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## SYNOPSIS

This critical study of the Loong Aik Co-operative Rice Mill Society aims primarily at appraising the workings of the Society in the framework of its by-laws and co-operative principles.

Chapter one is an introduction to the main body of the study. It defines the purpose of the study, its scope, the methodology and the sources and limitations of data.

Chapter two examines the aims of the Society, its historical development and relationship with the Division of Co-operative Development, the Tanjong Karang Co-operative Milling Union and other Co-operative Societies in the area.

The Society's structure of organization, the general body of members and the Committee of Management are studied in relation to the by-laws in chapter three. Noted are the problems of members' apathy, the involvement of politics in the affairs of the Society and the general oligarchical nature of the management.

Chapter four deals exclusively with operations. The two operations, rice milling and padi marketing are examined with the emphasis placed mainly on the business aspects. The reasonable success with which these services are provided to the farmers are noted; so also the major problems confronting the Society especially in respect of padi marketing.

The Society's financial position is dealt with in chapter five. Among other things, it notes the generally favourable state of finances of the Society, that is, its liquid position and good current ratio.

Chapter six, the conclusion, presents a study of the Society in perspective, that is, in relation to its aims, co-operative philosophy and potential scope of activities. Noted too, in summary are the major problems faced by the Society and the ways with which these can be solved. It is indicated in this study that the greatest scope for improving the present state of affairs is through co-operative education, and that government aid and supervision is still indispensable to the movement.