

## ABSTRACT

THESIS : Political Efficacy and Political Participation  
of people in Nakhonratchasima Province

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This quantitative study was inspired by the Bloody May in 1992. It was aimed at finding out the factors causing people from different walks of life to be highly involved in such a political event and later reduce their roles, and the relationship between political efficacy and political participation and the relationship between socio-economic variables and political participation. Also, the relationship between socio-economic variables and political efficacy was studied for more detailed discussion. The researcher developed different indicators and questions for use, and divided the political participation into 8 levels. The population included those of at least 18 years old who were eligible to vote. They were selected by a multi-stage random sampling and purposive sampling in order to get the equal proportion of people from different occupations. The total subjects of 413 were selected from Muang, Prathai, Bua Yai and Khonburi districts in Nakhonratchasima Province. The data were collected by using questionnaires as well as interviewing the subjects. Mean, t-test and F-test were employed for data analysis. The following hypotheses were tested :

1. The socio-economic status of people has a significant relationship with the political participation

1.1 The people of different occupations should have political participation at different degrees.

1.2 Sex of people should have political participation at different degrees.

1.3 The people of different ages should have political participation at different degrees.

1.4 The people of different educations should have political participation at different degrees.

1.5 Urban people should have political participation different from rural people.

2. There should be a positive relationship between political efficacy and political participation.

The finding were statistically accepted all hypotheses at significant level 0.05. But it was noted ,that political participation was founded much more in careers such as teachers, farmers, laborers and wage-earners than other groups including doctors,nurses,government officers,and state enterprise officers.

As well as ,people with lower than elementary education were more involved in politics than these with secondary education or higher ,and also rural people were more involved in politics than urban people.

Besides, occupation, age, education, and residence were found to have a significant relationship with political efficacy. But some findings in this study differed from earlier studies, which stated that people having higher socio-economic status also had higher political efficacy.

Conversely, it was found in this study that subjects who had low socio-economic status were found to have a higher political efficacy perhaps because of those had experience to work with people organizations for a long time. They realized that individual people has political power in itself, they can bargain the government for their demands. Those experiences made people, who have low status have a higher political efficacy and higher political participation too.

Suggestions : First, as it was found that people's experience and having political knowledge and understanding made them to make demands for their own rights and their roles in democracy, it was suggested that the government should encourage people to participate in political organization. This would help to develop the Thai political system.

Second, this study was quantitative research if a further study should be parallel with qualitative study. It could be precisely understand political behavior than these.