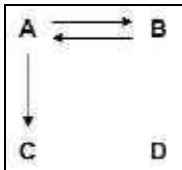# A Social Network

A social network is defined as a group of connections between two or more people based on any variety of relationships. The network connections we measure are based on kinship, labor exchanges, using the same rice mill, sharing agricultural equipment and temples. These networks mirror the way ideas or information flows between people, across households, and between villages. A typical social network is a kinship network, which are connections or ties based on relationships of blood or marriage. Other types of social networks are more loosely defined.

For example: household "A" might send some of their members to help household "B" harvest rice. When household "B" is finished harvesting rice then household "A" may need help harvesting rice and some members from household "B" may go to help. Household "A" may also send members to harvest rice with household "C." But, household "B" may not send their members to help household "C" with rice harvesting. Finally, household "D" may not use any labor from any other household. See the diagram below.

A Diagram of a Rice Harvest Network

In this example, household "A" has a direct connection with both household "B" and household "C" through rice harvesting. Household "B" only has a direct connection to household "A" and an indirect connection with household "C" (through household "A"). And, household "D" has no labor exchange connections to any household through rice harvesting. The ways each of these households are connected to one another through labor exchanges are different. These kinds of differences may be important for understanding individual behavior. For example, household "C" may have one member who is a migrant in Bangkok. Because household "A" has a direct connection to household "C," they may have more information about the migrant's experience than someone from household "B" or household "D." This difference in access to information may affect the likelihood of migration to Bangkok. Similarly, household "D" may not know anything about the migrant from household "C" and will not have as much information about migration.