

**ABSTRACT**

**Title of Research Paper** : Problems and Needs of Thai Muslims People in the Urban Areas of Pattani Province and Leadership Power of Local Leaders

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The purpose of the study was two fold : 1) to identify the problems and needs of Thai Muslim people in the Urban Areas of Pattani Province and 2) to find out whether they could depend on any formal or informal leaders and, if so, to what extent. The leaders studied ranged from neighborhood leaders, village headmen, tambon administration organization, or Municipality Office to local politicians, Members of Parliament and government officials.

The data were collected from 358 households living in the Urban Areas of Pattani Province, or 5% of the total population. They were selected by multistage random sampling, A interview schedule was used for data collection. The interviewees were household heads. Percentage was the descriptive statistic used to describe the data.

**Problems** Most subjects said they experienced all kinds of problems. The economic problem they encountered was low income from the primary occupation. The next problem was the social problem, mainly the marihuana problems that they were faced with were pollution and garbage and waste disposal.

**Leadership power of local leaders** The subjects said that they could depend on tambon leaders most, followed by neighborhood leaders, village leaders, the members of the Municipal Council, and government officials in tambons and districts, respectively. But they could depend least on Members of Parliament, village headmen, subdistrict headmen, members of the village committee, and members of the Provincial

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Administration Organization. This indicate that immediate leaders were their trouble shooters.

**Recommendations :**

As it was found that the people's problems and needs were not under the responsibility of local government agencies, it is necessary for the government to decentralize power to the grass-root level as soon as and much as possible in order to use the community process to solve local people's problems and serve their needs.

Local administration organizations should survey people's problems and needs and use the results to set some plans and activities to solve the community problems.