

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN THE AREA OF TA KHAN SUBDISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION, BAN KHAI DISTRICT, RAYONG PROVINCE

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Abstract

This research aimed to study and compare the level of public participation in community development in the area of the Takhan Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province. The population used in this study was 8,672 people aged 18 years and over. The researcher calculated the sample size using Taro Yamane's formula, resulting in a sample of 382 people. The instrument used was a questionnaire. The statistics used for data analysis included percentage, mean, and standard deviation, t - test, One - Way ANOVA, and F - test. If differences were found, pairwise differences were tested using the LSD statistic. The results of the study found that:

The level of public participation in community development in the Takhan Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province, was at a high level overall. Considering each aspect, it was found that participation was at a high level in all aspects. The average values were ranked from highest to lowest as follows: Monitoring and evaluation; Activity implementation; Decision-making and benefit sharing, respectively. The level of public participation in community development in the area of the Takhan Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province, classified by personal characteristics, found that gender, age, and occupation did not affect the level of participation. However, the level of education affected the level of public participation in community development.

Keywords : Public Participation; Community development

Introduction

Public participation is important in creating sustainable democracy and promoting good governance and administration. The more public participation, the more it will help to monitor the work of administrators and make administrators more responsible to society. It also prevents politicians from setting policies that are not suitable for that society. In addition, public participation ensures that the voices of the people will be heard and that the needs or desires of the people will be met. Later, the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2550 has important principles to promote and protect the rights and freedoms of the people to be more clearly evident. It encourages the people to have a role and participate in governance and scrutinize the use of state power in a tangible way. It emphasizes the value and importance of morality, ethics, and good governance as the principles of the nation (Office of the Secretary - General of the Senate, 2550).

The implementation of the concept of public participation in practice often began with the development of rural communities, which in the past did not emphasize public participation in sustainable development. However, the ideas of academics both domestically and internationally on public participation have made recent developments focus on people in the community as the main target of driving development and emphasize public participation as an important mechanism (Jintawee Kasem-suk, 2561).

Currently, there is a sense of public participation in Takhan Subdistrict. Ban Khai District, Rayong Province is still at a low level. This can be seen from the monthly community meeting held each month, which is a forum that allows villagers to present problems or information in all aspects of that sub - district. The villagers' participation in the meeting is still low. The main problem is that the villagers do not participate in the development of their village. Most of the villagers are farmers and laborers, who are middle-class to poor. Most of the people's time in a day is devoted to earning a living, so they are not interested in local development. From the above problems, the researcher is interested in studying and researching about community development participation in the Takhan Sub-district Administrative Organization, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province, in various aspects in order to improve and increase the efficiency of people's participation in sustainable sub-district development.

Objectives

1. To study the level of public participation in community development in the area of the Takhan Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province

2. To compare the level of public participation in community development in the area of the Takhan Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province, classified by personal factors

Hypothesis

1. People with different genders participate in community development in the area of Ta Khan Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province differently.

2. People with different ages participate in community development in the area of Ta Khan Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province differently.

3. People with different levels of education participate in community development in the area of Ta Khan Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province differently.

4. People with different occupations participate in community development in the area of Ta Khan Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province differently.

Scope of the Study

Population and Sample Scope

The population used in this research was people in the area of the Takhan Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province, aged 18 years and over, totaling 8,672 people.

The sample group used in the study was calculated by using Taro Yamane's formula (Taro Yamane, cited in Thirawut Ekakun, 2000). The sample group was 382 people.

The variables used in this study consisted of:

Independent variables: personal factors of the people, including gender, age, education level, and occupation.

Dependent variables: people's participation in community development in the area of the Takhan Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province, in 4 aspects: decision-making, implementation, benefit, and monitoring and evaluation.

Literature Reviews

Participation in community development means giving villagers an opportunity to participate in community development activities in the form of participation in decision - making, participation in implementation, participation in receiving benefits, and participation in evaluation (Cohen and Uphoff, 1980 cited in

Phuangthong Yotha - yai, 2002). This includes participation in meetings to present matters that are necessary for community development, participation in decision - making and planning of community development activities, participation in determining the use of resources and sources of resources to be used in community development projects, and participation in operations by the people exerting effort in project activities, participation in financial support, or participation in supporting materials and equipment for use in community development activities. In addition, the people receive benefits from various aspects of community development project activities, such as the herbal garden project, village water supply project, and participation in various development activities in the community of Khu Yai Mi Subdistrict, Sanam Chai Khet District, Chachoengsao Province, which helps develop your potential, such as the project to promote women's careers in the village, the Civil Defense Volunteer (CDV) training project, and participation in monitoring and evaluation by participating in observing the work of external contractors who come to work in community development, and participation in monitoring the results of projects related to various developments in the community.

