

# **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION BASED ON THE SUFFICIENT ECONOMY PHILOSOPHY AT THE SUFFICIENT ECONOMY MODEL COMMUNITY OF MAE HONG SON PROVINCE**

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research aims to identify the objectives of the citizen participation in community development management which involves the application of the sufficient economy philosophy on the Sufficiency Economy Community of Mae Hong Son Province. The questionnaires were distributed to 400 samples. There were 30 interviews with the local people and the community leaders. The research results showed, in overall, that the frequency of the participation in village-level or community-level social activities in the Mae Hong Son Province was rated as 'often'. These social activities, for example, included New Year's Eve ceremony, Songkran ceremony, and community development activities. Other examples were traditional or Buddhist religious ceremonies such as merit-making rituals, Kuen Salak (so-called Salak Offering or Tan Kay Salak ceremony), candle worshipping ceremonies, and life prolonging rituals. In terms of the participation in the community development management in order to reduce the social inequality, there was a high practice rate in the sufficient economy activities at the individual and household levels both in overall and in specific attributes. There was the application in the mental aspect by which the local people were satisfied with being "sufficient" in their everyday lives and personal development, and also did not oppress others.

**Keywords:** Participation, Community Development, Sufficient Economy, Mae Hong Son Province

## **INTRODUCTION**

"Participation of people" is a significance as the base of social development, it is the first step of sustainable building nation and government development. Participation of people is the basic idea for the nation, state agency, private cooperation and people how to develop the community and society. Consequently, a community development is required the participation of people as the work principle of His Majesty the King. The Office of National Economics and Social Development Board (NESDB) (2011:18) said, His Majesty the King was a democrat who applied "public hearing" to the administration by sharing idea to the public, people or officer as a part of the royal remarks, "...it is important to be open-minded. Be wisely open to others' ideas, opinions or even criticism ....", from his royal remarks, he pointed out for the government officer that the success would accomplish from the more wisely open you are, the more guideline and solution you can get. Participation reflected to democracy and participative behavior such as decision making, implementation, benefits and evaluation (Cohen, J. & Uphoff, N., 1980: 213), and also reflected to the role of people and community board on sharing idea, defining problem resolution, planning, operation, taking benefits, monitoring and assessment for their living happily together and make peace in the community (Phusit Phukamchanoad, 2009: 11). A development in Thailand is a parallel development administration which is the development administration hosted by government, state agency and private corporation along with the development administration by the King's concept of "benefits for all" under his royal work principle, the Office of National Economics and Social Development Board (NESDB) (2011:14) said, the assignment of His Majesty the King is the "moderation" which consistent with Thai lifestyle and practically by focusing on "human development",

benefits for all, decision making included a diversity of geosocial and independence with being humble, cautious and “hierarchical” integrated with “understanding, accessibility, development” and “knowing, love, unity” which encouraged people in the community to follow his royal thoughts for their better living, independent in economy, society and technology appropriately, and using resources sustainably for strengthen the community and society, and the peace of living (His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 2009). The royal work principle valued for the development administration of Thai society for the leader of government section to the local section as being a guideline for national administration and development due to it is a principle to strengthen the community and society for the real sustainability, the sustainable development is for the better living, not being harmful for the traditional custom and culture including the community development administration on the sufficient economy philosophy of His Majesty the King which the “sufficient economy” is defined, processed and considered from his royal speech on many occasions and was allowed to be published on November 29, 1999 for being a guideline for all party and people as said, “sufficient economy” is a philosophy for living of all; family, community and government for both of national development and administration in the moderation, especially economic development to support the globalization. Sufficiency is an appropriation, rationality and immune system for the change of internal and external factor including being intelligent and cautious in applying knowledges for planning and operating in all processes, and strengthen a mind base of government officer, theorist and businessman in ethics, honesty and appropriate excellence for being patient, diligent, conscious and thoughtful to balance and ready for the dramatic and broad changes in object, society, environment and culture from other countries (Office of National Economics and Social Development Board (NESDB), 2001,2007: 7-9, Chaipattana Foundation, 2007: 7). This philosophy created a balance of life, community, society and the nation, applying the sufficient economy philosophy is for developing, solving problems, strengthen, encouraging, supporting, maintaining and enhancing the quality of life etc. The significance of applying the sufficient economy philosophy is to understand, access and develop by the knowledge from research and academic services which is synthesized by lecturers of the university, and a lack of the research results or information of synthesized knowledge in the area of Mae Hong Son province would be significant for doing more research to get the real understanding, accessibility and development.

