

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : People's Participation in the Civil Society
Development Activities : A Case Study of
Tambon Bangtathaen, Songphinong District,
Suphanburi Province

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The study were conducted for the following purposes : 1) to find out the level of people's participation in the civil society development activities in Tambon Bangtathaen, Songphinong District, Suphanburi Province, 2) to reveal the factors affecting people's participation in such activities, 3) to identify their participation problems in order to find some solutions to the problems, and 4) to use the research results to made recommendations in the action research plan on tambon development

The sample group consisted of 59 people serving in different committees and natural local leaders and 83 community people living in Tambon Bangtathaen, Songphinong District, Suphanburi Province. Total sample size was 142.

The findings were summarized below:

General characteristics of the sample. Most community leaders were male. They were 25-40 years old. They finished primary education. They were married. They were engaged in agriculture. They lived in Tambon Bangtathaen for 25-40 years. Their income was higher than their expense. They had some saving. They accepted the position of leader because the government agencies asked them to do so. They gained a better understanding about the civil society when they attended the training course.

As for the community people, most watched TV news, listen to news programs on the radio, read newspaper and other publications less than once a week. They heard news from their neighbors and government officials 2-3 days a week. They had a poor understanding of the civil society..

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As a whole, the people participated in civil society development at a moderate level. The dimensions found to have a high participation level were presenting ideas about tambon development to the Tambon Administrative Organization and following up the performance of the community development project. On the other hand, the people moderately participated in analyzing the problem and needs of people in the tambon, and giving help and receiving benefit from the community development projects or activities.

When the hypotheses were tested, the factors found to be related to the people's participation in civil society development were education and income. In contrast, sex, age, marital status, occupation, number of residential years and being a member in different committees in the community were found to have no relationship with the participation in civil society development.

Recommendations :

1. Related government agencies should give more importance of people's participation in civil society development. People should be given on opportunity to do so in order to prepare them to transfer the State authority.
2. Public and private agencies should arrange activities that educate people in Tambon Bangtathaen continuously so that people will see the importance of their participation in civil society development and this will be willing to join the projects.
3. The Tambon Administrative Organization should develop its staff continuously. They should undergo training and take observation tours to learn more about civil society development.
4. Studies should be conducted to find out the reasons why people want or do not want to participate in civil society development of Tambon Bangtathaen. Forms of participation in other areas should also be studied and be compared to see the difference.