

THESIS TITLE : A STUDY OF THE APPLICATION OF LOCAL WISDOM TO
SOCIAL STUDIES INSTRUCTION IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS
UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
GENERAL EDUCATION, CHANGWAT SURIN

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the present study was to investigate the application of local wisdom to the instruction of social studies subjects in secondary schools under the jurisdiction of the Department of General Education, Changwat Surin. The sample consisted of 267 Social Studies teachers in secondary schools under the jurisdiction of the Department of General Education, Changwat Surin which were selected through the multi-stage sampling. The instrument used in the study was a questionnaire developed by the present researcher herself. Analysis of the data collected was made by means of percentage, arithmetic mean, standard deviation, analysis of variance and a t-test using the SPSS/PC⁺ program.

The findings showed that the majority of social studies teachers were females. Their ages ranged from 21 to 40 years old and they held a bachelor's degree. Their teaching experience ranged from 1 to 5 years in the small-size schools. The teachers had applied local wisdom to their instruction of social studies subjects in the following categories and manners :

1. Categories of local wisdom which the teachers applied to their instruction of social studies subjects :

1.1 Local wisdom in relation to custom, tradition, belief and religion which the teachers applied to their instruction at the “high” level;

1.2 Local wisdom in relation to language and literary work, art and archeology, recreation, ways of life and technology which the teachers applied to their instruction at the “moderate” level.

2. The manner of applying local wisdom to the instruction of social studies was at the “moderate” level.

3. The benefits deriving from applying local wisdom to the instruction of social studies subjects was at the “high” level.

4. There were problems and barriers to the application of local wisdom to the instruction of social studies subject at the “moderate” level.

5. A comparison of the application of local wisdom to the instruction of social studies subjects by the teachers of different teaching experiences showed that they did not differ in the selection of local wisdom in the areas of custom, tradition, belief, religion, art and archeology to apply to their instruction. However, they differed in the application of local language, literary works, recreation, ways of life and technology to their instruction. The teachers also differed in their manner of applying local wisdom to their instruction. The benefits of applying local wisdom their instruction also were different, while the kinds of problems and barriers they encountered in their application of local wisdom were not different.

6. A comparison of the application of local wisdom to the instruction of social studies subjects by the teachers from different school-sizes showed that they did not differ in the selection of local custom, tradition, belief, religion, art and archeology, recreation, ways of life and technology to apply to their instruction. They differed in the application of local language and literary works to their instruction. However, they did not differ in the manner of applying local wisdom to their instruction. The benefits deriving from applying local wisdom also were different. The teachers encountered different problems and barriers to the application of local wisdom at the .05 level of significance.