

PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Thuwathida Suwannarat

Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University

Email: thuwathida.su@ssru.ac.th

ABSTRACT

The purposes of this research were: 1) to study the level of participation, and 2) to compare people's participation in local development classified by personal factors. The samples used in the research were 396 people in the municipality. The tools used for data collection were questionnaires. The statistics used in the research were frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation. The statistical significance was set at the 0.05 level.

The research results found that the overall value of people's participation in local development was at a high level. When considering by each aspect, it was found that the participation in the operation was at the highest level, following by participation in evaluation and follow-up, participation in decision-making, and participation in receiving benefits, respectively.

Comparative results of people's participation in local development classified by personal factors were different. There were different opinions on participation. This is in line with the research hypothesis, except for the gender. For the obstacles, it was found that people in local development still lack of promotion and lack of serious participation in local development that is discrete and light-minded.

Keywords: Participation, development, local

INTRODUCTION

The local government is deemed as a governing process where people could be able to participate in the government and development of their local area. By which the leader must come from a direct election from the people in the respective area in order to solve the problems arising in the responsive location and truly in respond to the needs of the people (Sirikan Srisurat and Charles Ruangthamsing, 2562).

The participation is the most important aspect in the development whether it is at the organization, community, locality, and national level. Especially at the local overnment organization in which people can get the most involved in participation (Aurick Mubita, Mundia Libati, and Munalula Mulonda, 2017) since it is an organization established to serve the decentralization concept from the central government for the hope that people would be able to have an autonomy toward self-administration. This makes a local government organization a local government with administrative power and independence and be able to most serve the needs of local people. Therefore, the ideal people's participation includes the participation in giving comments, suggestions, or presentation of requirements. People should participate in decision-making in term of using their rights to choose alternatives so as to be a

consensus, including participation in practice, and participation in a follow-up and assessment in the operation of local government organization. This is for the hope that it would achieve the goal of choice in which the people make a decision together. Popular participation in governance that affects their lives is an indispensable part in contemporary democratic society (Nasir Uddin, 2019).

For the rationale above, the researcher is deeply interested in the study of Level of participation in local development. The results of this research can serve as a guide in the operation and solution regarding problems in participation toward local development.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To study the level of people's participation in the municipality.
2. To compare the people's participation classified by the personal factors.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is quantitative research. The sample size includes 396 persons with 20 years of age and above living in the municipal area.

Research Tools

1. The research tools are the questionnaires in which the researcher Develop from concepts, theories, document, as well as various related information. The questionnaires are divided into 3 parts as follows:

1.1 Personal factors: The general questions on the personal characteristics on sex, age, education, and occupation.

1.2 People's participation: The questions regarding the people's participation in the local development are in the 4 aspects of 1) participation in decision-making, 2) participation in operation, 3) participation in receiving benefits, and 4) participation in assessment and follow-up.

1.3 Suggestions

The Development of Research Tool

1. The theoretical ideas and concepts of people's participation were derived from documentary research and information stored in the Internet.

2. The validity: The questionnaire was examined by 3 experts in order to find content validity in which the questions truly represented the objectives of the research.

3. The reliability: The 40 copies of questionnaires have been in a try-out process with the individual closely related with the population identified in the study. The researcher performed an analysis to find out Cronbach's alpha coefficient and could be able to achieve at 0.85. The accepted value of Cronbach's alpha is 0.7; however values above 0.6 are also accepted (Griethuijsen et al., 2015; Taber, 2018)

4. The questionnaires were revised and improved based on the experts' recommendations. The complete and improved set of questionnaires then were used to collect the data.

The Data Collection

1. Primary data: The questionnaires were distributed on the accidental sampling method to the targeted 396 sample size living in the municipality with a prerequisite of 20 years of age and older.

2. Secondary data: These types of data are derived from concepts, theory, text-books, document, and related research in order to articulate the conceptual framework.

Research Statistics

1. Descriptive Statistics: The descriptive statistics includes frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation.