Conceptual Framework

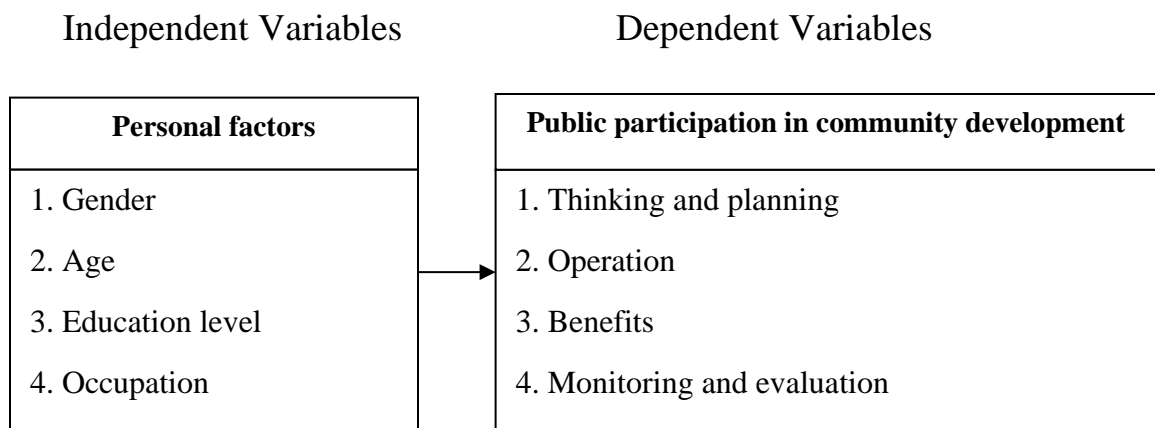


Figure 1 Research conceptual framework

Methodology

Sample used in the study

The population used in the study was people in Takhan Subdistrict, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province, aged 18 years and over, totaling 8,672 people (Takhan Subdistrict Administrative Organization, 2021).

The sample used in the study The researcher calculated the sample size using the principle of finding values according to the formula of Taro Yamane (Taro Yamane, cited in Thirawut Ekakun, 2000), totaling 382 people. The researcher selected the sample group by simple random sampling according to the sample size and proceeded to distribute the questionnaires.

Instruments used in the research

The questionnaire is divided into 2 parts as follows:

Part 1 is a questionnaire on the personal factors of the respondents, including gender, age, education level, and occupation.

Part 2 is a questionnaire on the level of public participation in community development. It is a 5 level rating scale based on the Likert's scale, with the score level divided into 5 levels as follows:

Score	Meaning
5	Most
4	Much
3	Moderate
2	Less
1	Least

The interpretation of the mean of participation level scores was compared with the criteria for interpreting the level scores by considering the mean of each score as 5 levels (Best. 1981: 236). Therefore, each level will have a class interval score, with the width of the class interval equal to 0.80 points. From the width of the class interval, the class is determined. Therefore, the criteria for interpreting the level of public participation in community development are as follows:

Average	Interpretation
4.21-5.00	the highest level of participation
3.41-4.20	a high level of participation
2.61-3.40	a moderate level of participation
1.81-2.60	a low level of participation
1.00-1.80	the lowest level of participation

Creation and Quality Control of Instruments

In creating the instruments used to collect data in this study, the researcher proceeded to create and determine the quality of the instruments according to the following steps :

1. Study, analyze, and synthesize documents and research from both Thailand and abroad to study the ideas of educators. That provides ideas about public participation in community development

2. Study the method of creating a rating scale tool using the Likert method and creating an open-ended questionnaire from Boonchum Srisat's (2002) textbook by creating a questionnaire that covers the conceptual framework and objectives of the study

3. Present the questionnaire to the thesis advisor for checking its accuracy and considering providing suggestions

4. Improve the questionnaire according to the thesis advisor's suggestions and present it to 3 experts to examine the content validity of each question by finding the index of congruence between the questions and the operational definition (IOC : Index of item objective congruence) which found that the index of congruence (IOC) was 0.92

5. Use the questionnaire that has been reviewed by experts to improve and revise according to the suggestions Then present to the thesis advisor for consideration and suggestions again.

6. Take the revised questionnaire to try it out with a non - sample population of 30 people.

7. Analyze each questionnaire with the required discriminating power to find the reliability of the entire questionnaire using the alpha coefficient method according to Cronbach's method. The reliability of the entire questionnaire was found to be 0.9455.

