
People's Political Participation, Thanon Nakhon Chai Si Subdistrict, Dusit District, Bangkok

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Abstract

The purposes of this research were to study the political participation of the people in Thanon Nakhon Chaisi sub-district, Dusit district, Bangkok, and to compare the differences of people's political participation, Thanon Nakhon Chaisi sub-district, Dusit district, Bangkok classified by personal factors. The sample size used in this research was 397 people living in Thanon Nakhon Chaisi sub-district, Dusit district, Bangkok. To collect the data, the method of simple random sampling was used. The statistics used to analyze the data were percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test, and analysis of variance. The statistical significance was determined at the 0.05 level. The results of the research revealed that the political participation of the people in Thanon Nakhon Chaisi sub-district, Dusit district, Bangkok, in overall perspective, was at a moderate level ($\bar{x} = 3.21$). When consider each item separately, it was found that the election dimension was at a high level ($\bar{x} = 3.79$), followed by being a political party official and the campaigner at the moderate level ($\bar{x} = 3.22$), being a political informant was at a moderate level ($\bar{x} = 3.14$), being a role player in the community at a moderate level ($\bar{x} = 3.12$), and being a liaison with the government at a moderate level ($\bar{x} = 3.04$), and finally, being a protester was also at a moderate level ($\bar{x} = 2.97$), respectively. When comparing the differences in political participation of the people classified by personal factors, it was found that the participation as classified by personal factors were different.

Keywords: People's participation, politics, Thanon Nakhon Chai Si sub-district

1. Introduction

Thailand is among the countries that has democracy in which it is considered as one of the best regimen since it allows people to participate in using power in the government of the country. The democratic regime is a government system that provides an enormous priority toward people for the reason that people are the true owner of governmental authority. Thus, the country having the political development is therefore the country that encourage people to participate in political affairs in every possible level. The political participation is expected to create political learning, communication, and an awareness of information that will facilitate the designation of objectives or goals in making the right decision and is relevant to the genuine needs of the people. In general, the political participation must emerge from a free-will with a direct as well as indirect intention to have influence upon the policy formulation and government's administration both at the local and national level.

The democratic regime is a self-government of the people through the election of members of the parliament in managing and taking care of the legislation for the benefits of the people at large. There is a direct examination and control by the people or a rigorous participation, for instance, the proposal or amendment of the law, the impeachment of the corrupted politicians, public hearing, and the vote for a referendum.

The people's participation is held an important principle in democracy. Even though, political behavior of people in each society is different based on culture, tradition, values, belief, or attitude but it is always undeniable that everybody pays attention toward national

development. Nowadays, people are much more awakening in regard to the politics. This may be a result from the extension of educational base by the government, political learning, public relations, or various media presentation that ignite social movement processes and light up the desire from people to participate in politics. These can be seen in various actions such as the exercise of voting right in general election, election campaign, political persuasion, membership of a political party, or protest, including public activities.

However, the condition of Thai society still experiences social inequality. There is a small group of people who are well educated and well-off. The majority of the people are less educated and poor. The interesting phenomena in Thai society is that the middle class people, regardless of their wealth, are having an important role in the development of the country. These groups of people are interestingly increasing in number and become crucial change agents in the society. They are middle class people who build up justice in capitalism in terms of politics and ideology. There are numbers of thinkers who believe that the middle class people will push for wealthiness in the globalized capitalistic system. With the strength of middle class people, there is a thrust for a draft of constitution, an encouragement for people participation in public hearing, a general election, an establishment of civil society groups, independent organizations, and various local organizations. This is a decentralization toward grass-root level in order to allow people to be much more familiar with political society.

From the above rationale, the researcher is interested in conducting a research on people's political participation, Thanon Nakhon Chai Si subdistrict, Dusit district, Bangkok in order to find out the facts and to discover some benefits from its findings to be used in the operation toward quality of work.

2. Research Objectives

- 1) To study the level of people's political participation, Thanon Nakhon Chai Si subdistrict, Dusit district, Bangkok.
- 2) To compare people's political participation, Thanon Nakhon Chai Si subdistrict, Dusit district, Bangkok, with personal factors.

3. Research Methodology

3.1 Methodology

This research is a quantitative research. The population is people living in Thanon Nakhon Chai Si subdistrict, Dusit district, Bangkok at the total number of 47,763 persons.

3.2 The Sample Size

The sample size is calculated at the total number of 397 individuals.

3.3 The Research Tool

1. The research tool is a questionnaire in which it was constructed from the concept, theory, document, and related research materials and were divided into 3 parts as follows:

1.1 The general information on personal factors including 5 items that are: sex, age, education level, occupation, and monthly income. It is a close-ended response question.

1.2 The information on level of political participation of people residing in Thanon Nakhon Chai Si subdistrict, Dusit district, Bangkok in 6 dimensions that are: election, political party officer and political campaigner, community role-player, official liaison, protestor, and political media.

