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CHALERMPOL MINGMUANG: POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AT SANITARY DISTRICT LEVEL

IN THAILAND: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SANITARY DISTRICT IN NONTHABURI PROVINCE. THESIS

ADVISOR: PROFESSOR SOMBOON SUKSAMRAN, PH.D., 172 PP ISBN 974-634-769-1

This thesis was intended to look into public behavior and participatory level in local politic, particularly in the sanitary district areas. Sanitary district in Thailand can be classified into two groups according to the types of chairman of the sanitary district: elected or ex officio. The study also talked about factors affecting popular participation in the sanitary district. Bang Sri Muang Sanitary District, with elected chairman, and Plai Bang Sanitary District, with ex officio chairman, were chosen for study.

The study found that popular participation in both sanitary districts were classified as low to medium and had significant statistical differences i.e. people in elected-chairman sanitary district tended to take more role in the local political administration than those in ex officio-chairman sanitary district. It is also found that people in elected-chairman sanitary district tended to have significant difference with people in ex officio-chairman sanitary district in term of popular participation level. Factors affecting participation level in both type of sanitary district included sex, age, occupation, income, group, membership, expectation for other local benefits, and democratic ideology. Factors having no significant statistics affecting political participation level in both kinds of sanitary district were educational level and range of living period in sanitary district.

The study suggested that samitary district should be limited to only one type, i.e. with elected chairman.

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