

Political Participation of the People at Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District in Surin Province

Napat Paenjan¹, Surakiat Ngaongam², Panadda Soidok³, Chukiat Kunram⁴, and Jirayu Supsin⁵

*Corresponding authors: napatpaenjan@gmail.com

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Abstract

Introduction: This research aimed to 1) study the level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province; 2) compare the political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, and 3) present the guidelines for developing political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province.

Methodology: The research used a quantitative research model. The sample group consisted of 154 people from Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, selected using a multi-stage sampling method. A questionnaire was used to collect data, with a reliability value of 0.848 for the entire questionnaire. The statistics used for analysis included frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation, t-test, and One-way ANOVA. In the case of statistically significant differences using Least Significance Difference, and the statistical significance level used in this analysis was set at .05.

Results: The results of the research found that: 1. The level of political participation of the people in Ban Ta Meun, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province. Most respondents were female, 84 people or 54.5 per cent. Most were 61 years old or over, 48 people or 31.2 percent. Most had primary education levels 4 - 6, 91 people or 59.1 percent. Most of them were farmers, 110 people or 71.4 percent. The average monthly income of the sample group was less than 5,000 baht, 80 people or 51.9 percent, respectively. The overall political participation of the people of Ban Ta Meun, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, was moderate ($\bar{x} = 3.15$, S.D. = 0.360). When considering each aspect, it was found that there was one aspect at a very high level, one at a moderate level, and one at a low level. 2. The results of the comparison of the level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, classified by personal factors, found that the sample population with different genders had no different levels of political participation, so the hypothesis was rejected. The sample population with different ages had different levels of political participation, so the hypothesis was accepted with statistical significance at the 0.05 level. The sample population with different education levels had no different levels of

^{1,*} Department of Political Science, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Surindra Rajabhat University, Thailand; Email: napatpaenjan@gmail.com

² Department of Political Science, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Surindra Rajabhat University, Thailand; Email: napatpaenjan@gmail.com

³ Department of Political Science, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Surindra Rajabhat University, Thailand; Email: napatpaenjan@gmail.com

⁴ Department of Political Science, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Surindra Rajabhat University, Thailand; Email: napatpaenjan@gmail.com

⁵ Department of Political Science, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Surindra Rajabhat University, Thailand; Email: jirayu2515@sru.ac.th

political participation, so the hypothesis was rejected. The sample population with different occupations had no different levels of political participation, so the hypothesis was rejected. 3. Guidelines for developing political participation of people in Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, by separating each aspect, found that in terms of expressing interest in politics, 40.0 percent of the sample group of people suggested that political information should be distributed to the public to be more informed and that news should be followed from reliable sources to make decisions with political information. Regarding exercising the right to vote, 40.0 percent of the sample group suggested that the public should participate in selecting or selecting good leaders to develop the country. Finally, regarding providing and receiving political information, 40.0 percent of the sample group suggested that the public obtain more precise and accurate information.

1. Introduction

The 2017 Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, Section 20, Chapter 3, Rights and Freedoms of the Thai People, Article 41, states that “Persons and communities shall have the right to (1) be informed of and access public information or news in possession of government agencies as prescribed by law, (2) submit complaints to government agencies and be informed of the results of the consideration promptly, and (3) sue government agencies for liability due to the actions or omissions of civil servants, officers or employees of government agencies.” Chapter 5, Duties of the Thai People, Section 50 (7), states, “To exercise the right to vote or vote in a referendum independently, with the overall benefit of the country as the main priority.” This is in line with Chapter 16 on national reform, Section 258 (1), which focuses on enabling people to participate in political activities, scrutinize the exercise of state power, ensure that people have correct knowledge and understanding of the democratic regime with the King as Head of State, know how to accept different honest political opinions and emphasize that people exercise their rights to vote and vote in a referendum independently. (The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2560., 2017) is related to the 20-year National Strategy 2018-2037, which focuses on the participation of the public in the policy process and various decisions of the government sector, using the mechanism of monitoring and listening to the opinions of the public. Political participation is also linked to the development of the potential of the public in terms of political education, supporting information literacy, and promoting good social consciousness (National Strategy Secretariat Office, n.d.), leading to the promotion of increased awareness of political participation so that the public can participate in national development, focusing on political participation by expressing political ideas or being a part of the campaign to exercise their right to vote, following political news, receiving and providing political information to others, and participating in the monitoring of the use of power by government agencies.

