

## Abstract

The present study has four main purposes. First, to study the patterns of political participation, political attentiveness, and civic mindedness among a purposively selected group of franchised residents living within the city limits, the Muang Municipality, and the surrounding areas in Phatthalung province. Second, to use the scalogram method to ascertain whether or not the two types of behavior and the other attributes being studied actually involve only a single dimension. In other words, to use whether it will be possible to arrange all the responses to form a Guttman - type or cumulative scale.

Third, to measure the levels of political participation and attentiveness and the degrees of civic mindedness among the respondents. Lastly, to find out whether the three main socio-economic status group of respondents, upper, middle, and lower, differ from one another in the two types of behavior and their attitudes towards democracy.

The investigator hypothesized that the respondents political participation and attentiveness fall into the pattern of cumulative scale and their responses to another set of items, measuring civic mindedness, could also be arranged to form a unidimensional scale.

The proportion of actual responses which fall into the patterns and will be regarded as approximating a perfect cumulative

scale was set at .90 the minimal coefficients of reproducibility specified in the Guttman procedure.

The findings reveal that the above mentioned hypotheses received strong support from the data at hand. The coefficients of reproducibility were found to be .922 and .942 for political participation and attentiveness scales, and .961 for the civic mindedness scale respectively.

It was also found that in general respondents in the three socio-economic classes differed from one another in the types of behavior and attributes under study.