

# Type of Participation of Local Community in Sustainable Tourism Development in Ban Ruammit, Chiang Rai, Thailand

Budi Gunthoro<sup>1</sup> and Jumnongruk Udomsade<sup>2</sup>

## ABSTRACT

This paper presents the sustainable tourism development in Ban Ruammit, Chiang Rai, Thailand, which focused on the type of participation including the factors affecting it. A total of 140 respondents were selected by purposive random sampling method. The individual interview was also conducted to seek deeper information. The results show that participation in tourism development was involved in every step in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and sharing of benefits. In the planning, implementation and sharing of benefits generally typified genuine participation, while in the monitoring and evaluation typified pseudo-participation. Factors such as main occupation, length of residence, interdependency, social sensitivity, sharing of benefits from natural resources, and non government assistance related to the type of participation.

**Key words:** participation, local community, tourism

## INTRODUCTION

Sustainable tourism – in its purest sense, is an industry which attempts to make a low impact on the environment and local culture, while helping to generate income, employment, and the conservation of local ecosystems. It is responsible tourism which is both ecologically and culturally sensitive (Jamieson and Nobel, 2000). Sustaining the community/particular communities has therefore become an essential element of sustainable tourism (Richards and Hall, 2000). Why must sustainable tourism projects involve local community? There is little likelihood that destructive resource use practices can be stopped without changes in the social and

economic situation facing communities. Such changes can best come about if communities can exercise control over their growth and development. In the tourism context, lack of involvement means that tourism is much more likely to have a negative social and economic impact. There is ample evidence that projects which focus on generating economic benefits without effectively encouraging local participation in the identification, design, implementation, or evaluation of development activities are less likely to provide widespread community benefits (Cernea, 1991). There are many potential benefits if the community living or working in a tourist destination is involved in tourism planning. Importantly, political legitimacy will be enhanced if this involvement means that

<sup>1</sup> Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Agricultural Extension and Communication, Faculty of Agriculture, Kasetsart University, Bangkok 10900, Thailand.

community members have greater influence in decision-making which affects their lives (Benveniste, 1989).

One of the most significant responses to the problems of tourism is the participation of indigenous people in the control over the development decision making process which stems from this integration of local needs and preferences into the planning process (Johnson, 1990). The local people are not given any role in the planning process or implementation and are forced off lands that were traditionally theirs to use. Not surprisingly, they become resentful of the rich tourists who supplants them, but, more importantly, economic needs make it difficult for them not to over exploit the resources of the protected area (Whelan, 1991).

The condition above is not different from tourism development in Ban Ruammit, Chiang Rai Province. Ban Ruammit community consists of many ethnic groups such as Karen, Lahu, Akha, Hmong, and others. For the past 30 years, government policy regarding the hill tribes has been based on the three perceived problems (Mc Caskill, 1997; TRI, 1995), first: hill tribes were considered a threat to national security, second: the government believed that the hill tribes destroy the natural environment, and third: hill tribes produce illegal narcotics. In an attempt to resolve these perceived problems, tribal

people have received substantial development assistance from government and Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs). However, tribal people have had little input into either the planning or implementation of the projects (Mc Caskill, 1997). Mc Caskill pointed out that although the economic and social advances have been appreciated from this development, many tribal people indicate that their overall quality of life has not improved. Tribal people feel that this problem stems from lack of respect and understanding of their traditional cultures.

