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M.Sc. (TECHNOLOGY OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT)

KEY WORDS : PARTICIPATION / LOCAL PEOPLE / ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

SOBSUK LEELABUTRA : LOCAL PEOPLE PARTICIPATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION : A CASE STUDY OF KO KRET NONTABURI PROVINCE. THESIS ADVISOR:
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The objectives of this research were to study the participation levels of local people in environmental conservation and, to identify the problems of environmental conservation within Ko Kret, Nonthaburi Province. Two methodologies were used in this study ; a quantitative study using questionnaires collected from 221 residents. The statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) was utilized for data analysis and the inferential statistics used were percentages, frequencies, mean, standard deviation, analysis of variance (ANOVA), and multiple classification analysis (MCA). In additions a qualitative study was carried out through in-depth interviews with 15 key informants and the information was analyzed by descriptive presentation.

The study results showed that the majority of local people's participation level in environmental conservation was at medium level. It was found that factors affecting participation levels, with statistical significance at 0.001 level, were sex and occupation. While social status and knowledge of environmental conservation affected significantly local people's participation at 0.01 level. Furthermore, it was found that gender, occupation, level of general knowledge in environmental conservation and social status participated more than others in environmental conservation. The identified problems and obstacles were : most people had to earn a living so they had less time for environmental conservation activities. Most people did not clearly understand the government policy. People could not organize well among themselves since the benefit arising from participation activities was not fairly shared among everyone, thus making them not interested in participation.

Recommendations arising from this research are as follows: The government and local organizations should establish a clear understanding about the government policy to raise participation and awareness particularly among youth so that conservation of the environment and the related activities are practiced as a part of preserving the Thai cultural heritage.