8. Print out the complete questionnaire to collect data with the sample group to be studied.

Data Analysis

The researcher analyzed the data using a ready-made statistical program, with the following details:

1. Analyze the personal data of the respondents using frequency and percentage.

2. Analyze the level of public participation in community development using the mean (\bar{x}) and standard deviation (S.D.)

3. Compare the level of public participation in community development according to the gender variable by using the t-test (Independent samples).

4. Compare the level of public participation in community development according to the variables of age, education level, and occupation by using the One - Way ANOVA (F - test). If differences are found, pairwise differences will be tested using the LSD statistic.

Results

1. General information of the respondents

Most of the respondents were female, 186 people, or 51.1 percent, aged 31 - 45 years, 128 people, or 35.2 percent, had an education level lower than a bachelor's degree, 237 people, or 65.11 percent, and worked as general employees/private companies, 136 people, or 37.36 percent.

2. Level of public participation

The level of public participation in the development of the Khu Yai Mi Subdistrict Community, Sanam Chai Khet District, Chachoengsao Province, overall, is at a high level. Considering each aspect, it was found that there was a high level of public participation in all aspects, with the average values from highest to lowest as follows: monitoring and evaluation, activity implementation, decision-making, and benefit sharing, respectively.

2.1 In terms of decision-making, the public participation was at a high level overall. Considering each item, it was at a high level in all aspects, with the average values from highest to lowest as follows: having expressed their opinions on solving environmental problems in the community; having participated in analyzing drug problems in the community; having expressed their opinions on solving economic problems in the community; having participated in planning the election methods for various committees for community development; having expressed their opinions on solving economic problems in the community; having participated in analyzing environmental problems in the community; and having participated in analyzing economic problems in the community, respectively.

2.2 In terms of activity implementation, the public participation was at a high level overall. Considering each aspect, it was at a high level in all aspects, with the average values from highest to lowest as follows: having participated in electing various committees of the community; having participated in campaigning for a livable home in the community; having participated in developing the environment in the community; having been a member of various groups in the community; having helped find sources of funds to help the poor in the community. They have advised drug addicts to seek treatment and have helped find additional jobs for people in the community, respectively.

2.3 In terms of participation in benefits, the public participation is at a high level. When considering each item, it is at a high level in all items. The average values are ranked from highest to lowest as follows: They have received benefits from environmental development activities in the community. They feel valuable in themselves for being useful to society. They have received problems from various committees in the community. They have received economic assistance from the village fund. They have received economic problems from the savings group. They have received peace from the administration of the community committee. They have received solutions to drug problems in the family, respectively.

2.4 In terms of monitoring and evaluation, the public participation is at a high level. When considering each item, the average values are ranked from highest to lowest as follows: They have participated in evaluating various activities in the community. They have participated in evaluating environmental development activities in the community. They have attended meetings and sought solutions to problems and obstacles in implementing various development activities in the community. They have participated in evaluating the management system of various groups in the community. They have participated in following up on the work of the community committee. They have followed up on the work of the village fund committee.

3. Hypothesis testing results

3.1 Hypothesis 1 People with different genders participate in community development in Khu Yai Mi Subdistrict, Sanam Chai Khet District, Chachoengsao Province differently.

The analysis of the hypothesis found that people with different genders have different levels of public opinion on community development participation, according to statistical significance at the 0.05 level, which is not in accordance with the specified hypothesis.

3.2 Hypothesis 2 People with different ages participate in community development in Khu Yai Mi Subdistrict, Sanam Chai Khet District, Chachoengsao Province differently.

The analysis of the hypothesis found that people with different ages have different levels of public opinion on community development participation, according to statistical significance at the 0.05 level, which is not in accordance with the specified hypothesis.

3.3 Hypothesis 3 People with different levels of education participate in community development in Khu Yai Mi Subdistrict, Sanam Chai Khet District, Chachoengsao Province differently.

The analysis of the hypothesis found that people with different levels of education Different people have different levels of public opinion on community

development participation, with statistical significance at the 0.05 level, which is in line with the specified hypothesis.

3.4 Hypothesis 4 People with different occupations have different participation in community development in Khu Yai Mi Subdistrict, Sanam Chai Khet District, Chachoengsao Province.

The results of the hypothesis analysis found that people with different occupations have different levels of participation in community development, with statistical significance at the 0.05 level, which is in line with the specified hypothesis.