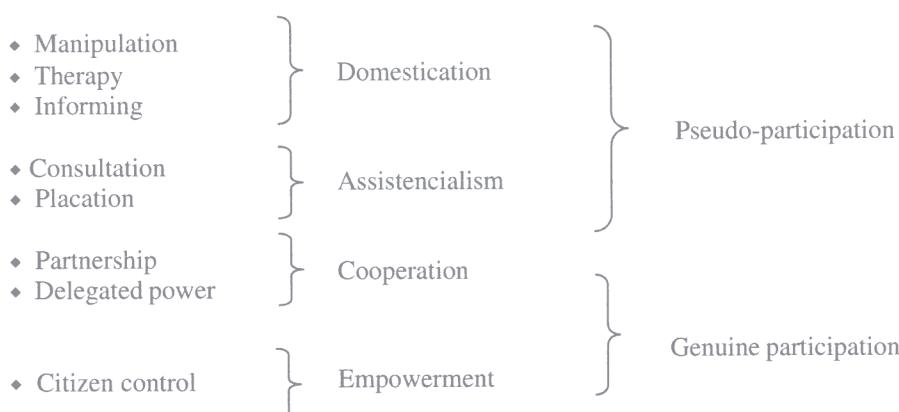
### Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study were to determine the type of local community participation, and to find the relationship between the selected variables and the types of participation.

### Theoretical framework

Deshler and Sock (1985 cited in Selener, 1997) propose a framework, which shows types of participation categorized on the basis of the degree of control exerted by participants (Figure 1).

The metaphor they use to illustrate this concept is a ladder with eight rungs representing: 1) manipulation, 2) therapy, 3) informing, 4) consultation, 5) placation, 6) partnership, 7) delegated power, and 8) citizen control. Deshler and Sock then group these



**Figure 1** Types of Participation.

Source: Deshler and Sock 1985 cited in Selener, 1997

categories into four classes based on the relationship between the extent of control or power and the participation. These classes include 1) domestication, 2) assistencialism (or paternalism), 3) cooperation, and 4) empowerment. They define domestication and assistencialism as categories of pseudo participation, while cooperation and empowerment are genuine participation. In participation as domestication, power and control over a given activity are the hands of planners, administrators, local elites, scientists, or professionals. Domestication is achieved by using pseudo-participatory techniques to manipulate people to do what these outsiders perceive as important for their own benefit rather than to empower the participants. Participation as assistencialism, or paternalisms, is that power and control remain in the hands of an external agent or elite. Members of the participating group receive information, and are consulted, assisted, or placated. They may be informed about activities, but have no influence over decision making or control over benefits. Participation as cooperation involves people working with outsiders to implement activities intended to benefit participants. Decision-making takes place through dialogue between insiders and outsiders. Participants are also actively involved in implementation. Power and control are shared throughout the project, which is, ideally, and inductive, bottom-up, rather than a top-down process. Participation as empowerment is an approach in which people hold complete power over and are fully in control of a program or an institution, including decision making and administrative activities. Participation occurs at the political, social, cultural, and/or economic levels. Empowerment is achieved through conscientization, democratization, solidarity, and leadership. Participation for empowerment usually characterizes autonomous processes of mobilization for structural social and political changes.

