

A Study of Provincial Administrative Organization and Its Role in Socio-Political Development in Nonthaburi Province Thailand

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Abstract:

The objectives of this research were 1).to know general profile of respondents consisting of personal information regarding sex, age, educational qualification, marital status, occupation, income, and family constitution 2)to study the role of Provincial Administrative Organization in political modernization regarding socio-political uplift of the Nonthaburi provincial people. 3)to study the role of Provincial Administrative organization in the induction of mass mobilization and participation into the political process 4)to study the role of Provincial Administrative Organization in the building of the Democracy regarding the emergence and development of democratic values in politics and means of strengthening democratic set of values. 5)to find out the problems coming in the way of socio-political development of Provincial Administrative Organization 6)to identify alternative options this may improve the socio-political system educational crisis and socio-political development of Provincial Administrative Organization in Nonthaburi. It is neither possible nor necessary to cover the whole of the population from the study because it is too large in number. A study of a portion of it is conducted. Therefore, the following stages of sampling will be adopted for drawing the sample. A simple random sampling method will be adopted. Total number of selected beneficiaries of the socio-political development programmes will be reduced in proportion to constitute the final universe on the simple random sampling method to give an equal chance of being included in the sample. Accordingly, 5 percent of the universe will be selected as the sample of the study. Thus, total selected respondents representing the universe were 400 in number. The lottery method of random sampling will be used to draw the number of selected respondents from Nonthaburi provincial inhabitants

Keywords: provincial administrative organization socio-political development Nonthaburi Province

Introduction

Modernization in Thailand has taken the form of uneven rural development, on the other hand, and business-bureaucratic partnership of both within an international orbit of powerful strategic and market force. The political consequences of this form of modernization, contrary towards the democratic-pluralist conceptions of Western development theories are a) increasing divergence, instead of integration of the powerful and educated Bangkok elite and the rural and urban mass; b) prevention of autonomous political parties because of the mutual advantageous association of Thai bureaucrats with Chinese businessmen who dominate the political process; and c) reinforcement, not neutralization' of the bureaucratic state and its business partnership. Directly contributing to these consequences are more than two decades of American strategic interests in Thai stability and the continuing Japanese economic interests in profitability.

The growing divergence between the concentrated power of a small urban elite, looking always to

Bangkok for the promotion of career and material advantages, and the large, dispersed, unorganized rural majority, has result in an ever-widening economic gap, as we have seen, and no less importance, a psychological distance between the two. For the urban elite, abstract in the affairs of the metropolis, have last contact with the villagers, fail to understand their problems and while paying lip service to rural.

In fact, traditionally Thailand is an agricultural country with the majority of the people being involved, either directly or indirectly, in some form of agricultural cultivation. About 33 million (66%) out of 50 million of population are in rural areas and out of 33 million 10 million (22%) are still poor.

Rapid industrialization has, however, brought many changes in the life style of Thai people, particularly in the urban areas, and special disparities in the standard of living in some pockets. Keeping in view these facts, the government has initiated programmes to increasing the living standards throughout the country at the same time, the government has made the people better instrument to live in the new industrialized society.

The new administrative system was improved to achieve administrative unity by having a body with direct responsibility for both regional as well as national levels. In each level, there has been close co-ordination amongst relevant offices. Rural people and local organization were urged to participate in the socio-political development process. Organizations were set up, responsible for 4 levels of rural development: national, provincial, district, and sub-district and village levels.

The role of Provincial Administrative Organization in socio-political development in rural Thailand aims at the overall development of the poor in rural areas to enable them to genuinely help themselves with the assistance of the government, to allocate and supply the resources equitably and to pay attention to their basic problems. The main principle is to make people help themselves and their community so as to establish self-generating economy. The plan also has improved unity, efficiency and ability of the administrative organs of rural development. In view of this fact the present study is aimed at searching the influence of the role of Sub-district Administrative Organization in socio-political development on the village inhabitants. The present study concerns itself to overall socio-political development of rural areas in general and to socio-economic condition of the village inhabitants in particular. Main aim of the present study, thus, is to asses the influence of the role of Sub-district Administrative Organization in socio-political development at grass-root level with regard to the kind and degree of socio-political development of the inhabitants of Muang district under Nonthaburi province of Thailand. The study will focus mainly the field of socio-political development and benefits people have derived till now, and the relevant factors that are responsible for the success and failure of the socio-political development programmes in attainment of their objectives. With this perspective in mind the researcher has selected this area for the study so that study can be based on a scientific approach in order to get more depth and clarity of the problems. Thus, the problems selected for research for research are being studied on the basis of research methodology discussed as below.

Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To know general profile of respondents consisting of personal information regarding sex, age, educational qualification, marital status, occupation, income.
 2. To study the role of Provincial Administrative Organization in political modernization regarding socio-political uplift of the Nonthaburi provincial people.
 3. To study the role of Provincial Administrative organization in the induction of mass mobilization and participation into the political process.
 4. To study the role of Provincial Administrative Organization in the building of the Democracy regarding the emergence and development of democratic values in politics and means of strengthening democratic set of values.
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5. To find out the problems coming in the way of socio-political development of Provincial Administrative Organization.

