Kradod Chuek / Jumping with Rope

Site of Documentation

Akha group, Tambon Mae Yao, Mueang District, Chiang Rai province, Thailand

Description

*Kradod Chuek* is a simple yet lively game that has been enjoyed by generations of Akha children living in the Chiang Rai province of Thailand. The game requires players to complete skip over a rope as it is swung around in a circle by their opponents. If they can jump in time to the rhyme being sung by their opponents and at the end, catch the rope between their feet – they complete the challenge.

Who Plays?

This game requires a group of 4 to 8 players. Both boys and girls can play aged 8 to 12 years old.
**Accessories/Equipment**

This game requires a large number of rubber bands that are tied together to make a long rubber band rope. Children typically buy rubber bands at school stationary stores or from local shops and construct the rope themselves, prior to playing the game. The rubber band rope can be either a single thread (using only one rubber band in each link), or a double thread where two rubber bands form a link. Ropes usually are around 2 to 3 metres long to ensure there is plenty of space for the players to jump.

**Time and Place**

On average, a game of *Kradod Chuek* lasts around 3 to 10 minutes, which makes it ideal for playing during school lunch times. When children are out of school and have more free time, each game can last longer, depending on the speed, skill and fitness of players. The environment the game is played in can affect the game’s duration, as children can become exhausted quickly. As a result, children usually play this game where they can find a large space with smooth ground (such as a concrete floor or grass lawn) and shade. Ideally, children need to find a space that is 5 x 5 meters, giving them plenty of room to run and jump.

**Skill, Strategies and Qualities of a Good Player**

The most important skill that this game requires is the ability to jump repeatedly over an extended period of time. Often taller children with longer legs and those with a good sense of rhythm have an advantage over others. All players have not only have a high level of physical fitness, but also able to keep quiet and still, so to not interrupt those who are jumping.

**Popularity**

Akha children play this game for fun and enjoy testing their skill at skipping the rope, against that of their friends. It is particularly popular with young girls. *Kradod Chuek* is an easy game and is also played in many areas of Northern Thailand, where it is also known by the name *Dod Nang Yang*.

**History of the game**

This game was also played by members of the older generations when they were young. Back then, players tended to play in pairs rather than in groups and there were slight differences in the rules.
Preparation

1. Players must first compete in a round of *Pao Ying Chub* to determine which of them will hold the rope.
How is the Game Played?

**Step 1.** The rope holders then have to stand around 3 metres apart from each other, holding either end of the rope. The rope must be slack enough so that the rope can easily be swung in a circle.
**Step 2.** The rope holders then need to start swinging the rope in a large circle in either a clockwise or counter clockwise direction. They can swing it as slowly or as quickly as they like, depending on the skill of the players. Each player needs to jump (or skip) over the swinging rope each time it passes under their feet. They must not trip or touch the rope during their turn. If they do, they are eliminated from the game and it's the next player's turn.

**Rules**

1. If the rope touches any part of the player's body during their turn, they are eliminated from the game. They can either sit outside the game area or take a turn holding the rope.

2. The game is complete when all the players have been eliminated from the game or when they are too tired to play on.