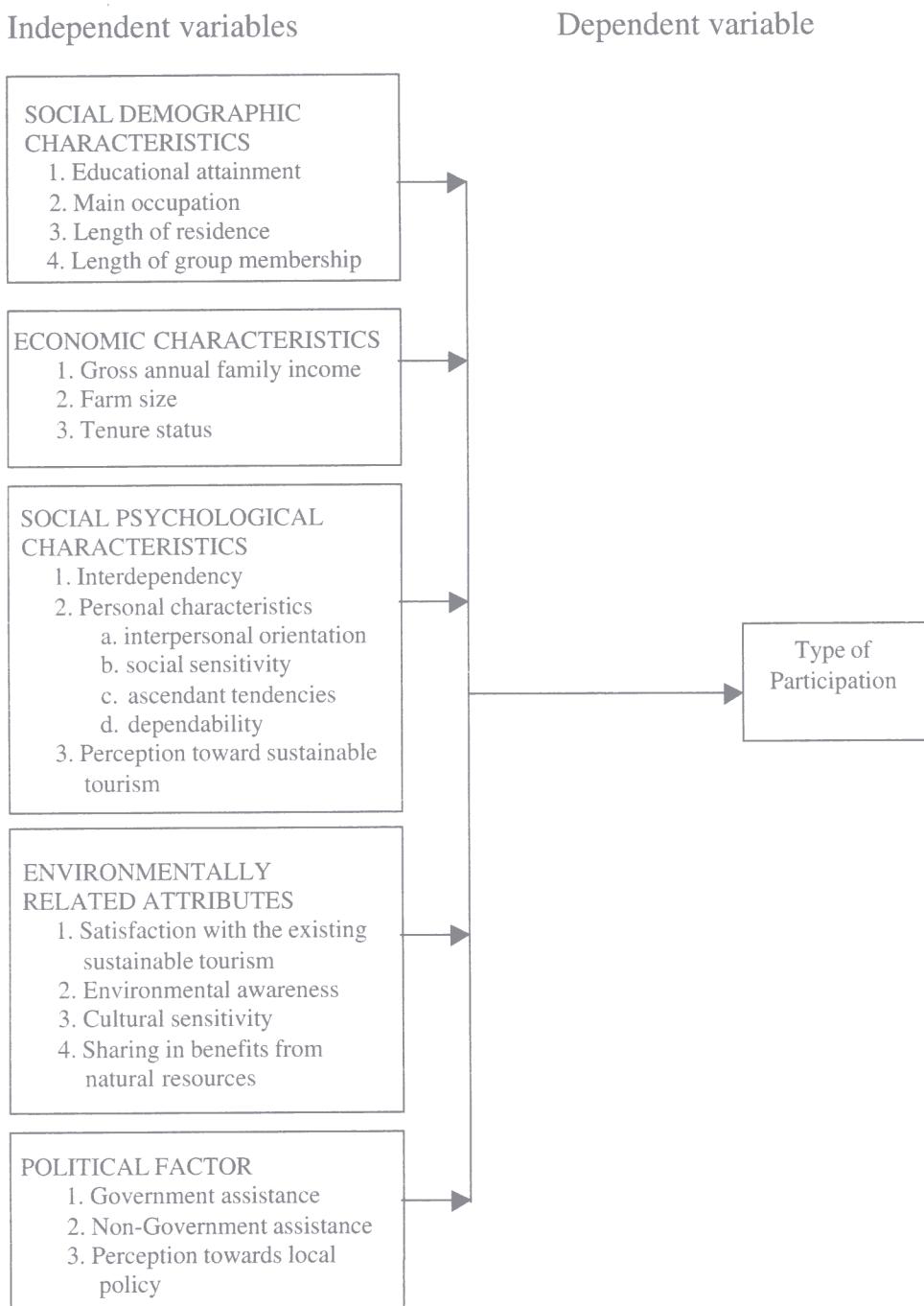
Most scholars in developmental arena explain participation as a process. In this process, local people have roles and participate in every step of development with encouragement and guidance from

a developer, as an outsider (Yossuck, 2002). Cohen and Uphoff (1980) divide participation process into four steps; participation in a step of decision making, participation in a step of implementation, participation in a step of sharing benefits, and participation in a step of evaluation. Participation in a step of decision making refers to ability of local people in initiating the project. Local people are aware of their problems and start an idea to solve the problems of their own. Participation in a step of implementation means local people decide to have concrete activities, which are believed that these activities are suitable choices for them in order to solve the problems. Participation in a step of sharing benefits refers to the distribution of equal benefits to all people in a community. Benefits, in this sense, are not limited to only economic benefits, but also social, psychological, and cultural benefits as well. Participation in a step of evaluation is defined as the opportunity of people involved to be able to determine and realize both advantages and disadvantages of their decision and performances.

### Conceptual framework

Local community participation is a necessary component of sustainable development generally and of sustainable tourism specifically. Therefore, in this study, local community participation is the ability to influence the benefit of development projects that have an impact on them.