6. To identify alternative options which may improve the socio-political system educational crisis and socio-political development of Provincial Administrative Organization in Nonthaburi.

Hypotheses of the Study

The following hypotheses have been tested during the course of the study.

1. The present Provincial Administrative system is not helpful to socio-political development yet.

2. The mass mobilization and participation in politics are less due to civic inertia of the member of Provincial Administrative Organization.

3. The level of the building of democracy at the provincial level depends upon a means of strengthening democratic set of values.

4. The development of democratic values in politics at provincial level is not improved due to the misuse of power of Provincial Administrative Organization to interfere in the political participation of the people.

5. The benefits derived from the socio-political development programmes depend upon the level of education of the people and the members of Provincial Administrative Organization in Nonthaburi.

Definition of Significant Terms

There are a very few key terms that have special significance in present study. Some of them are defined operationally because here these terms are used with the following meaning in view.

Administrative Organization: It is referred to the representatives elected by villagers from each village in each sub-district to carry out the improvement of the efficiency of the work of Provincial Administrative Organization.

Administration: It has been used for denoting the management of affairs especially in government or business. In the present context administration refers to the government of people who make up the managing body for the administration and implementation of the government programmes introduced for the socio-political development of people and the body working at provincial level.

Development: Generally two terms are used; the one is growth and the other is development. Growth refers to the quantitative increase whereas development refers to qualitative aspect. Here development implies that there is material gains among the provincial inhabitants as well as they have built their confidence to meet the demands of improvement

Material development: This term denotes that the increase in socio-political yield, enhancement of social and economic standard of the provincial inhabitants of dwellers.

Improvement of social status: It is specific that refers to better social facilities made available to the provincial inhabitants and other facilities being provide to the people and development of better social security among them.

Improvement in standard of living: It denotes to administration of better and advanced methods or techniques of socio-political development, easy availability of financial assistance and facilities of marketing.

Mental development: It is not used with its traditional meaning. In present study it refers to provision of better and advanced education facilities and their proper utilization among the provincial dwellers.

Moral development: This term implies that the individuals who are developed morally are free vices and bad habits that are harmful to the individual as well as to the society and politics. It also implies that individual is free from superstitious belief.

Improvement in socio-political development: This term is used to improve socio-political development. It refers to the support of materialistic facilities, availability of subsidiary to develop all social

and political projects in the provincial level available for the provincial dwellers.

Research Methodology

Methodology plays a very significant role in a social and political development research. To undertake the study some set research techniques are well-standardized and acknowledged and through them a proper control on different variables can be kept. With the growing complex of socio-political development in life and the attendant challenges which modern societies typically represent adoption of these techniques by the researcher in various disciplines dealing with different aspects of the social reality has become imperative. However, when the role in socio-political development has to be evaluated, then the most popular technique is to conduct a quantitative research. The present study is based on this category of research. The following are important points in the research methodology of this study.

Area of the Study

This area of the study was confined at Nonthaburi Provincial Administrative Organization and hence the Nonthaburi provincial inhabitants will be covered. The present study focuses its attention on the Provincial Administrative Organization's role in socio-political development on the development of provincial inhabitants and the areas of Nonthaburi province..

Sampling Design

It is neither possible nor necessary to cover the whole of the population from the study because it is too large in number. A study of a portion of it is conducted. Therefore, the following stages of sampling will be adopted for drawing the sample.

A simple random sampling method will be adopted. Total number of selected beneficiaries of the socio-political development programmes will be reduced in proportion to constitute the final universe on the simple random sampling method to give an equal chance of being included in the sample accordingly 5 percent of the universe will be selected as the sample of the study. Thus, total selected respondents representing the universe were 400 in number. The lottery method of random sampling will be used to draw the number of selected respondents from Nonthaburi province.

Methods of Data collection

Preliminary information will be collected through the secondary sources, i.e., Government reports, documentary and library references, Census reports and other statistical information. Information about Nonthaburi province and Provincial Administrative Organization will be collected from the information Centre at the Province Headquarter. For the primary data interview method for the beneficiaries and questionnaire method for the members of Provincial Administrative Organization will be used. In case more number of the Nonthaburi provincial inhabitants is having low level of education a direct interview method will be the most suitable structure. Interview schedule will be the proper tool of data collection for such a group of respondents. With regard to the members of Provincial Administrative Organization questionnaire method will be adopted. These questions will be structured to suit to the objectives of the study. These tools of data collection will be supplemented by observation and discussions so as to get an insight into the working and impact of socio-political development programmes.

Tools for Data Collection

Under the above mentioned method of data collection included field work based on (1) the structured interview schedule for some beneficiaries who have low level of education; and (2) personally administered questionnaire used for some beneficiaries and the members of Provincial Administrative Organization.

