

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : Readiness of Local Government to Adopt Transferred Authority : A Case Study of the Municipal Councilors in Ayuthaya Province

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The study was conducted for three main purposes : 1) to find out the opinions of the municipal councilors concerning the readiness of local government to adopt transferred authority, especially readiness in administrative and managerial process and in managerial inputs, 2) to identify the factors related to their opinions about readiness in administrative and managerial process and in managerial inputs, and 3) to use the research results as a guideline for effective municipal operations.

The data were collected from 84 municipal council chairpersons and councilors of tambon municipalities, urban municipalities and city municipalities in Ayuthaya Province. A questionnaire was used as an instrument. The SPSS program was employed for data analysis. Percentage, mean (\bar{X}) and standard deviation (S) were used to describe the data t-test and One-way Analysis of Variance were used to test the hypotheses.

Findings

1. Most of the municipal councilors of tambon, urban and city municipalities were males, aged 41-50. They were in trade and business. They completed high school. They worked as municipal council chair persons and councilors for 1-2 years. They gained administrative experience from the work itself and attended a seminar on authority transfer to local government once.

2. The readiness of adopting transferred authority was found to be moderate. Some important details were as follows:

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2.1 Administrative and managerial process. Planning, organizational management, direction, coordination and evaluation were taken into consideration.

It was found that the municipal councilors were ready to adopt transferred authority at a moderate level. They were most ready for organizational management, followed by direction, evaluation, coordination, and planning, respectively.

2.2 Managerial inputs personnel, finance, office buildings, and office facilities and equipment were considered.

It was found that the managerial inputs for municipal administration were moderately ready. The office buildings were the most ready, followed by finance, office facilities and equipment and personnel, respectively.

3. In studying the factors related to the municipal councilor's opinions about the readiness of adopting transferred authority and of managerial inputs, the following were found.

3.1 Age, occupation, income and number of service years in the position of municipal councilor had no significant relationship with the municipal councilor's opinions.

3.2 Education and the number of times the municipal councilors attended training courses or seminars on authority transfer to local government were found to be significantly related to their opinions at the 0.05 level.

The following recommendations were made.

1) Training courses and seminars should be held for municipal councilors to increase their knowledge and work efficiency to accommodate transferred authority. In fact, the Ministry of Interior and the agencies that have planned to transfer authority to local government should hold a seminar on authority transfer for municipal councilors before authority is transferred to them.

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2) In municipal administration, a scheme to accommodate authority transfer should be set and put in the municipal development plan. There should be organizational restructure to respond to the authority transfer. Adequate facilities and equipment should be available. Local government should directly coordinate with the agencies that would transfer authority. In addition, a follow-up plan should also made to find out the results.

3) Regarding managerial inputs, recruitment of the personnel should be in line with the structural framework. At present, the number of personnel is small, so training courses and seminars should be arranged for them so that they can serve several functions. Also, part of the municipal budget should be put side to accommodate authority transfer. There should be a plan to procure office supplies and equipment, too.