employment (Number and Employment of SMEs, 2016). Even though the percentage of the number of SMEs in Thailand is quite high, small and medium enterprises could only contribute 41.1 percent of the country's gross domestic product in the same year of which is 29.1 percent from small-sized companies and 12 percent from medium-sized companies (Gross Domestic Product of SMEs, 2016).

It means that Thailand should be able to improve more to reach the higher GDP. To be successful, SMEs which are mostly family-own should adapt themselves to the changes by building solid foundation of the business starting from companies' leaders who affect to many functions in the business. The purpose of this research is to investigate the use of transactional and transformational leadership approaches influencing on employee satisfaction in Thai family businesses.

The purpose of this research is to investigate the use of transactional and transformational leadership approaches influencing on employee satisfaction in Thai family businesses. The in-depth interview and non-participant observation were used to identify the leadership style and employee satisfaction among subordinates in the organizations. The purpose of increasing the satisfaction of employees is to increase the productivity within SMEs as they are the major contributors to Thailand's economy. This case studies will identify the problem and the use of leadership styles in family business (SMEs), and it found that most of the Thai family businesses are more likely to be transactional leadership style, so if they can apply more transformational leadership altogether, it will increase employee satisfaction which will impact on the productivity and concrete foundation of the companies, so companies can improve themselves bit by bit till it helps improve the country's economy.



# CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW

The reason that I would like to do the research on leadership style in the Thai family businesses is because I am the one who are in the family business as well, and I have seen many situations from my parent's businesses which is now under the administration of the second generation and soon to be pass to the third generation. Since I have started working with my parents, I notice that most of the employees work day by day for the end of the month when they can get their salary. Employees do not have inspiration and passion in what they are doing. They do what they command to do. If no one monitors them, the work will not be productive as it should be. Therefore, I initially collect more data from other family businesses in similar company's sizes. Having talented leaders can impact on employee satisfaction which is one of the main factors that can affect companies' success. However, a lot of family business in Thailand still need to be improved since their leaders who share vision and goal of the companies so that the companies are more productive in many ways.

Therefore, I have conducted this literature review to find out the possible solution to help improving the leadership styles in the Thai family businesses to satisfy employees' satisfactions to have better productivity in the company.

# 2.1 Background of Transactional and Transformational Leadership Styles

There are many leadership theories that have been developed such as trait, behavioral, contingency, transactional and transformational theories, but the most applicable in recent days are transactional and transformational leadership theories as they have been developed from the limitation and disadvantages of the previous theories (Leadership Theories, n.d.). To reach employee satisfaction, companies' leaders should have both transactional and transformational leadership styles. There are some differences of the concepts between these two leadership styles.

#### 2.1.1 Transactional leadership

Transactional leadership style is a style that the leaders promote employees' compliance by offering rewards and punishment based in contingency as the performance of people will be evaluated and to be decide whether will get reward or punishment, so it focuses on task-oriented (McClesky, 2014). Organizational rewards or punishments are the factors to motivate employees' compliance and task accomplishment. To reward or punish the employees, leader will create the clear structure of evaluation to their subordinates in order to be able to measure whether employees should get rewards or not. Transactional leaders will expect interactions between them and employees that reflect to the benefits of both. Nonetheless, punish is not always mentioned but if employees sometimes make mistakes, the leader will suggest corrective coaching (Transactional Leadership, n.d.). However, transactional leaders are likely to focus on each day operation and not emphasize on sharing the clear organizations' vision and goals, and that can cause the lack of employees' productivity as sometimes they are lost in directions as they highly pay attention to employees' works without looking for the future changes. Therefore, this style of leadership will be more effective in emergency situation.

Some examples of transactional leadership's beneficial exchange are contingent rewards that are in the interest of followers. There are many reward options used in business such as commission, monetary bonuses, free membership, trips and paid vacation days (Skillman, n.d.). The effective contingent rewards should be able to encourage the whole desired behavior, not only when the goal reached. For example, if the salespersons reach the sales target, they will get a free ticket for their vacation, but the reward system will not work if they cannot meet the quality requirement. To be more effective, the reward system should be individualized to capture employees' interest.

In conclusion, transactional leadership emphasize on increasing efficiency of the existing routine duties and procedure or operation rather than making changes for organizations.

#### 2.1.2 Transformational leadership

Unlike transactional leadership approach, transformational leadership style is more likely to be motivational relationship between leaders and followers. The leaders will motivate the employees to perform beyond their expectation by offering short-term goal and focus on providing higher order intrinsic needs, building trust and influencing employees to commit and contribute themselves to the sake of company (Thomas, 1999) as they feel they are important to the organization. Transformational leadership theory has become the most contemporary approach that has been used in many organizations.

