

People's Participation in the Result – Based Management of Lansak Sub district Administrative Organization, Lansak District, Uthaihani Province

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ABSTRACT

The objective of the study were: (1) to investigate people's participation in the result – based management of Lansak Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Lansak District, Uthaihani Province; (2) to compare the participation of people with different sexes, ages, education, and occupations; and (3) to examine the problems and recommendations with regard to the result – based management. 381 people living in the area under the jurisdiction of Lansak Sub district Administration Organization comprised the sample of the study. The questionnaire was used as an instrument of the data collection. The collected data were analyzed using a t – test and an F – test.

The data analysis has shed light on the facts specified below:

1) The people's participation in the result – based management was found to be at a medium level ($\bar{x} = 3.82$). Separately considered, it was found that the levels of participation in descending order of degree were as follows: participation in following up on the information was at a high level ($\bar{x} = 3.97$); participation in development planning was at a high level ($\bar{x} = 3.84$); participation in the administrative activities was at a high level ($\bar{x} = 3.81$); and participation in monitoring the administrative activities was at a high level ($\bar{x} = 3.67$).

The finding of research was found that

Holistically and separately considered, people with different sexes, ages, marital statuses, education, and occupations failed to differ in their participation levels.

The people wanted the organization to release details on the use of budgets and also wanted each village to recommend their needs and to put them in the development projects.

Keywords : people's participation in the result – based management

History and Significance of the Problems

The Constitution of Thailand B.E. 2550 amplifies the roles of local administrative organizations in regard to their administrative activities to satisfy the people's needs. But the key condition conducive to the success in decentralization is people's participation. In a sense, people must be encouraged to take part in offering ideas, making decisions, performing the administrative activities and monitoring the operation of local administrative organizations. By so doing, the local administrative organizations would perform their tasks with transparency and would bring about maximal benefits to the people. In this regard, the Decentralizing Committee assigns the responsibilities of the control and authorized the local governments to collect excise tax making allowance for the enhanced decentralization. The local governmental organizations that are empowered by the central government include the following: the provincial office, the district

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office, and local administrative organizations. The empowerment or the decentralization is mainly designed to help facilitate the problem solving, the development activities, and the public service delivery. Today, the local administrative organizations appear in five forms, namely: provincial administrative organizations, municipality, sub – district administrative organization, Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, and Pattaya City Authority.

Lansak Subdistrict Administrative Organization of Uthaithani province was established by dint of the Act of Subdistrict Councils and Subdistrict Administrative organization B.E. 2537; it has the status of legal person. As a rule, the councilors are selected by the locals. And the presidents of Subdistrict Administrative Organizations are directly selected by the people living in the Subdistrict. The main functions of Subdistrict Administrative Organizations are to get involved in the economic, social and cultural development of the Subdistrict. In addition, Subdistrict Administrative Organizations are authorized to perform other functions as specified by law.

It can be said that the Subdistrict Administrative Organization is a concrete form of decentralization; as a result, people are in a better position to take part in the administrative activities as well as the development activities of the localities. The organization is close to the people to the greatest extent; the organization is greatly expedient in its administrative practices to meet the people's needs. Last but not most important, the Subdistrict Administrative Organization plays a dominant part in helping the locals learn the administrative practices according to the democratic principle.

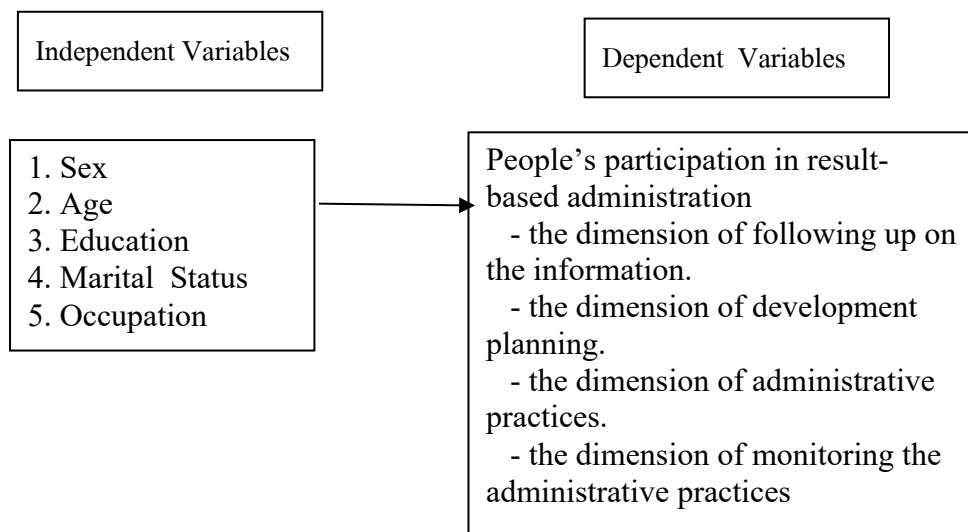
People's participation is a universal principle and is universally deemed highly important and essential for a democratic society. The Constitution providing the rule of practice of people in the country reflects its will to promote people's participation as well as the practice of good governance. Several laws assure the people's right to participate and specify the public sector to give a chance to the people to take part in various activities of the public sector.

Local administrative organization is obligated to promote people's participation and to meet the objectives of the establishment of the local administrative organization. The local administrative organization helps pave the way for the development of democracy. The decentralization is of great help to people's participation. With the decentralization practice, people have a chance to participate. The decentralizing practice will meet a great success only if the public sector and the civil society sector work together in their collaborative efforts to demand for the decentralization or empowerment to the local administrative organization.

