

Thesis Title	Knowledge and Awareness of the Village Committees in Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation : Case Study of Saiyok District, Kanchanaburi Province
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ABSTRACT

Today, tourism is very popular in Thailand, especially travelling to the beautiful natural resources, archeological and historical sites. New tourist sites and resources were discovered in several parts of the country. But, the more places were discovered, the more were trespassed. The concerning government agencies could not be able to cope with the problem effectively. So, the local people

especially the local leaders in the village level should be aware of the importance of the conservation of tourism-related environment. The participation of the local people depends on their knowledge and awareness in natural and cultural heritage conservation.

This study is aimed to investigate factors relating to the knowledge and awareness of the village committee on natural and cultural heritage conservation. The study covers the following factors :

- age
- position
- term of the position
- farm size
- distance from house to the nearest tourist site and resource
- access to the mass media
- community activity participation

The population was the 266 village committee of Saiyok District, Kanchanaburi Province. The findings of the study are as follow :

1. Most the village committee have knowledge in conserving natural resources in the average level.

2. Village committee who are 44 year-old and over have more knowledge on natural and cultural heritage conservation than the younger at the significant level of 0.05

- Village committee who are different in these factors-position, term of position, farm size, distance from house to the nearest tourist site and resource, access to mass media and community activity participation-are not different in the knowledge at the 0.5 level of significance.

3. Most of the village committee are aware of natural and cultural heritage conservation in the average level.

4. The effect of distance from house to the nearest tourist site and resource on the awareness on natural and cultural heritage was found significant at the level of 0.05. Village committee who live 5-14 kilometers to the nearest tourist site and resource have more awareness than the ones of other groups.

5. The following factors seem to have no effect on awareness of village committee on natural and cultural conservation at the 0.05 level of significance-age, position, term of position, farm size, access to mass media, and community activity participation.

6. The stepwise regression analysis shows that farm size has positive relationship to the knowledge of village committee on natural and cultural conservation at the 0.05 level of significance and community activity participation has such relationship to the awareness of them on natural and cultural conservation at the 0.01 level of significance.