

People's Participation in Local Administrative Organizations in the Normal Era

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บทคัดย่อ

การมีส่วนร่วมของประชาชน หมายถึง การกระจายโอกาสให้ประชาชนได้เข้ามามีส่วนร่วมทางการเมืองการบริหารเกี่ยวกับการตัดสินใจในเรื่องต่าง ๆ รวมทั้งการจัดสรรทรัพยากรของชุมชนและของชาติ ที่จะส่งผลกระทบต่อวิถีชีวิตและความเป็นอยู่ของประชาชน การมีส่วนร่วมในการออกกฎหมายตลอดจนการมีส่วนร่วมในการตรวจสอบการใช้อำนาจหน้าที่ของรัฐ

การมีส่วนร่วมของประชาชน ถือเป็นหลักสากลที่อารยประเทศให้ความสำคัญ และเป็นประเด็นหลักที่สังคมไทยให้ความสนใจเพื่อพัฒนาการเมืองเข้าสู่ระบอบประชาธิปไตยแบบมีส่วนร่วมของประชาชนตามหลักธรรมาภิบาลที่ภาครัฐจะต้องเปิดโอกาสให้ประชาชนและผู้เกี่ยวข้องทุกภาคส่วนรับรู้ ร่วมคิดร่วมตัดสินใจเพื่อสร้างความโปร่งใสและเพิ่มคุณภาพการตัดสินใจของภาครัฐให้ดีขึ้นและเป็นที่ยอมรับร่วมกันของทุก ๆ ฝ่ายจึงต่างให้ความสำคัญต่อการบริหารราชการอย่างโปร่งใส สุจริต เปิดเผยข้อมูลและการเปิดโอกาสให้ประชาชนได้เข้ามามีส่วนร่วมในการกำหนดนโยบายสาธารณะการตัดสินใจทางการเมือง รวมถึงการตรวจสอบ การใช้อำนาจรัฐในทุกระดับ

คำสำคัญ : การมีส่วนร่วมของประชาชน องค์กรปกครองส่วนท้องถิ่น

ABSTRACT

Public participation refers to the distribution of opportunities for people to participate in political, administrative, decision-making, including the allocation of community and national resources. This will affect the way of life and well-being of the people Participation in legislation as well as participation in the investigation of the exercise of state powers and public participation. It is a universal principle that civilized countries pay attention to. Besides, it is the main issue that Thai society pays attention to develop politics into a democratic system with people's participation under the principles of good governance that the government must allow people and all stakeholders to know. Participate in decision-making to create transparency and increase the quality of government decision-making to be better and mutually acceptable to all. All parties therefore attach great importance to the administration of the public sector with transparency, honesty, disclosure of information and the opportunity for people to participate in public policy making and political decision making including inspection.

Keywords: public participation local government organization

Introduction

As of February 28 2022, there are 22,311 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Thailand. This figure suggests that the pandemic is likely to have long-lasting consequences for everyone, making now the time for governments to find sustainable ways forward by learning from countries that have successfully responded to the pandemic. The pandemic has exposed community engagement and community-centered approaches as important components of health emergency preparedness and response. From compliance with lockdown measures to the needed steps as countries ease restrictions to community support through volunteering, community participation is essential in the collective response to COVID-19.

Governments should work on building a culture of solidarity, trust, and kindness. Rather than lay down unexplained or draconian restrictions, relevant authorities should provide empowerment and guidance to ensure that those within the community can act without fear of losing their livelihoods, can put food on their tables, and can look out for their neighbors' well-being. The following are steps that governments can take to ensure community participation and guarantee collective responsibility in their COVID-19 pandemic responses. These guidelines were implemented in countries that have successfully handled their COVID-19 outbreaks.

Thailand has 20 constitutions, all of which have one principle in common. People own so-called supreme powers, sovereignty, although in the past Thai people will not participate in politics and governance as they should. But when the democratic trend of the world enters Thailand It made people realize that they should have more rights, freedoms and participation in politics. led to the reform of the Thai political system, which was clearly seen in the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2540, but until the constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, B.E. 2560, the current edition, which attaches great importance to the process of people's participation.

Public participation It is a universal principle that civilized countries pay attention to. And it is the main issue that Thai society pays attention to develop politics into a democratic system of participation under the principles of good governance that the government has to allow people and all stakeholders to know. Participate in decision-making to create transparency and increase the quality of government decision-making to be better and mutually acceptable to all. All parties therefore attach great importance to the administration of the public sector with transparency, honesty, disclosure of information and the opportunity for people to participate in public policy making and political decision making including inspection exercise of state power at all levels because of these important aspect;

1. To want people to have a bond, feel love, and have a sense of belonging to the local area for the administrators of local administrative organizations
2. To have the management with transparency meet the needs of the people and more responsible to the people
3. To have an audit of the management of the executives and the local administrative council at every step