2. Inferential Statistics: The t-test, F-test, and LSD were performed with a statistical significance value at 0.05.

Research Findings

The research on “Participation in Local Development” yielded a result in the level of participation in local development as follows:

Table: 1 Mean and standard deviation on people’s participation in local development in the municipality

People’s participation in local development	\bar{x}	S.D.	Interpretation
Participation in decision-making aspect	4.43	0.529	High
Participation in operation aspect	4.44	0.491	High
Participation in receiving benefit aspect	4.38	0.531	High
Participation in assessment and follow-up aspect	4.44	0.544	High
Total	4.42	0.312	High

From the above Table 1, the overall value of people’s participation was at the high level ($\bar{x}=4.42$). When consider each item separately, it was found that the participation toward operation and assessment and follow-up were both at the highest level ($\bar{x}=4.44$), following by participation in decision-making ($\bar{x}=4.43$) and participation in receiving benefits ($\bar{x}=4.38$) respectively.

RESEARCH DISCUSSION

The overall value of people’s participation was at the high level ($\bar{x}=4.42$). When consider each item separately, it was found that the participation toward operation and assessment and follow-up were both at the highest level ($\bar{x}=4.44$), following by participation in decision-making ($\bar{x}=4.43$) and participation in receiving benefits ($\bar{x}=4.38$) respectively. Thus, the people living in the municipal area may ignore the participation in local development due to lack of continuous and downright coordination with the local government organization. Moreover, there was no public relations concerning activities organized by the municipality so people did not know what was happening. Therefore, the municipality should take a comprehensive public relations activity seriously by focusing mainly on people living in the municipal area so the people could learn about various activities initiated by the municipality

in order to truly respond to the needs of people. This conclusion is in congruence with the research undertaken by Nuthong Natesawang (2548) on “Civil Society and Participation in Local Development: A Case Study of Yang Neung Subdistrict Municipality, Saraphi District, Chiang Mai Province” and found that the overall value of people’s participation is at the high level and the people well understood the concept of civil society. The people’s participation regarding physical and environmental development in terms of social and economic perspectives was at the moderate level while the participation in political and administrative aspect was at the low level. Finally, it suggested that the local government organization should provide more opportunity for the people to participate in the related activities. It is also in the same direction with the research conducted by Kittamas Issarapanich (2549) entitled “The Participation of Members of the Provincial Administrative Organization Council in Local Development: A Case Study of Saraburi Province” in which it found that the members of the provincial administrative organization council have participated in local development at the high level. But it is in contrast with the research taken by Worapoj Prachitwat titled “People’s Participation in Subdistrict Administrative Organization: A Case Study of Si Racha District, Chonburi Province” in which it concluded that people’s participation in term of work monitoring was at the low level. And it also found that people with different age, occupation, and income had a different level of participation at the statistical significant value of 0.05. The research accomplished by Jirasak Srijaicharoen (2539) on “People’s Participation in Subdistrict Administrative Organization: A Case Study of Ban Hong Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Lamphun Province” and concluded that people’s participation in the organization’s operation was at the moderate level. The participation in infrastructure was at the highest level, followed by career development and promotion, and the participation in other activities was at the lowest level. The people’s participation was in forms of providing various suggestions and receiving benefits from projects or activities. The results also suggested that people’s participation came from their own intention rather than persuasion. This particular research revealed that sex, age, occupation, and education of people produced a difference in the level of participation at the statistical significant value of 0.05. Sayan Phiromkit (2547) and his research on The Establishment of People’s Participation in Local Development: A Case Study of Nong Bua Rawe Subdistrict Municipality, Nong Bua Rawe District, Chaiyaphum Province has drawn a conclusion that the people’s participation in the 4 aspects of operation, decision- making, receiving various benefits, and evaluation were at the moderate level. Besides, sex, age, occupation, education as well as income played a different role in the level of participation in local development at the statistical significant value of 0.05. The work of Nasir Uddin (2019) on “Empowerment through participation in local governance: the case of Union Parishad in Bangladesh” mentioned that the local government institutions, particularly UP, has existed many mechanisms through which people participate in decision- making process. However, the research completed by Narasak Thongket and Koson Sodsong (2564) called “Participation in Activities of People in Ban Phue Municipality, Ban Phue District, Udon Thani Province” discovered that the overall value of people’s participation in activities was at the moderate level and the highest value of participation was in terms of operation and then followed by receiving benefits. The participation in decision-making was found at the lowest level. And finally, the research undertaken by Phramaha Seksan Panyavutho (Jommanee), Suraphon Promgun, and Pasakorn Dokchan (2564) on the title of “The Public Participation in

Government of Sripana Sub-district Municipality, Seka District, Bueng Kan Province” indicated that the people’s participation in 4 aspects was at the high level and the personal factors on sex, age, and work experience had no relationship with the governance.