According to Burn (1978), the full range of leadership introduces four dimensions of transformational leadership as following (Awamleh, R., Mahate, A. & Evans, J. (2005):

• Individualized Consideration: The degree that leaders pay attention to the needs of each employee, act as a mentor and listen to employees' voices about their needs and concerns. The employees are willing to perform jobs, have aspirations for their self-development and have intrinsic motivation for their tasks.

• Intellectual Stimulation: The degree that leaders challenge themselves by taking risks to the employees' ideas in order to stimulate and encourage creativity for employees as let employees freely think and do what they design. Another way around is that leaders can learn from employees' failures and success as their opportunities.

• Inspirational Motivation: The degree that leaders are able to smoothly transfer their inspiring vision to their employees. The employees will be challenged with high standards and positively communicate about future goals. The employees are willingly to drive the companies forwards to reach the achievement. Also, leaders' visionary aspects will be reachable if they have good communication skills to make vision understandable, engaging, powerful and precise. The followers are willing to put efforts in their tasks.

• Idealized Influence: The degree that leaders can be a role model in ethical behavior and gain respect and trust.

Leaders will build strong and trust-based relationship with their employees, and help their followers grow as individuals.

#### 2.1.3 Employee Satisfaction

Motivating employees to do their best on their tasks is one of the managers' responsibilities. It is very challenging to accomplish the employees' satisfaction, and it widely gains many attentions in academic area. Many researches such as Abraham Maslow try to study the behaviors of the people and how to satisfy them. Additionally, they try to understand why people do something and why they do not. In one hand, the research answered some questions to managers in order to understand their employees on their needs such as reward system. In the other hand, there are many factors that need to be taken into account such as external variables that affect directly to employees' satisfaction. Maslow's hierarchy need has been used to explain the employee satisfaction for several researches. However, Nohria et.al (2008) also came up the new model that develop to be used in business practice. The table derived from Maslow's concept but has been applied to the employees.

| DRIVE            | PRIMARY LEVER                                     | ACTIONS  |
|------------------|---|--|
| Acquire          | Reward System                                     | Sharply differentiate good performers<br>from average and poor performers  |
| (1)              | N 4 6 1 1 1                                       | Tie rewards clearly to performance   |
| U                | Des a   | Pay as well as your competitors  |
| Bond             | Culture   | <ul> <li>Foster mutual reliance and friendship<br/>among coworkers</li> </ul>  |
| (2)              |   | Value collaboration and teamwork   |
| E                | 0   | Encourage sharing of best practices  |
| Comprehend       | Job Design  | Design jobs that have distinct and important roles in the organization   |
| 3                |   | <ul> <li>Design jobs that are meaningful and<br/>foster a sense of contribution to the<br/>organization</li> </ul>                     |
| Defend           | Performance-Management<br>and Resource-Allocation | Increase the transparency of all<br>processes  |
| $(\mathbf{A})$ _ | Processes   | Emphasize their fairness   |
| e                |   | <ul> <li>Build trust by being just and transparent<br/>in granting rewards, assignments, and<br/>other forms of recognition</li> </ul> |

Figure 2.1 Four Emotional Driver to Fulfil Employee Satisfaction

This table shows how to meet employee satisfaction by implementing the four emotional drives. The first variable is the drive to acquire. The needs of people are in different levels as we do not just need physical goods such as food, clothing,

shelter and money as Maslow's basic need level, but not only those needs. They would want to have social status such as being promoted as Maslow's psychological needs. They explained that people not always think about themselves but they think about others as people always compare what they have to what others have, so they will do work to acquire what they want and what others can have. This reflect to the reward system as it tells the clearly result of performance to compare between employees whether poor or good. Also, tie rewards to good performers as watch out for your competitors. Make sure that you pay the same or higher.

Another one is drive to bond to culture. This is the way people connect the organizations, association and nations. Culture will be one of the factors that increase employee satisfaction as it will reflect the feeling of belonging of the companies as it creates culture of team building, collaboration and friendship, so there is string attached within the group. Finally, they dedicate themselves to the organization.

The third factor is drive to comprehend by designing challenging and interesting jobs. That is how to motivate employees as to let them grow and freely learn by themselves and to trial and errors. If your job designed is not interesting and challenging enough, the talented employees would leave to other companies.

The last possible factor is drive to defend. Performance-management and resource- allocation processes need to be fair, trustworthy, and transparent so that the employees' drive to defend as they understand when they disagree with leaders. Make sure that what they disagree with has reasonable cause and transparent, and they will comprehend that.

## 2.2 Framework of Research

This figure demonstrates that while transactional leadership is needed, the addition of transformational leadership is what inspires follower performance to reach beyond expectations. According to this definition, there are four factors that a transformational leader embodies: idealized influence, inspirational motivation, intellectual stimulation, and individualized consideration.



