

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : Political Participation of Students at the
National Institute of Development Administration
(NIDA)
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The study was conducted for two main purposes : 1) to find out the level of political participation of NIDA graduate students, and 2) to point out the factors influencing their political participation.

The data were collected from 313 graduate students attending the tenth and the eleventh special programs in Bangkok offered by the School of Social Development, NIDA. The data were collected from those enrolled in the academic year 2001 by using a questionnaire.

The findings were briefly reported below:

1. Most of the subjects were females, aged 40 or more. They earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. They were single and lived in Bangkok. Most were government officials and were interested in and regularly followed political news, particularly through television and newspapers. They had a good understanding of democracy. They also felt that they had a high political capability at a high level.

2. The NIDA graduate students were found to participate in politics at a moderate level. When five aspects related to political participation were considered, the students were found to participate in election procedures and in following political movement at a moderate level. They participated in campaigns to provide people with political knowledge, in expressing their political view and in political rallies at a low level.

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3. The factors found to be significantly related to their political participation were sex, age, major in the Bachelor's degree program, occupation and interest in political news. On the contrary, marital status, understanding of democracy and feeling of having a high political capability were found to have no relationship with their political participation.