RESEARCH SUGGESTIONS

1. General Suggestions

1.1 There should be a relentlessly public relations efforts to inform the people about the activities organized by the municipality by concentrating these PR activities mainly in the municipal area and also make sure that people understand The delivered messages.

1.2 There should be a promotion toward people’s participation regarding various activities just for the sake of participation and to be in response to the needs of the people.

2. Suggestions for the Future Research

2.1 The future research should focus on factors affecting the participation in local development of the municipality

2.2 There should be a study on causes, problems, and/or obstacles in people’s participation including lack of genuine promotion.

REFERENCES

- Aurick Mubita, Mundia Libati, and Munalula Mulonda. (2017). The Importannce and Limitations of Participation in Development Projects and Programmes. *European Journal of Scientific Research*, Volume 13, Number 5, pp. 238-251.
- Griethuijsen, R.A.L.F., Eijck, M.W., Haste, H., Brok, P.J., Skinner, N.C., Mansour, N., et al. (2014). Global pattern in students’ views of science and interest in science. *Research in Science Education*, Volume 45, Number 4, pp. 581-603.
- Jirasak Srijaicharoen. (2539). People’s Participation in Subdistrict Administrative Organization: A Case Study of Ban Hong Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Lamphun Province. The Independent Study for the Master Degree of Political Science, Chiang Mai University.
- Kittamas Issarapanich. (2549). The Participation of Members of the Provincial Administrative Organization Council in Local Development: A Case Study of Saraburi Province. The thesis for the Master Degree of Public Administration, Burapha University.
- Narasak Thongket and Koson Sodsong. (2564). Participation in Activities of People in Ban Phue Municipality, Ban Phue District, Udon Thani Province. *Buddhamagga Journal*, Research Center for Dhammasuksa Phrapariyattidhamma of Wat Awutwikasitaram School, Volume 6, Number 2, (July-December), pp. 116-126.
- Nasir Uddin. (2019). Empowerment through participation in local governance: the case of Union Parishad in Bangladesh. *Public Administration and Policy*, Volume 22, Number 1, pp. 40-54.
- Nuthong Natesawang (2548) on “Civil Society and Participation in Local Development: A Case Study of Yang Neung Subdistrict Municipality, Saraphi District, Chiang Mai Province. The Independent Study for the Master Degree of Public Administration, Chiang Mai University.

- Phramaha Seksan Panyavutho (Jommanee), Suraphon Promgun, and Pasakorn Dokchan. (2564). The Public Participation in Government of Sripana Sub-district Municipality, Seka District, Bueng Kan Province. *Phimoldhamma Research Institute Journal*, Volume 8, Number 2, (July-December), pp. 95-106.
- Sayan Phiromkit. (2547). The Establishment of People's Participation in Local Development: A Case Study of Nong Bua Rawe Subdistrict Municipality, Nong Bua Rawe District, Chaiyaphum Province. The Independent Study for the Master Degree of Public Administration, Mahasarakham University.
- Sirikan Srisurat and Charles Ruangthamsing. (2562). An Investigation of Definition and Understanding of the Juristic Entity of Thai Local Administrative Organizations. *Journal of MCU Nakhondhat*, Volume 6, Number 10, (December), pp. 5777-5790.
- Taber, Keith S. (2018). The Use of Cronbach's Alpha When Developing and Reporting Research Instruments in Science Education. *Research in Science Education*, Volume 48, pp. 1273-1296.
- Worapoj Prachitwat. (2547). People's Participation in Subdistrict Administrative Organization: A Case Study of Si Racha District, Chonburi Province. The thesis for the Master Degree of Public Administration, Burapha University.