The major variable in this study is the participation of the local community. Participation may be of different degrees and different types. In this study, it is hypothesized that while local community participate, that participation may at one point be genuine but at another point, pseudo. The type of their participation consequently determines their perception of ecotourism activities insofar as contribution of these activities to sustainability of development for the community is concerned. Thus, the variables related to the type of local community participation as defined in this study are described in Figure 2.



**Figure 2** Conceptual framework showing the relationship among variables.

In participation, whether it is genuine or pseudo in stages of planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and sharing of benefits of the sustainable tourism activities. Analysis of these phases of the sustainable tourism activities will be done for the following concerns of the sustainable tourism activities: trekking elephant, selling souvenir, home-made activity, long tail boat, cattle maintenance, pig maintenance, fishing, use of forest (forest management), plantation, and organizational management.

## METHODOLOGY

This study was conducted in Ban Ruammit, Mae Yao sub-district, Muang district, Chiang Rai province, northern Thailand. This village is the tribal village occupied by multi-tribes and tourism becomes the major source of income. It is located along the Mae Kok River in Chiang Rai province of northern Thailand.

The unit of analysis was the local people in Ban Ruammit community. Purposive sampling technique was used. One hundred and fifty respondents were selected from those who were members of activity in tourism. The sample were determined by using Yamane formula (1973).

A structured interview schedule was designed and used as research instrument to elicit appropriate responses. It consisted of socio-demographic and economic characteristics of respondents, their social-psychological characteristics, political factors, and type of participation. The interview schedule was prepared in English and translated into Thai language, and finally into Northern Thailand dialect during the actual interview. Rapport before and during the interview was established by the researcher and the interviewers to avoid apprehension from the respondents. Data were analyzed and presented through descriptive statistics. Chi-square test, Cramer's Phi and Spearman rank correlation was employed for testing the relationships between independent variables and dependent variable.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Types of participation of local community

The respondents were categorized into domestication when the people were manipulated to do what these outsiders perceive as important for their own benefits rather than to empower the participants; assistencialism when the power and control remain in the hands of an external agent or elite. Members of the participating group receive information, and are consulted, assisted, or placated. They may be informed about activities, but have no influence over decision making or control over benefits; cooperation when the activity involves people working with outsiders to implement activities intended to benefit participants. Decision-making takes place through the dialogue between insiders and outsiders. Participants are also actively involved in implementation. Power and control are shared throughout the project, which is, ideally, an inductive bottom-up, rather than a top-down process; and empowerment when the people hold complete power over and are fully in control of a program or an institution, including decision making and administrative activities.

All activities go through the four project phases, namely, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and sharing in benefits. For each of the phase, five concerns were identified where people participation could be elicited (Table 1 – 4).

### Participation in planning phase

Table 1 shows the respondents' type of participation in planning of tourism activities. It is divided into four activities, i.e. problem analysis, goal/objective setting, decision making, rules and regulations, and yearly planning.

Findings show that the overall planning activities in almost all of the types of participation except in the item of "yearly planning", no respondent in assistencialism type. However, most of activities in this phase were predominantly in the type of genuine participation. In the problem

analysis, about 88.5 percent of the total respondents were in the genuine types, i.e. cooperation (36.4%) and empowerment (52.1%). Nonetheless, there were still about 11.4 percent in pseudo participation. Majority of the respondents felt that all problems in the community were fully analyzed by the local people. According to them, they had many experiences for a long time, moreover they live in multi-tribes.

In the goal/objective setting, majority of the respondents were in genuine type (cooperation was 36.4% and empowerment was 52.1%). In contrast, about 23.6 percent were in pseudo type (domestication was 18.6 percent and assistencialism was 5.0 percent). Likewise, in decision making, majority of the respondents were in genuine type. Some of them (cooperation was 36.4%) were actively involved in decision making and dialogue with local elite/outsiders, and about 50 percent of them (empowerment) felt that decision making was completely done by them as local people.

