

**Independent Study** : The Tombon Level Politics of a Predominant  
Karen Community : A Case Study of Omkol  
District, Chiang Mai Province

1. The general qualifications of persons who are eligible  
for a Kamnan election.

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2. The entering into politics at Tombon level of low  
lander and high lander Kamnans

**M.A.(Political Science)** : Politics and Government

3. The styles in using power of low lander and high  
lander Kamnans

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### Abstract

This independent study is focused on the study of politics at tombon level in a locality whose population are predominantly Karens. For this purpose, Omkoi district in Chiang Mai province is chosen to be the site of the research. Basically, this is a comparative study of 2 Kamnans who are Thai low landers and 2 Kamnans who are Karen high landers. Data and information are gathered from 21 selected informers and from using the technique of participant observation.

The focal points of comparison are focused on 3 issues which are :

1. The general qualifications of persons who are eligible for a Kamnan election.
2. The entering into politics at Tombon level of low lander and high lander Kamnans
3. The styles in using power of low lander and high lander Kamnans -

The study finds that low lander and high lander Kamnans have the following similarities :

1. Have same level of personal qualifications and capabilities.
2. Have the backing from other sources of powers
3. Have the support form their cliques, friends and relatives.
4. Coercion is used when necessary.
5. The technique of giving rewards is used.
6. Currently holding a position or previously holding a position.

On the other side, the study finds that low lander and high lander Kamnans have the following differences :

1. Differences is personalities.
2. Differences in financial status.
3. Differences in attitudes and behaviors.
4. Differences in their strategies for their village's development.