### **Objective**

To analyze the level of participation in community development administration based on the sufficient economy philosophy at the sufficient economy model community of Mae Hong Son province.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This research was combined of qualitative and quantitative research which the sample groups were as follows;

- 1) Group 1: 400 people in the community (Taro Yamane, 1973: 125)
- 2) Group 2: 17 official community leaders who were the community president or board
- 3) Group 3: 10 unofficial community leaders who were the elder and knowledgeable people both of male and female
- 4) The data was gathered by using the questionnaire and interview, statistics for data analysis of the general data were Frequency, Percentage, Arithmetic Mean ( $\bar{x}$ ) and Standard Deviation (S.D.), the interview was analyzed by using the Descriptive Analysis on a defined content structure and a criteria of participation of the sample group which divided into 5 levels; 4.21 – 5.00 (very high level), 3.41 – 4.20 (high level), 2.61 – 3.40 (moderate level), 1.81 – 2.60 (low level) and 1.00 – 1.80 (very low level).

## **RESULTS**

The participation of people at the sufficient economy model community of Mae Hong Son province was in 3 significant issues; 1) Social and cultural activity, 2) Process of participation in community development administration and 3) Living on the sufficient economy philosophy as the following details;

### **1) Social and cultural activity**

Most of the people who live under the sufficient economy model community of Mae Hong Son province participated in the social and cultural activity, the findings revealed that most of them always participated in the social and cultural activity ( $\bar{x} = 3.99$ ) which was ordered in 6 of the religious activity and belief; 1) Gin Salak/Salak Pat Offering or Tan Guay Salak ceremony ( $\bar{x} = 4.33$ ), 2) Candle Respect or Pu Ja Tien ceremony ( $\bar{x} = 4.28$ ), 3) Succession ceremony ( $\bar{x} = 4.06$ ), 4) Makha Bucha Day ( $\bar{x} = 4.05$ ), 5) Ancestral Spirits ceremony ( $\bar{x} = 4.03$ ) and 6) Vesakha Bucha Day ( $\bar{x} = 4.00$ ) as shown in Table 1 as follows;

**Table 1**  
Level of participation in the religious activity of the village or community

No.	Participation in the religious activity	Mean	S.D.	Level
1	Succession ceremony	4.06	0.94	High
2	Fortune Sending ceremony	3.83	1.04	High
3	Tan Tung Daeng ceremony	3.59	1.32	High
4	Candle Respect or Pu Ja Tien ceremony	4.28	0.96	Very high
5	Hong Kwan or Blessing ceremony	3.96	0.96	High
6	Ancestral Spirits ceremony	4.03	1.06	High
7	Gin Salak/Salak Pat Offering or Tan Guay Salak ceremony	4.33	0.94	Very high
8	Makha Bucha Day	4.05	0.89	High
9	Vesakha Bucha Day	4.00	0.93	High
10	The Begin of Buddhist Lent Day	3.94	0.95	High
11	The End of Buddhist Lent Day	3.99	0.94	High
12	Buddhist Holy Day	3.80	1.04	High
<b>Total</b>		<b>3.99</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>High</b>

The overall of participation in the social activity of the village or community was in the very high level ( $\bar{x} = 3.99$ ) as the religious activity due to the focus of people on community development for their village which was in the high and very high level ordered in 3 of the social activity; 1) Pee Mai Muang Festival ( $\bar{x} = 4.29$ ), 2) Songkran Festival ( $\bar{x} = 4.28$ ) and 3) Village/community development ( $\bar{x} = 3.98$ ) as shown in Table 2 as follows;

**Table 2**  
Level of participation in the social activity and the village or community development

No.	Participation in the social activity	Mean	S.D.	Level
1	Environment Conservation Campaign	3.89	1.05	High
2	Anti-Drugs Campaign	3.90	1.12	High
3	Pee Mai Muang Festival	4.29	0.83	Very high
4	Songkran Festival	4.28	0.81	Very high
5	Children's Day	3.40	1.06	Moderate
6	Mother's Day and Father's Day	3.74	1.03	High
7	Village/community development	3.98	1.00	High
8	Temple development	3.76	0.99	High
<b>Total</b>		<b>3.90</b>	<b>0.68</b>	<b>High</b>

## 2) Process of participation in community development administration

The level of participation in community development administration in Mae Hong Son province, the findings revealed that the overall of 7 subjects of participation in community development administration was in the high level ( $\bar{x} = 3.57$ ), when it was considered in each item, it revealed that all of 7 items of participation in community development administration was in the high level ordered as follows;

- 1) Taking benefits ( $\bar{x} = 3.63$ )

