

Independent Study

: Comparative Levels of Cognitive
Image Toward State and Power of
State : A Case Study of Grade 6
Students in Phayao Province.

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Abstract

The continuity of a nationhood requires effective processes of political socialization which generate "cognitive image" of the terms of "State" and "State Power". This cognitive image can either be "positive" or "negative" orientations. If the result of political socialization indicates "negative" effects, the survival of that nationhood would be in critical stage of disintegration.

This study had 2 main objectives which are:

1. to compare cognitive image on "State" and "State Power" of Grade 6 students from 2 schools of different locality, one situated in Amphoe Muang while another one situated in a remote Amphoe of Phayao Province. The purpose of this comparison is to

examine whether the proximity and the distance of the schools affect the levels of cognitive image or not.

2. to learn about the correlations between factors which influence "cognitive image" of Grade 6 students in Phayao Province.

The samples for this study are 240 students who are studying in Grade 6 from 2 schools of different locality in Phayao Province. The samples are selected by the techniques of "purposive sampling" and "stratified random sampling".

Data are collected by using questionnaires and statistical analysis of percentage, T-test and correlation coefficient by setting statistical means at 0.05.

The study's findings can be summarized as follow:

1. the hypotheses number 1 to 3 are found to be untrue.
2. sex is a high influencing factor on cognitive image.
3. there is no difference in level of cognitive image between school in Amphoe Muang and in remote Amphoe.

Conclusions and recommendations which can be drawn from the study are:

1. teachers and student's family should pass the knowledge on political legitimacy to the students.
2. Ministry of Education should revise and improve the curriculum with a focus on the teaching of political legitimacy.
3. the mass media should reflect the prevailing public opinion straightforwardly in order to force the state to govern according to the desire of Thai people.