From the review of literature related to political participation, it was found that the political participation of the majority of people has been studied in 4 main aspects: 1) elections, 2) following political news, 3) political expression, 4) political parties (Chantana et al., 2021). Similarly, the study of political participation of undergraduate students at Maha Sarakham University studied five aspects: 1) providing and receiving information, 2) participating in political campaigns, 3) exercising the right to vote, 4) expressing interest in political activities, 5) participating in political movements (Pangsakunyanon, 2018). It also found that there were studies on The local political participation of people in Nong Mai Daeng Subdistrict Municipality, Mueang District, Chonburi Province, which was studied in 3 aspects: 1) Political interest, 2) Participation in local political change, 3) Participation in political struggle (Sengking, 2017). Therefore, the research team synthesized into a study framework of 3 issues: 1) Expressing political interest, 2) Exercising the right to vote, and 3) Providing political information and receiving news.

In addition, Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, is a village where most of the people follow political news via television, radio, and social media channels and

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exercise their right to vote every time there is an election at every level. However, they rarely gather to express their political opinions or join the campaign to exercise their right to vote because the people in the village usually spend their free time farming and relaxing. Some people work in factories and do not have time to gather with others. The people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, should be promoted to participate in politics, such as various activities that interest the people and encourage them to come out and do activities together, along with having each person give suggestions for developing the village and the country to be more prosperous so that the community leaders will know the people's opinions and use them to develop the community to be more progressive.

Therefore, the research on the political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, aims to develop the participation of the people towards sustainable practice. For these reasons, it is important to consider the necessity of researching the political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, to study the potential to promote political participation of the people by the community opening opportunities for the people to participate in community development, solving problems and obstacles, improving and increasing the efficiency of the participation of the people in village and community development for the peaceful and happy living of the people in the community sustainably.

2. Research Objectives

1. To study the level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province
2. To compare the political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province
3. To present guidelines for developing political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province

3. Conceptual Framework

From the review of literature, concepts, theories and related research, the researchers were able to set the conceptual framework for the research as follows:

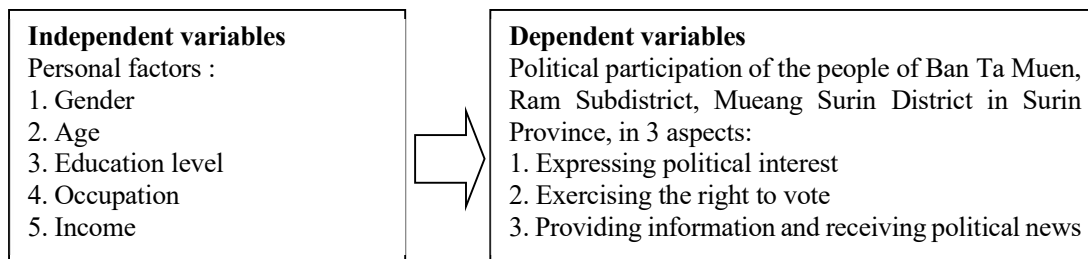


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework

4. Literature Review

Chantana et al. (2021) studied "Political Participation of People in Tambon Prang, Bang Bo District, Samut Prakan Province", it was found that the overall level of political participation was at a moderate level. The highest mean of involvement in the election was 3.97 (high level), followed by political news monitoring (mean 3.05, moderate level). In contrast, the mean of political expression and participation in political parties were lower (2.13 and 1.96, respectively, low level). In addition, the comparison of political involvement by individual factors found that different genders were not statistically significantly different. However, other factors of age, marital status, education, occupation, and income resulted in a statistically significant difference in overall political participation at a .05 level, indicating that political participation of people in Tambon Prang focused on elections and socioeconomic factors played a role in the level of political participation.

Yodkeeree (2021) studied "People's Political Participation in Local Development, Mueang Chiang Mai District, Chiang Mai Province", it was found that overall, people's political participation was at a high level ($\bar{x} = 3.49$, S.D. = .193). However, personal factors (gender, age, occupation, income), as well as the roles of interest groups and political parties, and the roles of political leaders, did not have a statistically significant influence on people's political participation in local development in Mueang Chiang Mai District. The recommendation from the study is that local administrative organizations should promote and develop political communication and public relations of various information through various channels, including social media, so that people are fully informed.