Before the construction of the interview schedule and the questionnaire main factors on which the questions and statements to be formed are finalized as follow:

1 The first factors are related to the identification and some information regarding the administration and various socio-political development programmes.

2 The second factors are dealt with awareness and benefits of the various socio-political development programmes implemented in the areas of Nonthaburi province.

3 The third factors are related to the socio-political development of the province and Provincial Administrative Organization's role.

4 The fourth one is dealt with the problems and obstacles in the effective socio-political development administration of Provincial Administrative Organization.

All these four major factors or aspects will be studied to understand the Provincial Administrative Organization and its role in socio-political development on the inhabitants of Nonthaburi province of Thailand. Related to each main factor questions and statements will be collected from books, journals, magazines etc. Some of statements will be framed and their positivity as well as negativity will be determined. This will be done by using a simple item analysis method.

Analysis of Data

Analysis of the data is the most important part of the research work. The processed data is to be used to arrive at the definite conclusions. The research cannot be completed without analysis of the data. Only by analyzing the data one can know the views of the respondents toward certain problems. At the first stage of analysis the sample will be classified on the basis of identification data such as age, sex, occupation, education, income, family structure etc.

At the second stage the data will be presented in the univariate and bi-variate tables which present cross tabulation of frequency counts, whenever necessary Chi-square technique will be used and some of the data will be presented in the forms of diagrams and charts.

Conclusion

Local government practices in Thailand have become more participatory or governance- oriented since the promulgation of the Constitution of 1997 and the Decentralization Plan and Process Act of 1999. Several local governments have applied modern concepts of New Public Management and participatory approaches in performing their tasks. Local administrative initiatives to increase participation in recent years. Six case-studies are discussed to identify the factors that drove the local government initiatives and how local governments responded to such factors.

Thailand is a constitutional monarchy with the monarch as the head of state. While almost every government since 1932 has accepted constitutional authority, the country has had 17 constitutions, the most recent drafted in 2007. All of these documents have provided for a National Assembly with a prime minister as head of government. Power is exercised by the bicameral National Assembly, the Council of Ministers, and the courts in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and laws passed by the National Assembly. The constitution of 2007 (largely based on that of 1997) provides for the direct election of members of the lower house of the Assembly, the House of Representatives, to four-year terms, five-sixths from single-member districts and the remainder based on proportional representation from the political parties. It also requires the prime minister to be a member of the House of Representatives. Members of the upper house, the Senate, are directly elected to six-year terms. Legislation originates in the House of Representatives, but it can be modified or rejected by the Senate.

Finding of the research

1. People need provincial administrative organization to lift up the quality of life
 2. The people lack of participation of the people in local government activity in the decision making process and not updated the system Provincial Administrative Organization of local government system.
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3. Public participation and knowledge in law
4. Provincial Administrative Organization (PAO) not sufficient in communication and public relation and information.
5. Local politician should be improve themselves to service the people in the area.
6. The people should get the benefit from PAO because they paid tax.
7. The law have some problem with local and central overlap.
8. PAO should have good governance in performance networking and communication

Recommendations

Every local government office should be able to make available information associated with their area of work, free of charge.

1. Private sectors particularly in the industrial sector should be open for public access to facility-level information. Which allows people to have direct access to the facilities' information database on releases and emissions.
2. The existing laws related to access to information should be apart from appeal mechanisms, people should have more channels for their convenient access to information
3. The Constitution of Thailand should also guarantee the public's right to know by the people in the area.
4. The government should support alternative media for information dissemination especially at local level, such as community's radio stations.
5. The local government should make an effort to establish the public participation Act to guarantee the public's right to receive information and express their opinions, to participate in the decision-making process.
6. Public participation should be carried out before a decision is made, during the project implementation, and after the project is completed (monitoring process).
7. The local government should allow people to participate in the decision-making on projects from foreign loans.
8. Apart from providing policy guidance to the local government, Thailand's National Economic and Social Development Board should also put more emphasis on communicating with the people in order to learn about their real needs and act as their representative in dealing with the local government.
9. The term 'decision-making' should be clearly defined by law and publicly acceptable. The law should spell out scopes, levels, decision-makers, outside participants, mechanisms and channels for the proper public participation process.

Suggestion

1. The Office of the Decentralization Committee under the Office of the Prime Minister should promote the role of Provincial Administration Organizations as service centres to provide administration information and assistance in access to justice at sub-district level.
 2. Provincial Administration Organizations should establish separate committees to oversee administration matters and budgets in their respective areas.
 3. Capacity building for Provincial Administration Organizations should include enhancing administration of law and order awareness and understanding of administration problems, legal matters and a concept of public participation.
 4. The local government should build the capacity of civil society organizations in understanding legal matters, and provide financial support for their efforts to monitor the degree of public participation in administration decision making.
 5. Government agencies should aim at being an alert organization that are well prepared and able to change their attitudes from 'authoritative' towards 'service minded', as well as recognize that people can make their own decisions for themselves.
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