

Thesis Title	National Identification of the Hill Tribe
Name	Mr. Wanno Pakdee
Thesis Advisor	Associate Professor Pornsak Phongphaew, Ph.D.
Department	Government
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ABSTRACT

The hill tribe in Thailand make up a minority group which differs from the Thai population in their racial, linguistic, cultural and religious characteristics. They live scatteredly in the mountaineous and remote areas along the northern border of Thailand. Their way of living has posed many significant economic, social problems for the Thai Government and may effect the national security of Thailand. The hill tribe, who are going to be important minority group in the future, should realize their own vital position in the national security and their attitudes should be directed towards loyalty to the nation, religion, and finally kingship. The study the hill tribe's identification with the political systems and their political participation will serve as guidelines for the government policy for the hill tribe and other minority groups.

The objectives of this research are as follows:

The first is to find out the degree of the national consciousness of the hill tribe .

The second is to find out whether the national consciousness varies with age, sex, level of education, and level of incomes of the hill tribe.

The hypothesis of this research are as follows:

1. The degree of national identification of the hill tribe are low.

2. The degree of national identification of the hill tribe differs according to age, sex, level of education, level of literacy, level of incomes, occupation and tribe.

The sample of the population of the hill tribe for this research was taken from Ampure Machan, Chiangrai Province; The hill tribe, numbering 180, 119 of whom are male and 61 are female. The study is based upon field survey research using questionnaire as a research tool. Data are analyzed by using the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS*) percentage, arithmetic mean, Chi-square test and stepwise regression analysis.

The research results are as follows :

1. The degree of identification with the Thai nation of the hill tribe are of upper-middle level.

2. The degree of identification differs among the hill tribe. However the degree with statistical significance is found in the level of education, level of literacy and tribe variables. As for other variables, the difference are statistically insignificant.

3. The hill tribe are more conscious of the concept nation, symbolism of the nation, kingship, and culture than religion, and political responsibilities.