

ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : Political Participation of Government Officials :
A Case Study of The Officials in The Department of
Employment

Student's Name : Miss Pucharee Pongsiri

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Advisory Committee :

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Asst. Prof. Wutisak Lapcharoensap | Chairperson |
| 2. Assoc. Prof. Sathian Homkachorn | |
| 3. Mrs. Orawan pongpangan | |

This research has four main objectives : (1) to study the personal characteristics of government officials in the Department of Employment and their sources of political information, (2) to study their attitudes about political participation, (3) to study their political activities and levels of political participation, (4) to study the factors which affected political participation.

The major findings of this study are as follows :

1. The majority of the samples has the following characteristics: 75 percent were females, aged between 31-40 years, unmarried and graduated with bachelor's degree. Most were employed as permanent officials at the level between 3-5. Their monthly salaries were between 8,001-10,000 Baht and most of them came from the

central region. Their sources of political information came from the television. Their favorite radio programs were the music programs, favorite television programs were political, economic and social news and favorite newspaper column was entertainment. Apart from this, most of them had the level of interest in political news at 50 - 60 %.

2. 69.5 percent of the respondents had moderate perception of political participation.

3. Their level of political participation were moderate and, obviously, they exercised their voting right at the time of election. Besides, they regularly followed political news, especially keep monitoring the behavior of government officials and politicians. They were also interested in the event of censure debate whenever it took place.

4. Their political participation was affected by their attitude and their sources of political information which mostly came from television programs.

This study was limited by the data which focused mainly on specific group of government officials. However, it is interesting to find out that whatever the level of their attitude was, most government officials had moderate level of political participation.