

Thesis Title Role of Woman Village Head : A Comparative
Study of Female Village Head and Male
Village Head in Lom Sak District, Phetchabun
Province

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Abstract

The position of Village Head is very important for the local administration in Thailand. Elected by the people, the village head has 3 major roles : the representative of the central government, the representative of the villagers, and the leaders of his community. Up until 2525 B.E., only male can be the village head. That year, the Provincial Administration Act of 2457 B.E. was amended so that female can also be elected to this position.

After 10 years of this historic change many woman have been elected to be village heades. This research had a comparative study between 8 male village heads and 8 female village heads. All of them

in Lom Sak District, Phetchabun Province. The main goal is to find out how the villages and local government officials in the district, evaluate the performances of male and female village heads. The performances are in all 3 dimension of the representative of the central government, the representative of the villagers, and the leaders of his community. .

Data is from interviewing three groups of samples. The first group are 8 male village heads. The second group are 320 villages drawn by way of random sampling. Twenty samples are from each of the 16 villages in the study. The third group of samples in the study are 50 local government officials whose works made them come into contact with 16 village heads in this study.

The findings are as followed :

1. In general the preformances of male and females villages heads in all 3 aspects are not much different, in the eyes of villages and local government officials.
2. The villagers think that female village heads are superior than the male courterparts in preforming the role of the government representative.
3. The local government official think that male village heads are move superior as for as crime prevention and suppression is concerned, but in taking care of the government properties, the female village heads are better.