

Title of Research Paper : Role of the Election Committee in the operation of Political Parties in the Opinion and Expectation of the Committee Members of Political Party Branches : A Case Study of the South

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The study was conducted for the following objectives : 1) to find out the attitude of the committee members of political party branches toward the role of the Election Committee in the operation of political parties ; 2) to compare the actual role and the expected role of the Election Committee in the opinion and expectation of the committee members of political party branches ; and 3) to identify the factors affecting the actual role and the expected role of the Election Committee in the opinion and expectation of the committee members of political party branches.

The data were collected from the committee members of political party branches in the South. The questionnaires were mailed to them and 189 copies were returned. The independent study were sex, age, education, primary occupation, the number of years as a member of the political party, position in the political party branch and degree of knowledge and understanding in the political party law. The dependent variables were the actual role and the expected role of the Election Committee.

The findings were briefly reported below :

1. Most of the subjects were male. They were 41-50 years old. They finished secondary school and were engaged in farming. They had been members of a political party for 4 years or more. Most were president or vice president of the political party branch.

2. Most of the committee members of political party branches as a whole had a moderate knowledge and understanding of the political party law (49.21%). What they had a good knowledge and understanding were the fiscal accounting year of

the political party and the political party branches (54.5%). They had a poor knowledge and understanding about the member of the committee members in each branch (21.2%).

3. Findings The actual role of the Election Committee had a mean of 2.93, which was rather low. The lowest mean belonged to the role in limiting any donation to the political party ($x = 2.65$). The highest mean was preparing the list of regions and provinces ($x = 3.16$). The expected role of the Election Committee had a mean of 3.34, which was rather high. The highest mean belong to imposing the regulations for political parties and the role of the Election Committee in political party development ($x = 3.54$). The lowest mean was postal support ($x = 2.99$).

When the actual role was compared to the expected role, the former was found to be lower than the latter. The actual role had a mean of 2.93, which was rather low and the expected role had a mean of 3.34, which was rather high.

4. The factors affecting the actual role and the expected role in the opinion of the committee members of political party branches were as follows :

Actual role. Age, education, primary occupation and knowledge and understanding of the political party law were found to have a relationship with the committee members' opinion about the actual role of the Election Committee. On the contrary, sex, number of years as a member of the political party and position in the political party were found to have no relationship with the committee members' opinion about the actual role of the Election Committee.

Expected role Knowledge and understanding of the political party law was found to have an impact on the committee members' opinion about the expected role of the Election Committee. In contrast, sex, age, education, primary occupation, number of years as a member of the political party and position in the political party were found to have no impact on their opinion on the actual role.

Recommendations

The Election Committee should give importance to the operation of political parties. It should oversee and support the latter's activities in order for them to study follow the law. Any regulations that are not clear, complete or difficult to follow should be revised. Training or seminars should be held so that they know what they can do and what they can't.