

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : Attitude toward Democratic Politics of the
Police Officers in Crime Suppression Division 1

Author : Pol.Capt. Sittichai Kraisaeng

Degree : Master of Arts (Social Development)

Year : 2001

The major purpose of the research was to study the police officers' attitude toward democratic politics and the factors contributing to such and attitude in order to find some way to make police officers have a good attitude toward democratic politics.

The data were collected from 136 police officers in Crime Suppression Division 1. The questionnaire used for data collection consisted of three parts : (1) general characteristics of the sample (2) measurement of the sample's attitude toward democratic politics, and (3) suggestions. Percentage, mean and standard deviation was used to describe the data, and t-test and F-test to test the hypothesis.

It was found that 39.7 percent were more than 40 years old. About 36.8 percent had worked for 10-20 years. About 68.4 percent were non-commissioned policeman. About 50.7 were married. About 51.5 percent work in the clerical line. About 56.6 percent earned a salary of lower than 15,000 baht. About 50.0 percent had education below a Bachelor's degree. About 34.6 percent lived in Bangkok. They received more or less the same amount of political information. They participate very little in politics. The activity they participated most was voting in an election. As a whole, the police officers agreed with democratic politics at a moderate level. To be specific, they agreed with the principle of people's

(4)

democracy more than the principle of law, the principle of freedom, the principle of majority votes and the principle of equality, respectively.

When the hypothesis were tested, it was found that the number of working years, marital status, access to political information and news, and participation in politics had a significant impact on the police officers' attitude toward democratic politics at the 0.05 level. On the contrary, age, rank, income, education, nature of work and hometown were found to have no influence on their attitude toward democratic politics.

Recommendations

1. Principle of people's democracy. The agency and the superior should give importance to arranging activities that enables people in the are under responsibility to express their opinions about police work and to have an opportunity to inspect police work.

2. Principle of freedom. The police officers should undergo training in order to understand and realize the value of democratic ruling, including the B.E.2540 Constitution of Thailand, which provides an opportunity for people to have freedom in speaking, writing and doing political activities within the frame of law.

3. Principle of equality. The police's work performance must be improved, especially giving services and enforcing the law with equal treatment to people. Also, equality among the policemen should be promoted. Promotion should be fair by using the merit system.

4. Principle of law. Improvement should be made in law enforcement by the police so as to meet the people's needs. The right and freedom of the people must be seriously considered. The National Police Office must protest the police who are affected by influential people when they strictly enforce the law with these people.

TE129187

(5)

5. Principle of majority votes. The police must work to serve the majority of people, so surveys or polls should be conducted to seek people's opinions about police work.