

Title of Research Paper : Actual Role of District Head Officers and Assistant District Head Officers in the Full-Area Tambon Administration Organizations :
A Case Study of Narathiwas Province

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This survey research investigated the actual role of district head officers and assistant district head officers in the full tambon administrative organizations in Narathiwas province. A questionnaire was employed to collect the data from 79 district head officers and assistant district head officers. The main purposes of the study were 1) to find out their opinions about the full-area tambon administrative organization as stated in the 1997 Constitution of Thailand, 2) to identify the factors influencing their opinions, as the old tambon administrative organization was upgraded to the full-area tambon administrative organization, and 3) to learn how much they, as the local administrators, could perform their duties in the new administrative system.

The findings were summed up as follows:

(1) The subjects' realization of the role of the tambon administrative organization as stipulated in the 1997 Constitution of Thailand was found to be at a rather high level,

(2) Two factors found to influence their opinion about their performance were realization of the role of the tambon administrative organization and understanding of its activities, and

(3) As the local administrators, they had to perform several duties efficiently. When the tambon administrative organization was up graded to the full-area tambon administrative organization, most thought that local government work should not be abolished and the role of the full-area tambon administrative organization should not be interfered but

should be only overseen. The establishment of the full-area tambon administrative organization did not affect their performance or the performance of kamnan, village headmen, in looking after the people in line with the 1914 Local Administration Act. These authorities act as coordinators apart from other tasks. Also, the organization still has several operational problems because people were not ready for self-government.

Recommendations

- 1) The district head officers and the assistant district head officers should be made to understand the role and activities of the full-area tambon administrative organization so that they can adjust themselves to the changing role,
- 2) They should be supported to change their role gradually in order to cope with the changing administrative system,
- 3) The local government should set a plan to be ready to accommodate new missions, including adapting the way of thinking and developing organizations or abolishing other from of local administration that overlapped with the full-area tambon administrative organization. This will help solve the problem of the lack of personnel, the inability to implement the plan successfully and the poor management of the budget.