Definition of public participation

Participation, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, has defined it as participation. The term participation is most often used as the opposite of “apathy”. The above meaning therefore means that a person acts on a particular matter or issue that that person is interested in. Whether or not he has taken action to show serious interest. And the people does not need to be directly involved in the activity. But having attitudes, opinions, interests, and concerns is enough to be considered participatory. It also defines the participation of the people that “public participation” means that a group of people or a movement in which members of the community act in a collaborative manner to demonstrate a common desire, common interest, a desire to achieve common economic and social or political goals; or joint action to influence the power of Matichon, whether directly or indirectly or actions to influence political and economic power, to improve social status in the community. Some scholars who have defined the term “public participation”, for example James L. Crayton defined the definition of public participation as: It is a process that gathers concerns. The needs and values of the public are held in public and private decisions as a two-way communication. And it is an interaction that is aimed at making better decisions and that is supported by the public.

Kanungnit Sribua-iam and his team defined the public participation. Distribution of opportunities for people to participate in politics and management of decision-making on various matters, including the allocation of community and national resources. which will affect the way of life and well-being of the people by providing information comment Provide advice, consult, participate in planning, joint implementation, including direct control of the people. (Kanungnit Sribua-iam,1997)

Padma Sungkampang summarized the meaning of public participation in the study report, People’s Participation in Public Policy Processes. giving and receiving information, giving opinions or suggestions; decision making both in the process of initiation, policy, planning Projects or activities that may affect the quality of life and the environment economic and social development planning environmental management natural resources including the implementation, monitoring and evaluation according to the plan policies that project or activity Public participation refers to the distribution of opportunities for people to participate in political, administrative, decision-making, including the allocation of community and national resources. that will affect the way of life and well-being of the people Participation in legislation as well as participation in the monitoring of the exercise of state powers. (Padma Sungkampang,2009)

There are many levels of public participation. from the level of sharing awareness, sharing thinking, sharing decision making, sharing responsibility and participate in the investigation. will make public services that occur in the locality under the needs of the local people as much as possible; local government organization It will result in various local operations to be transparent. Fairness, reducing corruption and conflicts at work

Consistent and transparent information communicated by a trusted leader

Communicate clearly about the risks involved is necessary for the administration of local community. Clear communication channels between the government and all sectors is necessary for translating policy

into action. Consistent and transparent information communicated by a trusted leader promotes the acceptance of policy measures.

Concise, public messages tailored to the community and its cultural norms accelerate public awareness of health crises, which facilitates public trust in leadership and promotes cooperation in containment efforts. In Thailand, a government-sponsored task force frequently provided transparent situational updates on the pandemic and issued new guidance, along with its associated rationale, through traditional channels, social media, and regular press conferences. Also, understanding that these nationwide communication channels were susceptible to misinformation, the Ministry of Health regularly clarified misinformation and encouraged the public to follow accurate and reliable information from official channels.

Basic conditions of public participation

There are three conditions for public participation:

1. Freedom of participation means participation must be voluntary.
2. Equality of participation means everyone who participates must have equal rights. But if the scheduled activities are too complex than the ability of the target audience. It has to develop the potential for them to participate.

Level of public participation

The level of public participation can be classified in several ways. Depending on the purpose and granularity of the division is important. It is worth noting that if the participation level is low. The number of people participating will be large. and the higher the level of participation. The number of people participating will decrease accordingly. The levels of public participation in order from lowest to highest were:

1. Level of information is the lowest level and is the easiest method of communication between the project planner and the public. Its purpose is to provide information to the public. by various methods such as press releases, news distribution and exhibitions, etc., but does not allow to express opinions or get involved in any way.

2. The level of openness for opinions from the public It was a higher level than the first level. That is, project planners will invite people to express their opinions. To provide information in assessing the advantages and disadvantages of the project more clearly, such as preparing a questionnaire before starting a project or giving a lecture and allowing listener to express their opinions about that project, etc.

3. Level of consultation It is a formal dialogue between the project planner and the people. to assess progress or identify issues such as meetings, workshops and openness to listen to opinions, etc.

4. Joint planning level It is the level of participation where the project planner and the people share the responsibility of planning and preparing the project. and the results that will occur from the implementation of the project It is suitable to be used when considering complex and highly controversial issues, such as the use of highly qualified advisory groups in related fields. Using Arbitration to Resolve Disputes and negotiating to find a compromise, etc.

5. Level of cooperation It is the level where the responsible person and the public work together on the project. It is the process of bringing the project into action together to achieve the intended objectives.

Participation in monitoring the administration of local administrative

organizations, monitoring the administration of local government organization that it operates with transparency, fairness, meets the needs of the people, monitors the budget expenditure according to the regulations of the annual expenditure budget of the whether it is correct, transparent, and beneficial or not attending the council meeting local government organization to monitor the performance or behavior of the executives Local government organizations would like to receive information from local government organization. If you see that the work is not transparent, join the local community to express their opinions and consider the plan. Projects or activities that have an impact on local people, check the development plan of local government organization that corresponds to the problem and the needs of the people or not to oppose the regulations or resolutions of the local government organization. causing trouble to the people, the removal of executives or members of the council local government organization with dishonest behavior. The benefits people get from participating are as follows;

- Getting better public services. in terms of quality, standards, meeting the needs of local people and providing access to public services universally and fairly

- Plays a role in decision-making, oversight, audit, and can support the implementation of the activities of the Local government organizations (local administration) fully

- Have the opportunity to participate in the administration of Local government organizations, such as presenting the problems and needs of the community Participation in the formulation of development plans local government organization Election of executives/members of the council Local government organizations (local administrations) proposing local ordinances and removal of executives or members of the Council Local government organizations, etc.