# Figure 2.2 The diagram shows the combination of transactional and transformational leadership style

Source: transactional and transformational leadership (2016)

Here are the lists of the possible propositions for this literature review for this research:

• The provision of individualized consideration in family business leader that affects employees' intrinsic motivation for their tasks

• The provision of intellectual Stimulation in family business leader that affects employees' performance

• The provision of Inspirational Motivation in family business leader that affects employees' job engagement

• The provision of Idealized Influence in family business leader that affects employees' self-development.

The next chapter will discuss about the research methodology used to explore the proposition above.

# CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research will be applied the qualitative form as using interview and observation during company visits. The purpose of using interview method is to get to the information in details from interviewees' perspective and experiences towards leadership styles affecting on employee satisfaction. This method was chosen over survey form because the interviewer is able to access to specific and detailed information from different companies. Another method used in this research is non-participant observation as the interview is able to observe how employees perform their tasks and interaction between leaders and employees. While the observation, the interviewer will not participate during their working hours in order to observe the real behaviors.

## 3.1 Data Collection

The open-ended questions are conducted in order to ask the interviewees so that they can naturally explain their point of view with large amount of content. Open-ended questions help encouraging people to discuss about their situation rather than close-ended questions because they are short answers which is difficult to illustrate. Additionally, the data acquired from open-ended questions are more precise for specific companies as well.

Accordingly, the interview's questions are designed to be used for employees in the four family-owned companies which are from different industries. The questions will be set as transformational leadership theory as it is open-ended question, the answer can be in both transactional and transformation.

#### 3.1.2 Primary Data Collection

To perform data collection, the interview will be face-to-face interview and non-participant observation for each respondent. The semi-structure questions will be in discussion, and the respondents can talk freely in the fields of activities. After the interview, the data collected will be applied to link to the theories, and those answers that are not related to the area of study will be eliminated.

#### 3.1.3 Secondary Data Collection

Non-participant observation will be secondary data collection as leaders and employees will be observed all the activities and interactions between them without interviewer's participation interrupting during the real situation. Consequently, the data collection will be accurate as they can perform job without interrupting.

The list of interview's questions provided below:

| Interview Questions  | Interviewee |
|--|-------------|
| - Individualized Consideration                                       |             |
| Does your leader create a clear structure to measure your            |             |
| performance? Is it the same for every one?                           |             |
| How your leader measure or evaluate your performance?                |             |
| What do you think about your leader's evaluation? How does it affect |             |
| your work and teammate?  |             |
| Does your company have reward system as a team or individual? How    |             |
| do you feel?   |             |
| Besides work problem, does your boss pay attention to your personal  |             |
| life?  |             |
| - Intellectual Stimulation   |             |
| If there is a problem during your work, how you solve the problem?   |             |
| How your leader helps you out? Is there any structural problem-      |             |
| solving for employees?   |             |
| Does your leader set a structural problem-solving for employees?     |             |

 Table 3.1 List of questions for employees in different companies.

| Interview Questions  | Interviewee |
|--|-------------|
| Can you solve the problem by yourself? If you can how you do it and        |             |
| the limitation that you leader will allow?                                 |             |
| Can you give advice/feedback or involve in problem solving with you        |             |
| leader?  |             |
| Does you leader encourage you to logical and systematic way of             |             |
| thinking?  |             |
| Can you design how you want to work?                                       |             |
| - Inspirational Motivation   |             |
| Do you completely understand about your work and work target you           |             |
| have to reach?   |             |
| Does your leader explain clearly about the assigned work and the           |             |
| purposes before start doing work?  |             |
| Is the work you do challenging you? How does you leader support you?       |             |
| Does your company normally provide training for employees?                 |             |
| Do you think the assigned job suit your capabilities?                      |             |
| Is your boss one of the inspirational factors to reach job accomplishment? |             |
| How?   |             |
| - Idealized Influence  |             |
| Please explain the characteristic of the leader that you would like to     |             |
| work with.   |             |
| Do your leader's characteristics impress you? Do you have your boss        |             |
| as you idol?   |             |
| Which characteristics that you want boss to change?                        |             |
| Does your leader influence your work and life?                             |             |

 Table 3.1 List of questions for employees in different companies. (cont.)

## 3.2 Data Validity

The result of the interview will be used to analyze the findings in the next chapter, so it is crucial to ensure that the results are valid by using the probing techniques such as asking the same question in several different sentence, using the interviewer whom the interviewees do not know and observing the real situations without participating the interviewees.

The next chapter will discuss about the results of this research as findings and discussion chapters.



# CHAPTER IV FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In the final analysis, the information gathered will be displayed in the table below showing the question asked and the summary of the interviews. The research methodology was conducted to identify the missing and existing important elements in improving the organizational starting from the leaders. The findings from two employees of two different companies out of four companies will be the indicator of the elements that are significant in improving the leadership style in family businesses.

#### 4.1 In-Depth Interview

The data collection was designed for four family businesses but they are summarized and will be chosen as example only two family business. The selected family businesses shown in the findings are Kittipong Homemart and Khunsri Rice Mill, and the other two family businesses are Chanomporn Farm which is a chicken egg farm and P-Tech civil engineering which is a construction contractor.