- 2) Acknowledgement and understanding ( $\bar{x} = 3.58$ )
- 3) Responsibility, monitoring, checking and assessment ( $\bar{x} = 3.60$ )
- 4) Operation ( $\bar{x} = 3.57$ )
- 5) Analysis and planning ( $\bar{x} = 3.53$ )
- 6) Defining problems ( $\bar{x} = 3.49$ )

It indicated that people of 3 provinces in the northern areas participated in community development administration to decrease a social disparity which was tended of taking benefits, and acknowledgement and understanding in the policy of community development administration, but not in defining problems, analysis and planning for community development administration. Consequently, it was all in the high level which indicated to the readiness of cooperation as shown in this following Table 3

**Table 3**  
Level of Participation in the community development administration

Participation in the community development administration	Mean	S.D.	Level
Acknowledgement and understanding	3.58	0.85	High
Defining problems	3.49	0.86	High
Analysis and planning	3.53	0.93	High
Operation	3.57	0.91	High
Taking benefits	3.63	0.75	High
Responsibility	3.60	0.88	High
Monitoring, checking and assessment	3.60	0.87	High
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.57</b>	<b>0.79</b>	<b>High</b>

In addition, there were 2 interesting subjects; 1) Taking benefits ( $\bar{x} = 3.63$ ) which was in the high level revealed that the level of participation in community development administration by taking benefits, when it was considered in each subject, it revealed that people participated in community development administration directly with the activity arrangement. All items of the community development project were in the high level, even if it was decreased after applying the community development activity and project for continue benefiting their family as shown in this following Table 4

**Table 4**  
Level of Taking benefits

No.	Taking benefits	Mean	S.D.	Level
1	Direct benefits of community development activity and project from state agency	3.80	0.97	High
2	Benefits of community development activity and project for family and neighborhood	3.65	0.93	High
3	Pride of community development activity and project for village, family, neighborhood and people	3.70	0.92	High
4	Benefits of government officer, village leader from community development activity and project	3.55	0.94	High
5	Applying the community development activity and project for benefiting their family continually	3.46	0.94	High
<b>Total</b>		<b>3.63</b>	<b>0.75</b>	<b>High</b>

2) Defining problems ( $\bar{x} = 3.49$ ) which was in the low level revealed that the level of participation in community development administration by defining problems, when it was considered in each subject, it revealed that people participated in community development administration in solving problems and offering

helps for arranging activity, project and policy to the leader and neighborhood included giving consult, suggestion and idea for the community development activity or project to the public section which was in the high and moderate level, but sharing idea on village development administration at the meeting of village, Subdistrict Administrative Organization (SAO), municipality office and district office as shown in this following Table 5

**Table 5**  
Level of Defining problems

No.	Defining issue	Mean	S.D.	Level
1	Participation in defining and presenting problems to the village leader and neighborhood	3.43	0.96	High
2	Participation in presenting problems solving to the village leader and neighborhood	3.51	1.08	High
3	Giving idea on village development administration at the meeting of village, Subdistrict Administrative Organization (SAO), municipality office and district office	3.39	0.93	Moderate
4	Participation in giving consult, suggestion and idea for the community development activity or project to the state agency	3.56	1.01	High
5	Participation in solving problems and offering to help arranging activity, project and policy to the leader and neighborhood	3.56	1.06	High
<b>Total</b>		<b>3.49</b>	<b>0.86</b>	<b>High</b>

### 3) Living on the sufficient economy philosophy

People at the sufficient economy model community applied a word “sufficiently” for living by their potentiality and status with 6 subjects of sufficiency and the findings revealed that the overall was in the high level ( $\bar{x} = 3.98$ ), when it was considered in each item, it revealed that most of them applied the sufficient activity for individual and household in the high level ordered as; 1) Natural resources and environment using and conservation ( $\bar{x} = 4.06$ ), 2) Living ( $\bar{x} = 4.00$ ), 3) Decrease of expenses ( $\bar{x} = 3.98$ ), 4) Generosity ( $\bar{x} = 3.97$ ), 5) Savings ( $\bar{x} = 3.93$ ) and 6) Increase of revenue ( $\bar{x} = 3.92$ ) which indicated that the applying of sufficient activity for individual and household was seriously, especially the natural resources and environment using and conservation, frugal expenses and generosity as shown in this following Table 6

**Table 6**  
Level of Sufficient activity

Sufficient activity	Mean	S.D.	Level
Decrease of expenses	3.98	0.72	High
Increase of income	3.92	0.66	High
Savings	3.93	0.72	High
Living	4.00	0.70	High
Natural resources and environment using and conservation	4.06	0.69	High
Generosity	3.97	0.74	High
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.98</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>High</b>