Panbua & Chitlaoarporn (2024) studied "Youth Political Participation: A Case Study of High School Students in Khanom District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province" and found that youth in the area participated in politics at a moderate level. The results of the hypothesis testing indicated that gender and family occupation did not affect political participation, while the level of education and family income had different effects on political participation. In addition, political socialization also affected the political participation of the sample youth.

Chitrayon (2022) studied "Political Participation of People in the Na Phra That Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Phanat Nikhom District, Chonburi Province". It was found that most of the respondents were male, aged 31-40 years, married, had a bachelor's degree, were office workers/shop employees, had a monthly income of 20,001-30,000 baht, and had duties in the community as general villagers. The research results indicated that overall, the level of local political participation of the people was at the lowest level. Involvement in local political campaigns had the highest average value, followed by national political involvement. In addition, the results of the comparison of local political participation also found that personal factors, such as gender, age, status, education level, occupation, and income, were different, resulting in a statistically significant difference in the level of local political participation at the .05 level, which was in line with the hypothesis.

Pangsakunyanon (2018) studied "Political Participation of Undergraduate Students of Maha Sarakham University" and found that overall political participation was at a moderate level ($\bar{x} = 2.70$). The aspects of voting rights ($\bar{x} = 3.48$) and information provision and information reception ($\bar{x} = 2.96$) were moderate. Meanwhile, the elements of showing interest in political activities ($\bar{x} = 2.60$), political campaign participation ($\bar{x} = 2.37$), and political participation ($\bar{x} = 2.11$) were at a low level. In addition, the political involvement comparison results also found statistically significant differences at the .05 level when classified by gender, faculty, and year. The recommendations from the study are that activities to promote democracy should be organized for students to participate in various political activities continuously and correctly, including activities that promote benefits for the institution and faculty to use free time beneficially and train volunteerism.

5. Research Methodology

1. Research design

In this research, the research team used a quantitative research design using a questionnaire to collect data to obtain information about "Political Participation of People in Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province". The research team selected a sample group of 154 people to respond to the questionnaire.

2. Population and sample.

2.1 Population: People living in Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, totalling 676 people, in all four directions (Bureau of Registration Administration, Department of Provincial Administration, 2024)

2.2 Sample: People eligible to vote, aged 18 years and over, totalling 154 people out of the total population of 251 people, obtained by calculating according to Yamane's formula (Yamane, 1967) and multi-stage sampling to get a sample size in proportion, using a 95% confidence level at a significance level of 0.05.

2.3 Sampling method

The researchers used the multi-stage sampling method as follows:

Step 1: Divide the population in Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District Surin Province, a total of 154 people, in 4 directions, consisting of Direction 1, North, 91 people; Direction 2, South, 47 people; Direction 3, East, 35 people; Direction 4, West, 78 people.

Step 2 Then, the random sampling method is used to determine the sample size as a proportion by considering the population to obtain distributed data about the population proportion. The area for sampling groups in proportion was used by Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, and Surin Province using the formula. From the formula, the population that is a sample group in each household will be as follows: Direction 1, North, 91 people, got a sample of 46 people; Direction 2, South, 47 people, got a sample of 31 people; Direction 3, East, 35 people, got a sample of 25 people; Direction 4, West, 78 people, got a sample of 52 people.

3. Data collection

In this research, the research team collected data from the questionnaires according to the following steps:

3.1 Prepare a letter requesting permission to collect data from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Surin Rajabhat University, to ask permission from Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, to request permission to answer the questionnaire from the sample group of people in Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province.

3.2 Prepare the questionnaires in sufficient quantities for the sample group to be collected. Then, submit the questionnaires and the letter requesting permission to collect data to request permission to collect data, along with explaining the details of the research study and the procedures for using the questionnaires to collect data to the required number.

3.3 Take the questionnaires to collect data from the sample group by the research team to collect the questionnaires themselves.

3.4 For data collection, the research team has the respondents return all the questionnaires and check their accuracy and completeness. If they are incomplete, discard the questionnaires and collect new data until complete. Then, the data analysis begins according to the research methodology chosen for this time.

6. Results

1. The results of the study of the general personal data of the respondents are as follows: The sample population of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, most of whom responded to the questionnaire were female, 84 people, or 54.5 percent. Most were 61 or older, 48 people, or 31.2 percent. Most had primary education level 4-6, 91 people, or 59.1 percent. Most of them were farmers, 110 people, or 71.4 percent. Most had an average monthly income of less than 5,000 baht, 80 people, or 51.9 percent, respectively.