The first family business that was interview named Kittipong Homemart which is a construction supplies retailer and wholesaler located in small city, Banglen, Nakhon Pathom. This company is considered as a medium-size business that has employees who are working for them for over 20 years. Her responsibility is to take care of the sale for the contractors and the project's owners. Her job is to sell and purchase tools and equipment to the shop.

| Interview Questions                       | Kittipong Homemart's Employee                   |
|---|---|
| - Individualized Consideration            |   |
| Does your leader create a clear structure | • Do not have the structural evaluation.        |
| to measure your performance? Is it        |   |
| the same for every one?                   |   |
| How your leader measure or evaluate       | • Leader evaluates from sale performance        |
| your performance?                         | end of the year.                                |
|   | • No evaluation form/criteria to see how        |
|   | much they have to sale to get the unknown       |
|   | amount of bonuses.                              |
| What do you think about your leader's     | • The evaluation should be clearer about        |
| evaluation? How does it affect your       | how it works.                                   |
| work and teammate?                        | • The rewards are on individualized             |
|   | consideration, and the work do not need         |
|   | much cooperation from others, just sometimes.   |
| MA  | • Mostly focus on individual tasks and try to   |
| 1 2 3                                     | finish routine jobs day by day.                 |
| Does your company have reward             | • Yes, as yearly bonus                          |
| system as a team or individual? How       | • Paid individually                             |
| do you feel?                              | • We have to focus on the company's revenue,    |
|   | and make the organizational grow.               |
| Besides work problem, does your           | • She is like friends and boss at the same time |
| boss pay attention to your personal       | • She helps me a lot with my personal life      |
| life?                                     | such as family problem.                         |
| - Intellectual Stimulation                |   |
| If there is a problem during your         | • If it is everyday problem, we solve it right  |
| work, how you solve the problem?          | away by ourselves, but it depends much on       |
| How your leader helps you out? Is         | the level of decision making.                   |
| there any structural problem-solving      | • If it is unseen problem, we have to ask the   |
| for employees?                            | leader first before we decide.                  |

 Table 4.1 The Summary of the Interview Result of Kittipong Homemart of Employee

| Interview Questions                    | Kittipong Homemart's Employee                  |
|--|--|
| Can you solve the problem by yourself? | • It depends on what problem occurring in      |
| If you can how you do it and the       | which department.                              |
| limitation that you leader will allow? | • We can decide if it is not much affect to    |
|  | the company's return, customers or anything    |
|  | negative effect to company.                    |
| Can you give advice/feedback or        | • Yes, sometime she will ask for customers'    |
| involve in problem solving with you    | voice in order to improve.                     |
| leader?                                | • We can feedback her about the problem        |
|  | occurring during work with others, and tell    |
|  | what is better for us.                         |
| Does you leader encourage you to       | • She will guide and show if it was her, how   |
| logical and systematic way of          | she will cope with it.                         |
| thinking?                              |  |
| Can you design how you want to         | • Normally, leader will tell what she wants    |
| work?                                  | in detail, and we do as what she wants         |
| 12                                     | • Our jobs is mostly routine job so nothing    |
| 6                                      | much different each day.                       |
| - Inspirational Motivation             |  |
| Do you completely understand about     | • Yes, pretty clear and understand as we do    |
| your work and work target you have     | it for several years, and because I am here    |
| to reach?                              | for over 20 years. I have been rotated to      |
|  | almost every field.                            |
|  | • Actually, she did not set the target and     |
|  | announce it for each period, so what we do is  |
|  | just sale part.                                |
| Does your leader explain clearly about | • Yes, we understand what we are doing and for |
| the assigned work and the purposes     | • But sometimes she changes what she wants     |
| before start doing work?               | and it happened quite often, so we have to     |
|  | edit the work.                                 |

 Table 4.1 Demographic data of the respondents (cont.)

| Interview Questions                      | Kittipong Homemart's Employee                    |
|--|--|
| Is the work you do challenging you?      | • If it the new project, she will guide us and   |
| How does you leader support you?         | let us try the work first, after we are done, we |
|  | need to her approval before it will be reached   |
|  | to customers.                                    |
| Does your company normally provide       | • We do not have training. It is more like       |
| training for employees?                  | learn by yourself with some guidelines           |
|  | • We have training offered from SCG, our         |
| 21                                       | supplier, but not often                          |
| Do you think the assigned job suit       | • Yes, it is not hard, and do not require high   |
| your capabilities?                       | capabilities, but it is load same work. It is    |
|  | boring sometimes.                                |
| Is your boss one of the inspirational    | • Yes, sometimes. It will reach there faster if  |
| factors to reach job accomplishment?     | she guides us.                                   |
| How?                                     |  |
| - Idealized Influence                    |  |
| Please explain the characteristic of     | • Flexible                                       |
| the leader that you would like to work   | • Confidence                                     |
| with.                                    | • Commitment                                     |
| 11 81 1                                  | • Creative                                       |
| Do your leader's characteristics impress | • She is very creative in the way she talks to   |
| you? Do you have your boss as you        | customers. It sounds so easy for her to get      |
| idol?                                    | the target with the big order.                   |
|  | • I feel she is my family more than boss         |
|  | now, and she started from zero to now we         |
|  | are medium-size Company which is well-           |
|  | known in our small city.                         |
| Which characteristics that you want      | • Too perceivable as when we work, we            |
| boss to change?                          | want it to be finish so that we can move on.     |