Objectives of the Study

1. To investigate the people's participation in the result-based administration in the case of Lansak Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Lansak District, Uthaithani Province.
2. To compare the participation levels of people with different socioeconomic - demographic backgrounds.
3. To find out problems pertaining to the people's participation and to make recommendations concerning the result-based administration.

Conceptual Framework



Concepts and Related Theories

Concepts and theories on people's participation. According to Thaweethong Hongsewiwat (1984), "people's participation" simply means the people's efforts to enhance their capabilities in dealing with and controlling of the available resources and production means for the benefits of their social and economic lives with dignity. Meanwhile, Pairat Thecharindra (1984) pointed out that "people's participation" is the government's process of promoting, persuading, and supporting the people's opportunity creation in various forms.

In summary, people's participation has two implications as explained by Pornchai Rasmeebate (1997).

1. Broadly defined, people's participation means people's participation in formulating the national policy and in administering the country through political process such as being members of some political parties, being people's representatives, being ministers and so on.

2. Narrowly – defined, people's participation means people's participation in supporting the work of the public officials which is carried out within the legal framework or within the public policy domain.

Forms of People's Participation

According to the United Nations, forms of people's participation are as follows:

1. People's participation in the form of volunteerism. In other words, people form groups to solve their problems. The operation is not stimulated or assisted by any outsiders.

2. People's participation which springs from the persuasion of the government; the government encourages and supports the people's participation. This form of people's participation is commonly seen in developing countries.

3. Forced people's participation. This form of participation is forced by the government under the public policy. This form of people's participation brings about outcomes immediately. But the people fail to reap the output in the long run. The defects of the forced people's participation is that people do not support this form of participation.

Concepts about the Result-Based Administration

The result-based administration is also called by other names such as management by objective – MBO, and performance - oriented management. Regardless of its various names, in essence, the result-based administration has the following meanings:

According to Tosporn Sirisampan (2000), the result-based administration is the administration that focuses on plan making, goal setting, and participatory, operating strategy. The

administrators of different levels are obligatory to put stress on work outcomes and to attach great importance to the work system setting and performance rewards.

According to Tipawadi Makesawan (2000), the result – based management is the administration that focuses on the outputs or the achievements; and the indicator index is used to evaluate the outputs and to further improve the work performance of the staff members. Also, the work outputs are used to keep the public well – informed about the work performance of the public sector.

In sum, the result – based management gives prominence to the work operation and the result evaluation of the organization in terms of inputs, processes and outputs; key performance indicators, targets, and objectives are prepared in advance by administrators, organization's members, and all stakeholders.

In the past, in the public sector focused on inputs including administrative resources such as money, man and material. The work performance was conducted based on the laws, rules and regulations.

On the contrary, today the public sector focuses on the outcomes and great importance is attached to the missions and objectives of the programs. The outputs and outcomes are to be in line with the missions and objectives of the organization.

In a nutshell, the result – based management is designed to make use of the administrative resources with economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Research Procedures

381 people living in the areas under the jurisdictions of Lasak Subdistrict Administrative Organization comprised the sample of the study. The study tool was a set of self – administered questionnaires. The collected data were analyzed by means of percentage, mean, standard deviation, a t – test and an F – test (one – way ANOVA).

Research Findings

1. As for the characteristics of the sample, the researcher has discovered the following: 49.6 % of the respondents were male; 50.4% of the respondent were female; 37.8% of the respondents were aged 25 – 30 years; 74.8% of the respondents were married; 66.1% of the respondents were secondary education graduates; 77.2% of the respondents were farmers.

2. Holistically, people participated in the results – based management at a high level ($\bar{x} = 3.81$). Separately, the levels of people's participation in various domains in descending order of degree were as follows: participation in following up on the information ($\bar{x} = 3.97$); participation in plan making ($\bar{x} = 3.84$); participation in administrative activities ($\bar{x} = 3.81$); and participation in monitoring the administrative activities ($\bar{x} = 3.67$).

3. People with different personal backgrounds (sex, age, marital status, and occupation) failed to differ in their levels of participation in the results – based management.

4. People wanted the organization to disclose the revenues and expense budgets of each month.

Recommendations

1. Recommendations for Practical Use

1.1 The staff members of Lansak Subdistrict Administrative Organization should go into the field to inquire about the hardship and needs of the people so that they can use the obtained data for designing the assistance projects to meet the people's needs.

1.2 The staff members of Lansak Subdistrict Administrative Organization should pay attention to the complaints lodged by the local residents and to deal with them with effectiveness.

1.3 The Subdistrict Administrative Organization should give a chance to the local residents to take part in the improvement of the administrative practices.

1.4 Problems and difficulties encountered by the people should be heard and taken into account for the resolution of the problems.

1.5 Lansak Subdistrict Administrative Organization should keep the local residents constantly informed about the revenues and expenses of the organization.

2. Recommendations for Future Research

2.1 A comparative study should be conducted to find out the participation in the result – based management of various governmental units in Lansak Subdistrict Administrative Organization and other Subdistrict Administrative Organization.

2.2 A study on the factors influencing the people’s participation in the result – based management should be done with an eye to seeking new guidelines for the improvement of the Subdistrict Administrative Organizations’ operation.

Biography

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