Table 1. Mean and standard deviation of the level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province

Political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province	\bar{x}	S.D.	Results	No.
In terms of expressing interest in politics	2.45	0.708	Low	3
In terms of exercising the right to vote	4.48	0.555	High	1
In terms of providing information and receiving political news	2.55	0.497	Moderately	2
Total	3.15	0.360	Moderately	

From Table 1., the results of the study on the level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, overall, showed a moderate average ($\bar{x} = 3.15$, S.D. = 0.360). When considering each aspect, it was found that the average was at the highest level in 1 aspect and the average was at the moderate level in 2 aspects. The average values, ranked from highest to lowest, were as follows: exercising the right to vote ($\bar{x} = 4.48$, S.D. =

0.555); providing political information and news ($\bar{x} = 2.55$, S.D. = 0.497); and expressing political interest ($\bar{x} = 2.45$, S.D. = 0.708).

2. Summary of the results of the comparison of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province

Table 2. Summary of the results of the comparison of the level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province.

Hypothesis	Independent variable	Test Value	Sig.	Result	
				Accept	Reject
1	Gender	t - test	0.649	-	√
2	Age	F - test	0.361	-	√
3	Education level	F - test	0.514	-	√
4	Occupation	F - test	0.304	-	√
5	Average monthly income	F - test	0.001*	√	-

From Table 2., it can be concluded that:

2.1 The sample population with different genders has a level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province; overall, it is not different. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected.

2.2 The sample population with different ages has a level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province; overall, it is not different. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected.

2.3 The sample population with different education levels has a level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province; overall, it is not different. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected.

2.4 The sample population with different occupations has a level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province; overall, it is not different. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected.

2.5 The sample population with different average monthly incomes has a level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, overall is different. Therefore, the hypothesis is accepted with statistical significance at the 0.05 level, which is the hypothesis.

3. Guidelines for developing political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, separated by each aspect, found that:

3.1 Guidelines for developing political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, in terms of expressing political interest When considering each item, it was found that the suggestion for expressing political interest, the item with the highest level was that political information should be distributed to the people more, at 40.0 percent, followed by that news should be followed from reliable sources for making decisions with political information to support, at 40.0 percent, and finally, that speeches should be organized for the people to participate in choosing the policies of each political party more, at 20.0 percent. 5. Data analysis

3.2 Guidelines for developing political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, in terms of exercising the right to vote When considering each item, it was found that the suggestion for expressing political interest, the item with the highest level was that the people should participate in selecting or selecting good leaders to develop the country, at 40.0 percent, followed by that person with knowledge should be selected. Ability to govern the country 20.0 per cent, should be able to use their voting rights to their advantage 20.0 per cent, respectively, and finally, should be beneficial to voters in selecting leaders and participating in democracy 20.0 per cent.

3.3 Guidelines for developing people's political participation in Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, in terms of exercising voting rights. When

considering each item, it was found that the suggestion in terms of providing information and receiving political news, the item with the highest level was that people should be able to receive more precise and more accurate information, 40.0 percent, followed by that they should be informed of political policies and movements, 20.0 percent, that people should be able to receive political news about which direction it is going, 20.0 percent, respectively, and finally, that there should be a variety of information so that people can consider selecting leaders and policies of each party, 20.0 percent.

7. Conclusion

The results of the comparison of the level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, classified by personal factors, found that:

1. The sample population with different genders had a level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, in all three dimensions. Overall, the overall picture was not different. Therefore, the hypothesis was rejected. This may be because Thailand currently allows freedom of political participation to all genders. Both men and women have the right to participate in politics. Therefore, the political involvement of each gender is not different. This is consistent with the results of the study by Chantana et al. (2021), who found that the political participation of the people of Tambon Prang, Bang Bo District, Samut Prakan Province, classified by personal data factors, found that different genders had overall political participation that was not different.

2. The sample population with different ages had a level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province; overall, that was not different. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected. This may be because each age group has different access to political media on social media. For example, people aged 50 and over tend not to have access to political media on social media. However, people aged 18-49 can access, follow news, and express political opinions on social media. Therefore, political participation in each age group is different. This is consistent with the results of the study by Chantana et al. (2021), who found that the political participation of people in Tambon Prang, Bang Bo District, Samut Prakan Province, classified by personal data factors, showed that people of different ages had no different overall political participation.