 Table 4.1 Demographic data of the respondents (cont.)

| Interview Questions                  | Kittipong Homemart's Employee                |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Does your leader influence your work | • Yes, I commit to work for her for the rest |
| and life?                            | of my life. She has taught me since here has |
|                                      | only two employees. I have learned so much   |
|                                      | from her. She is like my sister.             |

 Table 4.1 Demographic data of the respondents (cont.)

The second family business that was interview named Khunsri Rice Mill which is a Rice mill processing located in small city, Sai Noi, Nonthaburi. This company is considered as a medium-size business that has only two employees who are working for them for several years. Her responsibility is to take care of the routine operations such as weigh the truck in and out. Sometimes estimates the purchasing price of paddy.

| Interview Questions                       | Khunsri Rice Mill's Employee                  |
|---|---|
| - Individualized Consideration            |   |
| Does your leader create a clear structure | • No structure at all.                        |
| to measure your performance? Is it        |   |
| the same for every one?                   |   |
| How your leader measure or evaluate       | • From leaders' observation during the year   |
| your performance?                         | and from the performance in each              |
|   | assignment.                                   |
| What do you think about your leader's     | • Because it is no structural evaluation, we  |
| evaluation? How does it affect your       | will work as much as we can according to      |
| work and teammate?                        | their wants.                                  |
|   | • There is some teamwork but not much as      |
|   | we have only two officers in the office, we   |
|   | will just replace each other when another one |
|   | has day off.                                  |
|   | • When we work at the same time, our works    |
|   | are not related.                              |

Table 4.2 The Summary of the Interview Result of Khunsri Rice Mill's Employee

 Table 4.2 The Summary of the Interview Result of Khunsri Rice Mill's Employee (cont.)

| Interview Questions                     | Khunsri Rice Mill's Employee                   |
|---|--|
| Does your company have reward           | • We have individual reward end of the year    |
| system as a team or individual? How     | as bonus                                       |
| do you feel?                            | • It is quite reasonable.                      |
| Besides work problem, does your boss    | • I am their cousin, so they always help and   |
| pay attention to your personal life?    | support my family when in need.                |
| -Intellectual Stimulation               |  |
| If there is a problem during your work, | • We solve what we can and what we have        |
| how you solve the problem? How          | seen before.                                   |
| your leader helps you out? Is there     | • Most of the time leader will solve it based  |
| any structural problem-solving for      | on their experiences, but sometimes we can     |
| employees?                              | give some ideas.                               |
| Can you solve the problem by            | • Yes, they will let me do it if they are sure |
| yourself? If you can how you do it      | that I can but normally I will ask them for    |
| and the limitation that you leader      | double checking.                               |
| will allow?                             | • Everything happened, the leader must know,   |
| 6                                       | so we can do the basic problem solving only.   |
| Can you give advice/feedback or         | • Yes, they do openly listen to our voice and  |
| involve in problem solving with you     | take in to account when they make decision     |
| leader?                                 | W S  |
| Does you leader encourage you to        | • Depend on the tasks but mostly not, they     |
| logical and systematic way of thinking? | focus on the result.                           |
| Can you design how you want to          | • Yes, but they will check they task and       |
| work?                                   | follow how we do every time.                   |
| -Inspirational Motivation               |  |
| Does your leader explain clearly        | • Sometimes we understand it at first as they  |
| about the assigned work and the         | express the purpose but usually without        |
| purposes before start doing work?       | details, so we get lost during the process.    |

 Table 4.2 The Summary of the Interview Result of Khunsri Rice Mill's Employee (cont.)

