

Relationship between daily life activities and the role of water space in coastal area of Central Vietnam –Case study of Van Quat Dong village, Huong Phong commune-

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Key Words: Vietnam, water space, community space, change of utilization, improvement of water quality

1. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Currently, Vietnam due to rapid economic growth has been promoted, and infrastructure such as power grids and water supply is expanding. On the other hand, there are many people who make their livelihood activity surrounding water space. This study focused on “water space” that still using for living activity in coastal villages, central Vietnam. Then, to figure the function and role of water space in rural coastal area and to clarify the history and reality of its use field survey was conducted. In addition, based on results from survey, the prospects for future vision of waterfront space also examine.

2. STUDY SITE

The study site, Huong Phong commune, is a one of coastal area surrounded by two rivers and lagoon where locates Thua Thinh Hue province, central Vietnam. In order to farm and fish, residents in this area blessed with an environment surrounded by water, and water space and human’s life has kept “affinity”. On the other hand, this research site is classified into tropical monsoon climate, which has clear rainy and dry season, and it becomes flood –prone area in rainy season. Therefore, revetment and sluice gate dam were made as handling flood. In addition, recent year, water contamination from household effluent is concerned.

3. METHODOGY

This study focused on water station, which calls “ben nuoc” in Vietnamese, in study site, and tried to find out utilizations and functions by questionnaire survey, interview survey, and participant observation. In two terms, from August 2010 through November 2010 and from August 2011 through October 2011, participant observation was conducted to monitor the relationship between water station and villager. During that time, questionnaire survey for women, who is over 20 years old, about utilization of water station, frequency of water station use, and usage situation of water supply was implemented at each 16 water stations that made from concrete. In addition, 2 interview surveys about frequency change of water station and water station usage in old days was also conducted.

4. RESULT OF RESEARCH

From these surveys, it could find that water stations have 2 types, one is temporary and another is traditional those are made by different material. Water station is usually used for washing clothes and dishes and prepares meal. Some villagers also use for the place to dispose garbage or wash motorbikes. Like this example, water station uses for dairy activity and make a chance to gather villagers at one place, so that it also assume a role of community space.

However, water contamination becomes pronounced and water supply has been expanded. Hence, frequency of water station usage has been decreasing year by year. Some villagers already quit using it. Moreover, to pursue convenience, boat race for praying to ancestors at water station had already lost. On the other hand, water station is still important for villagers because water supply usually cuts, and so water station is used for alternative choice. Therefore, to improve water quality at water station and to establish continuous usage of water station are essential.