

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : Teachers' Role in the General Election
According to Thai Constitution B.E. 2540 :
A Study of Yaring Pattani Province

Author : Phra Somyod Phetubon

Degree : Master of Arts (Social Development)

Year : 2001

There are 3 important objectives for this research , i.e., 1. to study the teachers' knowledge and understanding including their opinions on the recent general election of members of parliament , 2. to study the teachers' role in the general election , 3. to find out problems and obstacles in the process of the general election of M.P.

18 Primary teachers and the people involved with the general election in Yaring District, Pattani Province were interviewed in-depth as key-informants ; observation technique was also used while collecting data, after which the data were systematically analyses with descriptive statistics.

Results of the study can be summarized as follows :

1. The majority of key-informants have sufficient knowledge and understanding of the general election whether in the qualification of the candidates , forms of the M.P. election (2 types) , qualification of the voters , and others. Their knowledge and understanding derived from training, following news from the mass media - TV , radio, newspapers and election periodicals issued by the election committee.

2. Almost all key-informants have the opinion that voting ought to be duty ; the new system of general election is more appropriate than the old one ; it opens

up for those with knowledge and ability to serve the country , etc. However, one-half of the informants do not agree with the procedure of voting count at the central unit because it takes too much time in counting the ballots.

3. All key-informants managed to teach students in accordance with the new election system both in the main and supplement curriculums in the primary education, other roles in the general election played by the teachers include publicizing the election , people services and co-operation with other officials, for example.

4. Problems and obstacles encountered are the new election system is more complicated than the old one ; lack of good co-ordination between the government agencies and the election committee. A recommendation about personnel is that there should be military and police officers helping in the general election to prevent local influential people to rig the election and provide safety for the teachers involved.