

**Theis Title : Political Attitude and Participation  
of The Karen : The Mae Hong Son Case**

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#### **ABSTRACT**

The objectives of this thesis are to study political attitudes and political participation of the Karen hilltribe in order to learn about their political attitudes and their levels of political participation. In addition, the correlations of Karen's political attitudes and political participation including other influencing variables are also examined.

The study's samples are Karen hilltribe in Changwat Mae Hong Son who are selected by using the mixed sampling method. The sample size is 400 Karens from 18 villages. Data and information are gathered by using questionnaires. As for the data analysis, the statistical technique of Statistical Package for Social

Science (SPSS) is used together with percentage, mathematics means, chi-squares and gamma.

The study finds that :

1. Karens have positive attitudes towards Thai political system at a medium level of the upper spectrum.
2. Karens have good attitudes towards Thai political community at high level and have good attitudes towards Thai political regime at a medium level of the upper spectrum. And at the same time, have good attitudes towards Thai political authorities at medium level of the lower spectrum.
3. The study finds that certain variables, such as age, religion, social status and levels of education, have correlation with Karen's political attitudes.
4. Karens have medium level of the lower spectrum of political participation. Mostly, they take part in non initiative, non endeavors or non money using activities.
5. In addition, it is found that Karen's political attitudes and political participation have positive correlations at medium level. That is : the group of Karens with good political attitudes have higher levels of political participation than those who have medium and low levels of political attitudes respectively.