Regarding the rules and regulations, there were little differences between pseudo type and genuine type regarding setting of rules and regulations that were 42.8 percent (pseudo) and 57.2 percent (genuine). All percentage spread to all of those types, which tended to be proportionate: domestication was 17.8 percent, assistencialism 25.0 percent, cooperation 28.6 percent, and empowerment 28.6 percent.

Majority of respondents were in genuine type (cooperation 18.6%, and empowerment 62.8%) in handling the yearly planning. However, there were still about 18.6 percent of the respondents who felt that the yearly planning of the tourism activities had been carried out by local elite and outsiders.

### Participation in implementation phase

Participation in implementation phase was divided into five activities, namely, conduct of monthly meeting, choice of the leader, setting up of the organizational structure, promotion of tourism, and implementation of activities. Table 2 shows the

respondents' type of participation in implementation of tourism activities.

In monthly meeting, majority of the respondents were in genuine type of participation, which the empowerment type was 87.1 percent, and the cooperation 7.1 percent. Only 5.7 percent were domestication, because they felt that this activity was conducted by local elites, the meeting was for elite persons who had good ideas. In choice of the leader, majority of respondents were in genuine type (cooperation was 6.4%, and empowerment 89.3%). They felt that Ban Ruammit community already had a sense of democratic system in selecting their leader. In the past, the leader was from the formal leader's son or descent.

Majority of the respondents (76.4%) was empowerment in setting up the organizational structure. Nevertheless, about 18.6 percent still felt that the organizational structure was set by local government of Mae Yao sub-district, because it had to be the same as other village organizational structure.

Promotion of tourism was still in domestication (85%) because all of the tourism activities were promoted by local elite and outsiders such Mae Yao sub-district and Muang district officers. While the implementation of activities was in empowerment (89.3%). It was fully handled by the local people of Ban Ruammit.

### Participation in monitoring and evaluation phase

Participation in monitoring and evaluation phase consisted of five activities such as: selection of monitoring and evaluation staff, monitoring and evaluation activities, annual evaluation, monthly financial report, and information of monitoring and evaluation (Table 3).

Selection of monitoring and evaluation staff was in domestication (55%). Selection was done by local elite. In contrast, a big number of respondents (38.6%) felt that all of monitoring and evaluation

staff were fully selected by local people. The rest of respondents were in cooperation (1.4%) and assistancialism (5%). Monitoring and evaluation activities, annual evaluation, monthly financial report, and information of monitoring and evaluation also were mostly the domestication being the dominant type which were 90.7 percent, 86.4 percent, 89.3 percent and 82.1 percent, respectively. This means that in monitoring and evaluation phase, the participation of local people was still in pseudo-participation. All activities were still dominantly handled by the local elites and local government.

### Participation in sharing benefits phase

Type of participation in sharing benefits phase was measured from five sources, namely, benefit from natural resources, benefit from materials, benefit from social, benefit from economics, and benefit from public services (Table 4).

Majority of the respondents in deciding benefit from natural resources such as water, land and plant was in the empowerment type (98.6%). Benefit from materials were also in the empowerment type (100%). Most respondents felt that sharing of material benefits was completely decided upon by the local people. While the benefits from social such as education and getting new information were the genuine participation in the empowerment type (52.1%) and cooperation type (36.4%). Benefits from economics were in genuine participation, which was mostly in the empowerment type (98.6%). Moreover, benefit from public services was in the empowerment type (99.3%).

### Relationship between independent variables and dependent variable

Relationship between independent variables, i.e. educational attainment, length of residence, length of group membership, gross annual family income, farm size, interdependency, interpersonal orientation, social sensitivity, ascendant tendency,

dependability, perception toward sustainable tourism, satisfaction with the existing sustainable tourism, environmental awareness, and cultural sensitivity, and dependent variable (type of participation) were analyzed using Spearman Rank Correlation Analysis. The results of analyses are shown in Table 5. Whereas, the relationship between independent variables, i.e. main occupation, tenure status, sharing benefits, government assistance, and non-government assistance and dependent variable were analyzed using Chi-square analysis. Significant relationships were further analyzed using Cramer's Phi (Table 6).