|                                       | Khunsri Rice Mill's Employee                    |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Is the work you do challenging you?   | • Not at all. It is routine job, and the hard   |
| How does you leader support you?      | decision making ones will be on their           |
|                                       | responsibilities.                               |
|                                       | • But sometimes there will be one and they      |
|                                       | support by providing all the sources we need.   |
| Does your company normally            | • No training at all.                           |
| provide training for employees?       | 001   |
| Do you think the assigned job suit    | • I am not sure how much I can do but for the   |
| your capabilities?                    | everyday work is not difficult and I can do it. |
| Is your boss one of the inspirational | • Yes, they are a part of it as they know I am  |
| factors to reach job                  | so good at a particular thing so when I have    |
| accomplishment? How?                  | problems, they will provide support and guide   |
|                                       | me.   |
| -Idealized Influence                  |   |
| Please explain the characteristic of  | • Systematic thinker                            |
| the leader that you would like to     | • Flexible                                      |
| work with.                            | • Visionary                                     |
| Do your leader's characteristics      | • Delegated                                     |
| impress you? Do you have your boss    | • They are very helpful with my job as they     |
| as you idol?                          | will do it with us. Sometimes instead of        |
|                                       | taking rest, they stay up and work with us.     |
| Which characteristics that you want   | • It is family business, so not a real          |
| boss to change?                       | organizational structure. Sometimes there       |
|                                       | will be family related in the decision which    |
|                                       | cause decreasing in productivity.               |
| Does your leader influence your       | • They are great influencers as they are very   |
| work and life?                        | supportive towards job difficulties and also    |
|                                       | 1   |

#### 4.2 Non-Participant Observation

From the non-participant observation of Kittipong Homemart, all of the employees have routine tasks that they have to finish each day. The work performance is mostly based on individuals rather than teamwork as one person has a different specific duty, but some of them share the duty which is selling the tools and equipment. The interactions between leaders and followers in this company is tend to be more transactional leadership. For example, from a real situation when non-participate observing, when one of the employees who are responsible for selling roofing tools and equipment, she has to make a quotation for a manager/owner to prove before offering to customers. Therefore, the interviewer asked her if she gets something in return, so she told that she will get the commission per house. There are some evidences of transactional leadership style as there must be some exchanges between leaders and followers.

From the non-participant observation of Khunsri Rice Mill, there are only two employees doing routine jobs as well, so the work performance is likely to be individual. The employees here seem to lack inspirations as no training at all and lack challenging tasks. Most of the time they can watch television, surf the Internet and go out to the market. Day passed by, they are waiting for the work rather than looking for works. Thereby, there is very low encouragement for the desired behavior.

After analyzed the interview result, the findings come out as transactional leadership style is still applied a lot in SMEs which mostly are family-owed. To be more successful in both business management and employee satisfaction, these family business should apply both transactional and transformational leadership approaches so that the win-win situation appears as both sides get benefits.

#### 4.3 Managerial Implication

Consequently, the result turned out as the expectation that most of the Thai family businesses that are in small to medium sized will rather have transactional leadership style than transformational leadership because most of the family businesses are emphasizing on profitability, so they expect tangible return on what they invest in. It is likely to have only only transactional leadership style, but there are also some clues of transformational leadership styles as well such as idealized influence and individualized consideration.

# CHAPTER V RECOMMENTDATION AND CONCLUSION

The following recommendations are suitable for the employees in the family businesses. This part will explain how the in-depth interview and non-participant observation are applied for the recommendation. The recommendations are mainly focus on the results of the four companies that are interviewed about their leaders.

Based on Findings, to satisfy employees, leaders should apply both transactional and transformational leadership in order to reflect win-win situation for both leaders and followers.

In addition, leaders should improve the standard of how the rewards system is evaluated. The problem of the four companies is they do not have a clear and structural evaluation of how the reward will be, or what is the criteria of getting rewards, so the companies should set up Key Performance Indicator (KPI) for individuals.

For example, leader should have consideration on individuals' needs in order to set up the attractive KPI for each employee, and explain clearly what will be the exchange between them such as if employees are able to reach target sale 5 percent of the sale last year, they will get a free plane ticket to Singapore on vacation in case that the employees like to travel as it is their priority. Not only setting the KPI and evaluation, the leaders should also give the feedback and comments to the employees, so they get to know whether what they do is good or not. They will be able to improve from the leaders' feedback.

Since the findings show that family business is more likely to be transactional leadership, so the leaders should promote more transformational leadership by inspiring them to have the sense of belonging.

First of all, the company should design interesting and meaningful work for employees, so they feel more challenged about the work and want to learn more, and they also want to accomplish the new target in different ways. They feel how important they are to the organizations. Another recommendation is leaders should influence employees by informing a clear company's vision so they are on the same path. Most of the time family business is too focus on the efficiency of the jobs but they neglect the vision of the company. They can get lost during the process. If both sides are on the same page, they easily achieve the goals.

Employee training is also crucial to organizations as they can increase selfdevelopment, and feel that there are always new things to learn, so it is not boring. For example, leaders should increase or estimate the cost of training, then prepare the budget for it. It can be held quarterly. Moreover, team building is another factor that drive the organizations to the goals.

Leaders should encourage the employees to be more creative about their work by letting they make the decision on problem-solving. This is not only benefits the flexibility of employees' work, but leaders will have opportunities to learn from them as well. The leaders should be more supportive about letting them do on their own.