- Improved quality of decision making This is because the public consultation process will help clarify the objectives and needs of a project or policy. And often, public participation leads to the consideration of alternatives that are likely to be the most effective solutions (Borwornsak Uwanno,2011)

- Less cost and less delays although enabling people to participate would be more time consuming and costly than making a unilateral decision that does not take into account the people's true needs, may lead to objection or litigation. which causes high costs in the long run. There were delays and eventual project failures.

- Building consensus public participation will create an agreement. and long-term stable commitments between different groups It helps to build understanding between different groups, reduce political arguments and help legitimize government decisions- easier implementation. Participation in decision making makes people knowledgeable. A sense of ownership of that decision and as soon as the decision has been made. They want to see it work in practice. and may also actively help each other.

- Avoiding the worst confrontation Because of the opportunity for various parties to express their

needs and concerns at the beginning of the project. It reduces the chances of arguments and divisions. that can be a factor in violent confrontation - maintaining credibility and legitimacy. due to transparent decision

- Making processes and opportunities for people to participate will build credibility with the public and legitimacy especially when making controversial decisions.

- Anticipating public expectations, concerns and attitudes Because when the officials involved come to work with the public in the process of participation. They will be aware of their concerns. and the public view of the work of the organization. This allows officials to anticipate public responses to corporate processes and decisions.

- Civil Society Development One of the benefits of public participation is Make people know in both the project content and the decision-making process of the state. including leadership training and enabling people to learn skills to work together to solve problems effectively in the future (Bowornsak Uwanoo and Thawilwadee Burikul,2005)

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5. Level of cooperation, it is the level where the responsible person and the public work together on the project. It is the process of implementing the project together to achieve the intended objectives.

6. Level of control by the people, it is the highest level of participation by the people to solve all

existing conflicts, such as a referendum. But how well will the referendum reflect the needs of the people? It depends on the clarity of the issues to be voted on in the referendum. and how widely and comprehensively disseminating information about the pros and cons of such issues to the public in countries that have already developed political. The outcome of the referendum will force the government to comply but for Thailand, the current constitution provides for the outcomes of the referendums were both with a majority decision. and the type that is just advising to the Cabinet which does not force the government to comply in any way (Section 165).

Principles for creating public participation Means to allow people and people involved in all sectors of society to participate in the government sector (International Association for Public Participation) has divided the levels of public participation into 5 levels as follows:

1. Providing information, it is considered the lowest level of public participation. But it's the most important level. Because it is the first step for the government sector to allow people to participate in matters such as printed documents. dissemination of information through various media, exhibitions, newsletters, press conferences, posting announcements and providing information through the website, etc.

2. Listening to opinions It is a process that allows the public to participate in providing factual information. and opinions for decision-making by government agencies in various ways, such as hearing opinions opinion poll public forum commenting through the website, etc.

3. Involvement It is an opportunity for people to participate in the practice or to contribute to the decision-making process. to reassure the public that Information, opinions and needs of the people will be considered as alternatives to government administration, such as a workshop to consider public policy issues, a public hearing, and the establishment of a working group to recommend policy issues, etc.

4. Cooperation is Involve public groups and public sector representatives in partnership with the government at every step of the decision-making process. and has continually carried out joint activities such as a committee with the people's side as a committee member, etc.

5. Empowering the people It is a step that gives people the role of the highest level. by allowing the people to make decisions, such as referendums on various public issues, village fund projects that empower people to make decisions, etc.

Summary

The impact of COVID-19 as evidenced by health, legal, political, economic, and societal disruptions have challenged the old norms, and there will be no going back to "business as usual", even in a post-pandemic Thailand. All-the-while, this unprecedented threat has created unique opportunities in realizing the transformative role of multi-sector cooperation and coordination, in promoting sub-national resilience by seeking sustainable community-inspired solutions adapted to local circumstances. There should be the potential of this initiative in mitigating the impact of COVID-19 provide powerful example as to the success of this approach in localizing solutions through multi-sector community engagement and participation.

The trend of democracy that is going on today Increasing the availability of processes for people's participation in government decision-making is the definition of democracy. Make public participation a

necessity to take legal action. It is also a condition that must be provided before funding the World Bank's international economic development program and other banks in the region. In addition to the government many private companies have implemented citizen participation programs as part of their decision-making regarding project site locations. environmental management or remedies for those affected for the project to be held to be recognized and supported by the people truly.

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