The analyses show that there were positive correlation between the type of participation and the independent variables i.e. length of residence ( $r=0.225$ ,  $p\leq.01$ ), interdependency ( $r=0.123$ ,  $p\leq.05$ ), social sensitivity ( $r=0.194$ ,  $p\leq.05$ ), and satisfaction with existing sustainable tourism ( $r=0.204$ ,  $p\leq.01$ ). This means that the higher type of participation will be followed by the longer length of residence, the higher interdependency and the higher satisfaction with existing sustainable tourism. There were also relationships between type of participation and other independent variables i.e. main occupation ( $\chi^2=9.973$ ,  $p\leq.01$   $\Phi=0.189$ ), sharing benefits ( $\chi^2=18.289$ ,  $p\leq.01$ ,  $\Phi=0.349$ ), and government assistance ( $\chi^2=13.386$ ,  $p\leq.01$ ,  $\Phi=0.309$ ).

Meanwhile there were no relationships between type of participation and educational attainment, length of group membership. Gross annual family income, farm size, tenure status, interpersonal orientation, ascendant tendency, dependability, perception towards sustainable tourism, environmental awareness, cultural sensitivity, non government assistance and perception towards local policy.

Therefore, based on the research findings, Figure 3 shows the revised conceptual model of the study which explains the variables related to the type of participation.

**Table 1** Respondents' type of participation in planning of tourism activities.

(n=140)

Activities	Number	Percent
1. Problem analysis		
a. All of the problems in my community were examined by local elite/outsiders (D)	8	5.7
b. I was consulted by the local elite/outsiders in problem analysis (A)	8	5.7
c. I actively cooperated with the local elite/outsiders in analyzing our problem (C)	51	36.4
d. All of the problems in my community were fully analyzed by local people (E)	73	52.1
2. Goal/objective setting		
a. All of the goals/objectives of tourism activities were set by local elite/outsiders (D)	26	18.6
b. I was consulted by the local elite/outsiders in setting the goals/objectives (A)	7	5.0
c. I actively cooperated with the local elite/outsiders in setting the goals/objectives (C)	39	27.8
d. All of the goal/objectives were fully set by us, the local people (E)	68	48.6
3. Decision making		
a. All of the tourism activities were examined by local elite/outsiders (D)	9	6.4
b. I was assisted by the local elite/outsiders in the decision-making (A)	10	7.1
c. I was actively involved in decision making and dialogue with the local elite/outsiders (C)	51	36.4
d. Decision making completely done by local people (E)	69	49.3
4. Rules and regulations		
a. All of the rules and regulations had been set by local elite/outsiders (D)	25	17.8
b. I was consulted by the local elite/outsiders in setting the rules and regulations (A)	35	25.0
c. I actively worked with the local elite/outsiders in setting the rules and regulations (C)	40	28.6
d. All of the rules and obligation were fully set and handled by local people (E)	40	28.6
5. Yearly planning		
a. The yearly planning of the tourism activities had been carried out by local elite/outsiders (D)	26	18.6
b. I was consulted by the local elite/outsiders in the yearly planning (A)	-	-
c. I was actively involved in coordination with the local elite/outsiders in yearly planning (C)	26	18.6
d. All of the yearly planning of activities were fully handled by local people in the community (E)	88	62.8

Legend:

D: Domestication    C: Cooperation    A: Assistencialism    E: Empowerment

**Table 2** Respondents' type of participation in implementation activities.

Implementation activities	Number	Percent (n=140)
1. Conduct of monthly meeting		
a. Monthly meetings were conducted by the local elite/outsiders (D)	8	5.7
b. I assisted local elite/outsiders in monthly meeting (A)	-	-
c. I had opportunities to share ideas with the local elite/outsiders in monthly meetings (C)	10	7.1
d. Monthly meetings were fully handled by local people (E)	122	87.1
2. Choice of the leader		
a. Leader was selected by local elite/outsiders (D)	1	0.7
b. I was told by the local elite/outsiders in selected leader (A)	5	3.6
c. I actively cooperated with the local elite/outsiders to select the tourism's leader (C)	9	6.4
d. The leader was fully decided upon by local people (E)	125	89.3
3. Setting up of the organizational structure		
a. The organizational structure was set by the local elite/outsiders (D)	26	18.6
b. I was consulted by the local elite/outsiders in setting up the organizational structure (A)	5	3.6
c. I had opportunities to set the organizational structure (C)	2	1.4
d. The organizational structure was fully set by local people in the community (E)	107	76.4
4. Promotion of tourism		
a. All of the tourism activities were promoted by local elite/outsiders (D)	119	85.0
b. I assisted by the local elite/outsiders in the promotion of tourism activities (A)	3	2.1
c. I actively cooperated with the local elite/outsiders in the promotion of tourism activities (C)	6	4.3
d. All of the tourism activities were fully promoted by local people (E)	12	8.6
5. Implementation of activities		
a. Implementation of all tourism activities were handled by local elite/outsiders (D)	3	2.1
b. I had some involvement in the implementation of some tourism activities (A)	1	0.7
c. I was actively involved in the implementation of tourism activities in collaboration with the local elite/outsiders (C)	11	7.9
d. Implementation of the tourism activities were fully handled by local people in the community (E)	125	89.3

D: Domestication C: Cooperation A: Assistencialism E: Empowerment

**Table 3** Respondents' type of participation in monitoring and evaluation activities.

(n=140)

Monitoring and evaluation activities	Number	Percent
1. Selection of Monitoring and Evaluation staff		
a. All of the monitoring and evaluation staff of the tourism project, were selected by the local elite/outsiders (D)	77	55.0
b. I was consulted by the local elite/outsiders in selecting the monitoring and evaluation staff of the tourism project (A)	7	0.5
c. I actively coordinated with the local elite/outsiders in choosing the tourism project's monitoring and evaluation staff (C)	2	2.1
d. All of the monitoring and evaluation staff were fully selected by local people (E)	54	38.6
2. Monitoring and Evaluation Activities		
a. All of the monitoring and evaluation activities of the tourism were examined by local elite/outsiders (D)	127	90.7
b. I assisted the local elite/outsiders in selecting the monitoring and evaluation activities (A)	8	5.7
c. I was actively involved local people in the monitoring and evaluation activities (C)	1	0.7
d. Monitoring and evaluation activities were fully handled by local people (E)	4	2.9
3. Annual Evaluation		
a. All of annual evaluation reports of tourism activities were handled by local elite/outsiders (D)	121	86.4
b. I was consulted by local elite/outsiders in processing annual evaluation reports of the tourism activities (A)	18	12.9
c. I actively cooperated with the local elite/outsiders in processing tourism's annual evaluation reports (C)	-	-
d. All of annual evaluation reports of tourism activities were fully accomplished by local people (E)	1	0.7
4. Monthly Financial Report		
a. All of monthly financial reports of the tourism were reported by the local elite/outsiders (D)	125	89.3
b. I was sent by local elite/outsiders about monthly financial reports (A)	14	10.0
c. I actively cooperated with the local elite/outsiders reporting the financial report (C)	-	-
d. All of the monthly financial reports were fully accomplished by local people (E)	1	0.7
5. Information of Monitoring and Evaluation		
a. All of the information of monitoring and evaluation in the tourism activities were examined by local elite/outsiders (D)	115	82.1
b. I was informed by local elite/outsiders about results of monitoring and evaluation for the tourism activities (A)	7	5.0
c. I actively coordinated with local elite/outsiders in giving information monitoring and evaluation for the tourism activities (C)	-	-
d. All information for monitoring and evaluation in the tourism activities were fully contributed by local people (E)	18	12.9