If the companies can apply both approaches, the employee satisfaction will definitely rise up. When employees satisfy what they are doing, the quality of work also increase and that is how leadership impacts on many factors that drive to the work productivity. It leads to the success of the companies. When the companies have a solid foundation, it will reflect to company's turnover and capabilities to grow to the next step.

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## **Appendix A: Questionnaire**

The Table below show the interview result of the employee from Chanomporn Farm which is an egg farm located in Banglen, Nakhon Pathom. This small-sized business has only two employees in the office to do the routine jobs. Her responsibility is in charge of the rest workforce in the farm. Not only control the staff in the farm, she also does the office works such as sale and accounting.

| Interview Questions  | Chanomporn Farm's employee   |
|--|--|
| - Individualized Consideration   |  |
| Does your leader create a clear structure<br>to measure your performance? Is it the<br>same for every one? | • Do not have the structural evaluation.   |
| How your leader measure or evaluate your performance?  | <ul> <li>Leader evaluates from sale performance<br/>end of the year.</li> <li>No structural criteria to evaluate<br/>performance.</li> </ul>   |
| What do you think about your leader's<br>evaluation? How does it affect your<br>work and teammate?         | <ul> <li>I have never known that I will be evaluated as it is my first year working here.</li> <li>There is no obvious effect to the work.</li> <li>Mostly focus on individual tasks and try to finish routine jobs day by day.</li> </ul> |
| Does your company have reward<br>system as a team or individual? How<br>do you feel?                       | <ul> <li>Yes, we have semi-annual bonus</li> <li>Paid individually</li> <li>Get the extra is always better than getting nothing</li> </ul>   |
| Besides work problem, does your boss<br>pay attention to your personal life?                               | • He helps me a lot with my personal life<br>such as family expenditure as my mother is<br>not doing good.   |

The Summary of the Interview Result of Chanomporn Farm's Employee

| Interview Questions                    | Chanomporn Farm's employee                  |
|--|---|
| - Intellectual Stimulation             |   |
| If there is a problem during your      | • Most of the problem will be solved by     |
| work, how you solve the problem?       | the leaders as owner.                       |
| How your leader helps you out? Is      | • There is no structural problem-solving    |
| there any structural problem-solving   | • We will make decisions on the basic       |
| for employees?                         | problems                                    |
| Can you solve the problem by           | • Yes, we make decision on the workers'     |
| yourself? If you can how you do it and | problems that can happen every day during   |
| the limitation that you leader will    | work  |
| allow?                                 |   |
| Can you give advice/feedback or        | • Yes, sometime she will ask for            |
| involve in problem solving with you    | customers' voice in order to improve.       |
| leader?                                | • But we do not discuss often               |
| Does you leader encourage you to       | • Usually we use our senses.                |
| logical and systematic way of          |   |
| thinking?                              |   |
| Can you design how you want to         | • Our jobs is mostly routine job so nothing |
| work?                                  | much different each day.                    |
| - Inspirational Motivation             |   |
| Do you completely understand about     | • Actually, she did not set the target and  |
| your work and work target you have to  | announce it for each period, so what we do  |
| reach?                                 | is just make every day work go smoothly     |
| Does your leader explain clearly about | • Yes, we understand what we are doing      |
| the assigned work and the purposes     | and for                                     |
| before start doing work?               |   |
| Is the work you do challenging you?    | • Our work is not too difficult but it is   |
| How does you leader support you?       | routine work.                               |
|  | • The leaders will support me by providing  |
|  | what is caused the everyday work bottle     |
|  | neck.                                       |

| Interview Questions                      | Chanomporn Farm's employee                       |
|--|--|
| Does your company normally provide       | • We do not have training. It is more like       |
| training for employees?                  | learn by yourself with some advises from         |
|  | the older employees or boss.                     |
| Do you think the assigned job suit       | • I think it is under my abilities but I like    |
| your capabilities?                       | working it here because of the                   |
|  | atmospheres. I feel very comfortable.            |
| Is your boss one of the inspirational    | • Yes, he is very supportive and patient for     |
| factors to reach job accomplishment?     | me because I am not a fast-learning person.      |
| How?                                     | 0 N  |
| - Idealized Influence                    |  |
| Please explain the characteristic of the | • Flexible                                       |
| leader that you would like to work       | • Patient  |
| with.                                    | • Creative                                       |
| Do your leader's characteristics         | • He is very kind and patient with the           |
| impress you? Do you have your boss       | employees  |
| as you idol?                             | • He uses polite words with his subordinates     |
| Which characteristics that you want      | • He is still young about 35, and sometimes      |
| boss to change?                          | he does not focus on the work as he should,      |
| 19                                       | so it causes some damages.                       |
| Does your leader influence your work     | • Yes, in the way he lives. Enjoy life when      |
| and life?                                | he can. But for the work, he still has something |
|  | to change.                                       |