Conclusion and Recommendation

From the study of public participation in community development in the area of the Takhan Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province, it was found that:

1. The level of public participation in community development in the area of the Takhan Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ban Khai District, Rayong Province, overall, was at a high level, which is consistent with Phra Maha Prakasit Sirimetho (Thitipasitkorn) (2013) who studied and found that public participation in the development of the Sufficiency Economy Village was at a high level overall. When considering each aspect, it was found that it was at a high level in all 4 aspects. The aspect in which the public participated the most was participation in decision-making. This conflicts with the research of Charinya Chansong (2012) who studied public participation in local development in the area of the Nong Saeng Yai Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Khong Chiam District, Ubon Ratchathani Province. The research results found that overall, the public participated in local development at a moderate level. This conflicts with the research of Nusara Phanrak (2012) who studied public participation in local development: A case study of the area of Khlong Chuk Kracheo Subdistrict, Mueang Chachoengsao District, Chachoengsao Province, which found that the public participated in local development at a moderate level overall. In the opinion of the researcher, it can be said that in every community development project, Every villager has a part in benefiting directly or indirectly. Every development project will improve the quality of life of the people. Therefore, the evaluation of public participation in community development is at a high level. The researcher discussed each aspect as follows:

1.1 In terms of decision-making, it was found that the public participated at a high level overall, which is consistent with Phra Maha Prakasit Sirimetho (Thitipasithikorn) (2013) who studied and found that in terms of participation in decision-making, the public participated at a high level. When considering the details of all 8 questions, it was found that 7 items were at a high

level and 1 item was at a moderate level. In the opinion of the researcher, it can be said that participation in decision-making was at a high level because the public participated in meetings to present various matters that were necessary for development, jointly planned, jointly expressed opinions, and jointly analyzed various problems in the community.

1.2 In terms of activity implementation, it was found that the public participated at a high level overall, which is consistent with Charunee Phansengiam (2007) who studied the participation in community development of members of the Ruam Chit Ruam Jai community in Krabi province. The research results found that the overall participation in community development of the sample group was at a moderate level. When considering each aspect, it was found that the sample group There is a high level of participation in the operation. In the opinion of the researcher, it can be said that the participation in the activity is at a high level because the people participate in exercising their energy in the activity, participating in the campaign for community development, participating in supporting assets and money for the activity, and participating in supporting materials and equipment for the community development activity.

1.3 In terms of participation in receiving benefits, it was found that the people participated at a high level overall, which is consistent with Nicha Kesajamras (2006) who studied the participation of the people in the development of the community of Tha Lae Subdistrict, Phetchaburi Province, and found that the participation in benefits was at a high level. The sample group participated in community development. In terms of benefits, the highest benefit was receiving benefits from the community water resource development project for agriculture and consumption that was sufficient for the needs, and there was proper drainage of wastewater in the community. In the opinion of the researcher, it can be said that the participation in receiving benefits was at a high level because the people participated in receiving benefits from various development project activities in the community and developed their potential from participating in community development project activities. They also felt valuable in themselves for being beneficial to the community.

1.4 In terms of monitoring and evaluation, it was found that the people participated at a high level overall, which contradicts Wisanu Yokchinda (2014) who found that in terms of participation in evaluation, the participation was at a low level because the people had not yet participated in observing. The work of external contractors who come to develop the community and rarely follow up on the results of projects related to various developments in the community, in the opinion of the researcher, it can be said that the participation in monitoring and evaluation is at a high level because local administrators, community leaders, and community

committees organize community development projects and activities by allowing the public to participate. Therefore, it is an opportunity for the public to be informed of the work, including the results, and to be able to follow up on the results of various projects clearly and tangibly.

2. A comparative study of the level of public participation in community development in Tambon Takhan, Amphoe Ban Khai, Rayong Province, classified by personal characteristics, found that gender, age, and occupation did not affect the level of participation, which is consistent with Phra Maha Prakasit Sirimetho (Thitipasitkorn) (2013) who found that overall, people with different genders, ages, education levels, and occupations participated in the development of self-sufficient villages in an overall manner.

As for the level of education, it affects the level of public participation in community development, perhaps because people with different levels of education have different understandings of the process of participation in community development, whether it is decision-making, operations, receiving benefits, or monitoring and evaluation, which results in different levels of participation.

Suggestions

1. Suggestions from the study results

The study results should be used to create more participation in community development activities in all aspects by setting a clear participation plan, implementing concrete actions, and arranging for evaluation and improvement of participation to have an impact on community development activities in the future.

2. Suggestions for future studies

Factors related to participation should be studied in order to analyze the variables that are factors influencing participation so that the sub-district administrative organization can set a clear and concrete plan of action for public participation.

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