

ABSTRACT

RESEARCH PAPER : People Participation in Municipal Community Development:
A Case Study of Nakhon Si Ayutthaya City Municipality,
Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya Province

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The objectives of the study were:

1. To study the level of people participation in community development in Nakhon Si Ayutthaya City Municipality;
2. To study the factors related to people participation in community development in Nakhon Si Ayutthaya City Municipality;
3. To use the results of the study to formulate suggestions for related government agencies in order to bring about greater efficiency in their small-scale community improvement projects.

The population for the study was 1,950 households in 22 communities in Nakhon Si Ayutthaya City Municipality. A sample of ten per cent, or 195 individuals, was selected through simple random sampling. The results were statistically analyzed using averages, percentages, standard deviations, t-tests and F-tests.

The study results found that:

1. The majority of the sample population was married, females, aged between 31 – 40 years with an educational level of lower than bachelor's degree and was Buddhist. The majority was private-sector employees, merchants or workers in the service sector. Average annual income was less than 40,000 baht. The majority had lived in the community for 6 to 40 years.

2. The level of people participation in community development was low. Broken into categories, we found that people participation in operations was moderate, and participation in decision-making, planning and evaluation was low.

3. The factors that affected participation were sex, income, and length of time living in the community.

4. Factors that did not affect participation were marital status, religion, age, educational level and career.

5. The suggestions for helping increase people participation in community development were:

5.1 The responsible municipal work units should hold training programs to educate people on their role and responsibilities in community development.

5.2 Greater self-sufficiency should be promoted by having the people participate more in community development and in the searching of problems in their communities.

5.3 Local people or people with knowledge and ability should be supported and encouraged to take a greater role in community development.

5.4 More education, both formal and non-formal, should be promoted so that the people can put their knowledge to use in community development.

5.5 Community development workers should hold public relations activities to inform people and increase their understanding, explaining to them the problems and likely results. They should point out to the people that people participation is the most important factor in municipal development.