3. The sample population with different levels of education showed no difference in the overall level of political participation of people in Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province. Therefore, the hypothesis is rejected. This may be because Thai society does not set a framework for people who graduated from primary or lower secondary schools to be prohibited from participating in politics. Therefore, no matter what level of education they graduated from, they can participate in politics equally with people who graduated from higher levels. Therefore, the political participation of people who graduated from each level of education is not different. This is consistent with the results of the study by Sengking (2017), who found that local political participation of people in Nong Mai Daeng Subdistrict Municipality By education level, people in Nong Mai Daeng Subdistrict Municipality with different education levels have no difference in local political participation. The sample population with different occupations has no difference in the level of political participation of people in Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province. Overall, the hypothesis is rejected. Occupation does not affect political participation. No matter the occupation, one has the right to participate in politics. Therefore, the political involvement of each occupation is not different. This is consistent with the study results of Yodkeeree (2021), which found that people with other occupations have no difference in overall political participation.

4. The sample population with different average monthly incomes has a difference in the level of political participation of people in Ban Na Di, Village No. 1, Nong Rakhang Subdistrict, Sanom District, Surin Province. Overall, the hypothesis is accepted with statistical significance at 0.05. This may be because high-income people tend to work for companies or factories and do not follow political news much. People with uncertain incomes tend to be farmers, so they have free time to follow political news and participate in politics. Therefore, political participation is classified by average monthly income, which has different political participation. This is consistent with the study results of Chitrayon (2022), which found that the political participation of people in the Na Phra That

Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Phanat Nikhom District, Chonburi Province, classified by different average monthly incomes, showed significantly different political participation at a statistical level of 0.05.

8. Discussion

From the study of the political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, the analysis can be discussed as follows:

1. The level of political participation of the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, overall, has an average value at a high level. This may be because the people are interested in politics, follow political news in Thailand, and exercise their right to vote every time there is an election, which is consistent with the study results of Yodkeeree (2021), which found that the political participation of the people in local development, Mueang Chiang Mai District, Chiang Mai Province, overall, is at a high level.

2. Guidelines for developing political participation of people in Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, by separating each aspect, found that in terms of expressing interest in politics, 40.0 percent of the sample group of people suggested that political information should be distributed to the public to be more informed and that news should be followed from reliable sources to make decisions that are supported by political details. Regarding exercising the right to vote, 40.0 percent of the sample group suggested that the public should participate in selecting or selecting good leaders to develop the country. Finally, regarding providing and receiving political information, 40.0 percent of the sample group suggested that the public obtain more precise and accurate information. This may be because political participation is not only a right of the people but is also an essential mechanism in developing democracy and social justice. Therefore, promoting and supporting participation is necessary to create a strong and sustainable society.

9. Recommendation

1. Suggestions for applying the research results

1.1 The study also found that the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, had the highest level of political participation in exercising their right to vote. The level of political interest was at a moderate level, and the level of providing political information and news was at a moderate level. Therefore, the government should support and encourage the people to participate in politics, express their interest in politics, and provide more political information and news.

1.2 The study found that the people of Ban Ta Muen, Ram Subdistrict, Mueang Surin District, Surin Province, were quite interested in participating in politics in terms of expressing their interest in politics and exercising their right to vote, and finally, providing political information and news. Therefore, the government should support and encourage the people more than before to develop the country according to the principles of good governance in public administration to be transparent, efficient and effective in work, which is in line with the principles of democracy with the King as Head of State of Thailand.

1.3 The people should participate in proposing policies consistent with the needs of the community and the needs of the local people. They should propose policies that incorporate the principles of Dharma. About politics and governance to apply in establishing the party policies of politicians

1.4 The public should have an agency to monitor and inspect the operations of politicians to know about the movements and conveniently follow the work of politicians that have been given according to the policies. The agency that is set up should be in the community for the convenience of the people in the community to contact or coordinate various matters between politicians and the public.

1.5 Politicians should have activities or projects for the people in the community to know about political movements or increase knowledge about the political rights of the people, which will create a good relationship between politicians and the public.

2. Suggestions for future research

2.1 There should be coordination between community leaders and research teams about documents and information about the people in the area to be ready for the field visit.

2.2 There should be a questionnaire that is easy to understand for those who do not understand the questions to work on the field visit so that the people understand the questions.

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