1.3 Suggestions

2. The Construction of Research Tool

2.1 The study of concepts, theory, document, and other related research both in hard copies and the information stored in the internet.

2.2 The Validity. The questionnaire was examined by the 3 specialists in order to find out the content validity regarding the congruence of each question and the objectives of the study.

2.3 The Reliability. The 30 issues of questionnaires were tried out with people with the similar characteristics of people living in Thanon Nakhon Chai Si subdistrict, Dusit district, Bangkok. The Cronbach's coefficient alpha was derived at .85.

2.4 The Implementation. The questionnaires were corrected and improved based on the instruction of the specialists and scholars. As a result, the competed questionnaires were used to collect data.

3.4 The Data Collection

1. The Primary Data. The researcher collected data through the questionnaires from the sample size living in Thanon Nakhon Chai Si subdistrict, Dusit district, Bangkok. The researcher distributed 397 copies of questionnaires to the sample size residing in Thanon Nakhon Chai Si subdistrict, Dusit district, Bangkok.

2. The Secondary Data. The researcher has studied and collected data from secondary sources such as pertinent concepts, theory, texts, documentation, and various related research in order to construct a conceptual framework.

3.5 The Research Statistics

1. The Descriptive Statistics. The descriptive data were involved with the personal data in terms of sex, age, educational level, occupation, and monthly income and represented in forms of frequency, percentage, mean, and standard deviation.

2. Testing Hypothesis. The t-test, F-test as well as Pearson correlation coefficient were performed with the collected data.

4. Research Results

The analysis of people's political participation, Thanon Nakhon Chai Si subdistrict, Dusit district, Bangkok are as follows:

Table 1 People's political participation in Thanon Nakhon Chai Si subdistrict, Dusit district, Bangkok in terms of mean and standard deviation.

Level of political participation	\bar{x}	S.D.	Interpretation
Election dimension	3.79	0.944	High
Political party officer and political campaigner dimension	3.22	1.082	Moderate
Community role-player dimension	3.12	1.050	Moderate
Official liaison dimension	3.04	1.177	Moderate
Protestor dimension	2.97	1.170	Moderate
Political media dimension	3.14	0.995	Moderate
Total	3.21	0.859	Moderate

From the above table 1, the overall value of people's political participation living in Thanon Nakhon Chai Si subdistrict, Dusit District, Bangkok, is at the moderate level ($\bar{x} = 3.21$). When consider each item separately, it was found that the election dimension is at high level ($\bar{x} = 3.79$), followed by the political party officer and political campaigner is at moderate level ($\bar{x} = 3.22$), the political media is at moderate level ($\bar{x} = 3.14$), the community role-player dimension is at moderate level ($\bar{x} = 3.12$), the official liaison is at moderate level ($\bar{x} = 3.04$), and the protestor dimension is at moderate level ($\bar{x} = 2.97$), respectively.

5. Research Discussion

The research on people's political participation, Thanon Nakhon Chai Si subdistrict, Dusit district, Bangkok revealed that the people's political participation is at moderate level in which there are various processes that have some effects on the different levels of participation. This finding is in the same conclusion of Napas Lekcharoen (2019) on his research entitled Public Political Participation in the Area of Nongprue Municipality, Bang Lamuang District, Chonburi Province in which it discovered that the political participation of people in Nongprue municipality, Chonburi province is at moderate level. And it is also relevant to the research of Thanagon Saisok (2017) on The Political Participation of People in Nonpiban Sub-District Administrative Organization, Kae Dum District, Mahasarakham Province that claimed about people's political participation in Nonpiban sub-district, Kae Dum district, Mahasarakham province is at moderate level. It is again in the same conclusion of the work undertaken by Permsak Wannaying and associates (2016) called The Political Participation of the People in Bang Khonthi District, Samut Songkhram Province that found political participation of the people in Bang Khonthi district, Samut Songkhram province at the moderate level. The results of this research is also in the same direction of the work done by Wilaijit Senarat (2016) on The People's Participation on the Local Development Plan of Donklang Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Amphoe Kosum Phisai, Mahasarakham Province that showed a moderate level of people's participation in the formation of the local development plan of Donklang subdistrict administrative organization, Amphoe Kosum Phisai, Mahasarakham province. However, the findings of this particular research are not similar to the work of Suchada Rungjirakarn, Pongsak Petchsathit, and Anan Thamchalai (2021) on The People's Political Participation in Bang Khen District, Bangkok Metropolis whose finding indicated that the people's political participation is at the low level.

6. Research Suggestions

6.1 Policy Suggestion

There should a master plan toward the promotion and support of people's political participation in the responsive area.

6.2 Practical Suggestion

1. There should be a campaign in public relations regarding political participation in order to encourage and to increase level of perception among people in the area.
2. There should be a study about factors influencing the level of people's political participation in Thanon Nakhon Chai Si subdistrict, Dusit district, Bangkok in order to formulate guidelines used in the adjustment toward political participation in a better manner.

7. References

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