Natural resources and environment using and conservation ( $\bar{x} = 4.06$ ) which it was in the high level revealed that the overall of applying the sufficient activity for individual and household was in the high level ( $\bar{x} = 4.06$ ), when it was considered in each subject, it revealed that people applied the sufficient activity for individual and household in closing an electric equipment before leaving ( $\bar{x} = 4.16$ ), but the right method of trash elimination (separation) and if the electric equipment was broken, it would be fixed instead of buying a new one which it was in the high level ( $\bar{x} = 3.99$ ) as shown in this following Table 7;

**Table 7**  
Level of Using and conserving the natural resource and environment

No.	Using and conserving the natural resource and environment	Mean	S.D.	Level
1	Turning off electric device before leaving or when not in use	4.16	0.86	High
2	If the electric device was broken, it would be fixed then reuse instead of buying a new one	3.99	0.88	High
3	The right method of trash elimination (separation)	3.99	0.80	High
4	Participation in river, pond and environment conservation	4.07	0.90	High
5	Choosing to consume products which are not damage the environment but reduce the global warming	4.10	0.86	High
<b>Total</b>		<b>4.06</b>	<b>0.69</b>	<b>High</b>

Additionally, the received interviews for the attitude of people who live under the sufficient economy model community in Mae Hong Son province revealed that when we seriously applied the sufficient economy philosophy for living and questioned, “How could we stop being poor?” – “sufficient economy philosophy could really solve the poorness issue with discipline and hands”, and it also revealed that an amount of the social member who participated in community development administration was more than those who was not the social member with 0.05 level of significance, and people at the age of 51 years old and above would rather participated in community development administration than one at the age of 50 years old and below with 0.05 level of significance.

### CONCLUSION

The participation of people was significant for community development to promote the cooperation, the sufficient economy model community of Mae Hong Son province indicated that people have a parallel of social living and belief, beautiful custom and culture for the next generations such as *Gin Salak/Salak Pat Offering or Tan Guay Salak ceremony, Candle Respect or Pu Ja Tien ceremony, Succession ceremony, Makha Bucha Day, Ancestral Spirits ceremony, Vesakha Bucha Day, Pee Mai Muang Festival, Songkran Festival and Village/community development* which people could get some benefits and affected to their living, family and society, acknowledgement and understanding, monitoring, checking and assessment included the serious operation with “sufficiently” especially in natural resources and environment using and conservation and sufficient living.

### DISCUSSION

The process of participation in community development administration based on the sufficient economy philosophy model community of Mae Hong Son province, the findings revealed that people who live under the sufficient economy model community, a strong community of Mae Hong Son province, they applied Buddhism’s teaching for their living and working. Most of them worked in the agricultural industry with belief and principle inherited through the minority groups for being the beautiful custom and culture such as *Gin Salak/Salak Pat Offering or Tan Guay Salak ceremony, Candle Respect or Pu Ja Tien ceremony, Succession ceremony, Ancestral Spirits ceremony and Pee Mai Muang Festival* due to they lived for many years since the beginning of building the houses and living their lives. The research of 3 provinces in the northern areas of Phusit Phukamchanoad) 2018: 186) revealed that the family leader would be participated in the social activity, belief, custom and culture for more over 50 years and all people were having a good warm and relationship from neighborhood, being loved and engage with the community. In addition, the research of *Social Capital and Self-Independence Based On the Sufficient Economy Philosophy of the Minority Group in Mhok Jam Royal Project* revealed that it should be decreased and increased something to balance their living, creating happiness should have the activity of culture, custom, self-independence, using the local resource, cultural conservation as the social capital of northern people (Songjit Poonlab , 2011), the participation in community development administration was in the high level especially in taking benefits, acknowledgement, understanding, responsibility, monitoring, checking and assessment which reflected to the participation of people for taking

benefits of their community development, for social activity, culture, custom and applying the sufficient economy philosophy for individual and family including decreasing expenses, creating a needed object for living, increasing career for more stable income to stop being poor.

### **SUGGESTIONS**

Applying of sufficient activity for individual and household on the sufficient economy philosophy of people in Mae Hong Son province should have an increase of income which was in the high level but in the very low of mean ( $\bar{x} = 3.92$ ). For the purpose that, state agency and private corporation should be a part of educating the business planning or creating career for people in the community such as new innovation and new product to respond the need and issue. Currently, there was a lack of integrated development by the area development concept “**H T S U**” – home, temple, school and university applied on the geosocial of each area in Mae Hong Son province

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

This research was a part of Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Development Administration; especially, the generosity and guidance systematically from all advisors and lecturers in Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, community leaders and people in Mae Hong Son Province were highly appreciated.

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