

Abstract

The main purpose of the study is to find out the political participation of those residing in Petchaburi province particularly patterns of group formation and conditions conducive to political involvement (conditions favorable to the emergence of groups, individuals' political participation and the existence of groups as well as their potential)

The qualitative method is used; 20 people belonging to the Petchaburi Civic Group were interviewed in-depth to obtain the data needed for the study. Participant observation and archival method were also used to supplement the data derived from in-depth interviews.

Milbrath and Goel's conceptual framework of political participation were used for the analysis. The analysis of the study reveals the following:

The conditions conducive to the emergence of the Petchaburi Civic Group include: the social and political context of Thailand, the popular concept of civil society, the social and political context of Petchaburi province, the unique culture of group formation of Petchaburi residents, the civic consciousness of Petchaburi residents, and the strong desire to improve the own community.

Apart from the afore-said conditions, the following factors are responsible for the emergence of the Petchaburi Civic Group: the civic responsibility of the Petchaburi residents and a sense of commitment to the community. The education level, the social position, the organizational involvement, the length of staying in the community are the supporting factors of the emergence of and the involvement in the Petchaburi Civic Group.

The sustenance and the potential Petchaburi Civic Group involve four fundamental components, namely: (1) Superior organization based on good management, with an active cadre and good coordination among various factions; (2) Superior operation based on democratic principle, with persuasive strategies and a firm standpoint with no involvement in politics; (3) External supports and active members from diverse groups; (4) A movement Strategies on various issues. All fundamental components influence the sustenance and the potential of the Petchaburi Civic Group to varying degrees.