

The objectives of this study were (1) to determine factors affecting opinions toward community garbage management, (2) to compare the opinions concerning garbage management of Tambon Administration Organization (TAO) and that of local people, and (3) to find appropriate approaches for community garbage management of Tambon Mo Mueang, Amphoe Mae Charim, Changwat Nan.

The studied samples consisted of 240 local people and 15 TAO members as a total of 255 samples. Designed questionnaires were used as a research tool to collect data. Additional data and information were obtained through focus group discussion and literature review. Data were statistically analyzed by applying descriptive statistics to find percentage, mean and standard deviation. To test the hypotheses, correlations of studied variables were determined by Pearson's correlation coefficient (r) and tested significance with F-test, and mean comparisons were made and tested significance with t-test.

Results of the study were concluded below:

The opinions of sample groups toward garbage management were not significantly correlated with individual factors (age, education, occupation and income); social factors (group's member, group activities, participation, and sources of information); and environmental factors

(landscapes and community characteristics). However, it was found that samples of different sexes had different opinions on garbage management significantly at 0.01 level.

Groups of TAO members and local people showed significant differences (at 0.01 significant level) in their opinions on community garbage management.

The correlations of other variables indicated that education, income and sources of information were positively related to household and community garbage management whereas environment factor regarding community characteristics showed a negative correlation at significant level of 0.001.

Finding of focus group discussion suggested that government policy, relevant laws and a budget resulted in opinions and roles of group members toward community garbage management.

Moreover, overall results suggest that appropriate approaches for community garbage management are to reduce garbage at sources and to use polluters pay principle. Thus, the community should start programs to build up people's awareness and encourage people to manage garbage of their own households, as well as to manage undegradable garbage and hazardous waste in public areas of their communities.