The Table below show the interview result of the employee from P-Tech Civil Engineering which is a construction contractor located in Banglen, Nakhon Pathom. This small-sized business has only two employees in the office to do the routine jobs as well. His responsibility is in charge of the rest workforce in the construction site and work as an engineer.

| Interview Questions                  | P-Tech Civil Engineering's Employee              |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| - Individualized Consideration       |  |
| Does your leader create a clear      | • We do not have a clear structure but we look   |
| structure to measure your            | at the overall return each project               |
| performance? Is it the same for      |  |
| every one?                           |  |
| How your leader measure or           | • I will get the different bonus per projects    |
| evaluate your performance?           | depending on the profit that we earn.            |
| What do you think about your         | • I think he uses experiences that he faced      |
| leader's evaluation? How does it     | before in evaluating my performance              |
| affect your work and teammate?       | • It affects the teammate a lot as our bonus     |
|                                      | depends on the profit each project, so if we     |
|                                      | make less mistake, we earn more.                 |
| Does your company have reward        | • The reward system is provided to the project   |
| system as a team or individual?      | manager only, not for all the labor force.       |
| How do you feel?                     | • Reward as a team                               |
| 1 2                                  | • It is good thing that it is a team reward      |
|                                      | because we help each other a lot and it reflects |
| 123                                  | better quality and productivity.                 |
| Besides work problem, does your      | • Yes, he is very kind to my kids.               |
| boss pay attention to your personal  | • I can get bonus early to pay for my kids'      |
| life?                                | intuition fee and he won't make a problem        |
|                                      | with that.                                       |
| - Intellectual Stimulation           |  |
| If there is a problem during your    | • I will be the one who solve the problem in     |
| work, how you solve the problem?     | the working site generally                       |
| How your leader helps you out? Is    | • The problem solving has no specific            |
| there any structural problem-solving | structure as we use our sense most of the time   |
| for employees?                       | • My leader will help in the advance problems    |
|                                      | that hugely affect the company                   |
|                                      |  |

The Summary of the Interview Result of P-Tech Civil Engineering's Employee

| Interview Questions                   | P-Tech Civil Engineering's Employee                |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Can you solve the problem by          | • Yes, He will let me do most of the time, and     |
| yourself? If you can how you do it    | there is no specific limits in my work as I will   |
| and the limitation that you leader    | feel by myself when I need his help                |
| will allow?                           |  |
| Can you give advice/feedback or       | • Yes, they do openly listen to our voice and      |
| involve in problem solving with       | take in to account when they make decision         |
| you leader?                           | because I am the one who see the real              |
|                                       | situation and work at the site.                    |
| Does you leader encourage you to      | • Yes, to be an engineer. We are very logical      |
| logical and systematic way of         | thinkers   |
| thinking?                             |  |
| Can you design how you want to        | • Yes, I can design when I will go the site or     |
| work?                                 | when to go to the office. He let me set it freely. |
| -Inspirational Motivation             |  |
| Does your leader explain clearly      | • Yes, it is very clear for weekly target, so he   |
| about the assigned work and the       | set the percentage of the progress that we need    |
| purposes before start doing work?     | to reach each week and what else he wants to see.  |
| Is the work you do challenging        | • The challenges depend on the sites, so it is     |
| you? How does you leader support      | quite fun job as we see new things as new          |
| you?                                  | projects   |
|                                       | • My boss is very supportive as he will            |
|                                       | provide what I want to make the work go            |
|                                       | smoothly   |
| Does your company normally            | • No training, but we work from our                |
| provide training for employees?       | experiences  |
| Do you think the assigned job suit    | • I love my job, and I think it is what I expect   |
| your capabilities?                    | to see when I apply the job here.                  |
| Is your boss one of the inspirational | • Yes, many successful projects happened           |
| factors to reach job                  | because of his supports during the works           |
| accomplishment? How?                  |  |

| Interview Questions                  | P-Tech Civil Engineering's Employee            |
|--------------------------------------|--|
|                                      | • For example, he let me design how I work     |
|                                      | so I can plan freely and productively in       |
|                                      | managing work at different sites. If he is not |
|                                      | allow that, my job will be more harder as I    |
|                                      | cannot plan schedule by myself.                |
| -Idealized Influence                 |  |
| Please explain the characteristic of | Systematic thinker                             |
| the leader that you would like to    | • Creative                                     |
| work with.                           | • Flexible                                     |
|                                      | • Visionary                                    |
| 18                                   | • Commitment                                   |
| Do your leader's characteristics     | • Delegated                                    |
| impress you? Do you have your        | • He is very helpful with my job as He will do |
| boss as you idol?                    | it with us.                                    |
| Which characteristics that you want  | • Sometimes he has temper easily               |
| boss to change?                      | • Would like him to calm down sometimes, so    |
| エ                                    | the workers be less scared to talk to him      |
| Does your leader influence your      | • They are great influencers as they are very  |
| work and life?                       | supportive towards job difficulties and also   |
| 08                                   | personal life.                                 |