Legend:

D: Domestication    C: Cooperation    A: Assistencialism    E: Empowerment

**Table 4** Respondents' type of participation in sharing benefit activities.

Sharing of benefits activities	Number	Percent (n=140)
1. Benefit from natural resources (water, land, plant)		
a. How to share benefits from natural resources was decided on by the local elite/outsiders (D)	2	1.4
b. I was consulted by the local leader/outsiders regarding sharing of the benefits from natural resources (A)	-	-
c. I was actively involved in deciding the sharing benefits from natural resources with the local elite/outsiders (C)	-	-
d. Local people fully control the sharing of benefits from natural resources (E)	138	98.6
2. Benefit from material		
a. How to share material benefits was decided on by the local elite/outsiders (D)	-	-
b. I assisted the local elite/outsiders in deciding on sharing of material benefits (A)	-	-
c. I was actively involved in dialogues with the local elite/outsiders regarding sharing of material benefits (C)	-	-
d. Sharing of material benefits was completely decided upon by the local people in the community (E)	140	100.0
3. Benefit from social (educational, new information, etc.)		
a. My involvement in ecotourism activities was most often as help to local elite/outsiders. There was really nothings that learnt outside of what I already knew (D)	4	2.9
b. Although I learned new things about the nature through the assistance of local elite/outsiders, this was quite limited because of our inability to interact with others from outside (A)	12	8.6
c. Even if I was limited in my experiences and capability, the interaction I had with local elite/other outside agencies related to tourism activities were very educational to me (C)	51	36.4
d. Involvement in the activities had given me many opportunities to improve my capability as well as learn about culture of other societies (E)	73	52.1
4. Benefit from economic (income, production, etc.)		
a. Sharing of economic benefits in the tourism activities was handled by the local elite/outsiders (D)	2	1.4
b. I got consulted by the local elite/outsiders regarding sharing of economic benefits in the tourism activities (A)	-	-
c. I was involved in dialogues with the local elite/outsiders in the sharing of economic benefits in the tourism activities (C)	-	-
d. Sharing of economic benefits was completely fully handled by the local people (E)	138	98.6
5. Benefit from public service		
a. Sharing of public service benefits in tourism activities was handled by local elite/outsiders (D)	-	-
b. I got consulted by the local elite/outsiders regarding sharing of public service benefits in the tourism activities (A)	-	-
c. I was involved in dialogues with the local elite/outsiders in the sharing of public service benefits in the tourism activities (C)	1	0.7
d. Sharing of public service benefits was completely fully handled by the local people in the community (E)	139	99.3

Legend:

D: Domestication

C: Cooperation A: Assistencialism

E: Empowerment

**Table 5** Correlation coefficient between independent variables and dependent variable using Spearman Rank Correlation Analysis.

Independent variables	Dependent variable (Type of participation)
Educational attainment	0.064
Length of residence	0.225**
Length of group membership	0.013
Gross annual family income	0.019
Farm size	0.093
Interdependency	0.123*
Interpersonal orientation	-0.070
Social sensitivity	0.194*
Ascendant tendency	0.030
Dependability	-0.153
Perception toward sustainable tourism	-0.103
Satisfaction with the existing sustainable tourism	0.204**
Environmental awareness	0.037
Cultural sensitivity	-0.019
Perception toward local policy	-0.048

\* p&lt;.05

\*\* p&lt; .01

**Table 6** Chi-Square Analysis of relationship between independent variables and dependent variables.

Independent variables	Dependent variable (Type of participation)
Main occupation	9.973 **, $\Phi = 0.189$
Tenure status	0.456
Sharing in benefits	18.289 **, $\Phi = 0.349$
Government assistance	13.386 **, $\Phi = 0.309$
Non government assistance	3.538

\*\*p&lt; .01

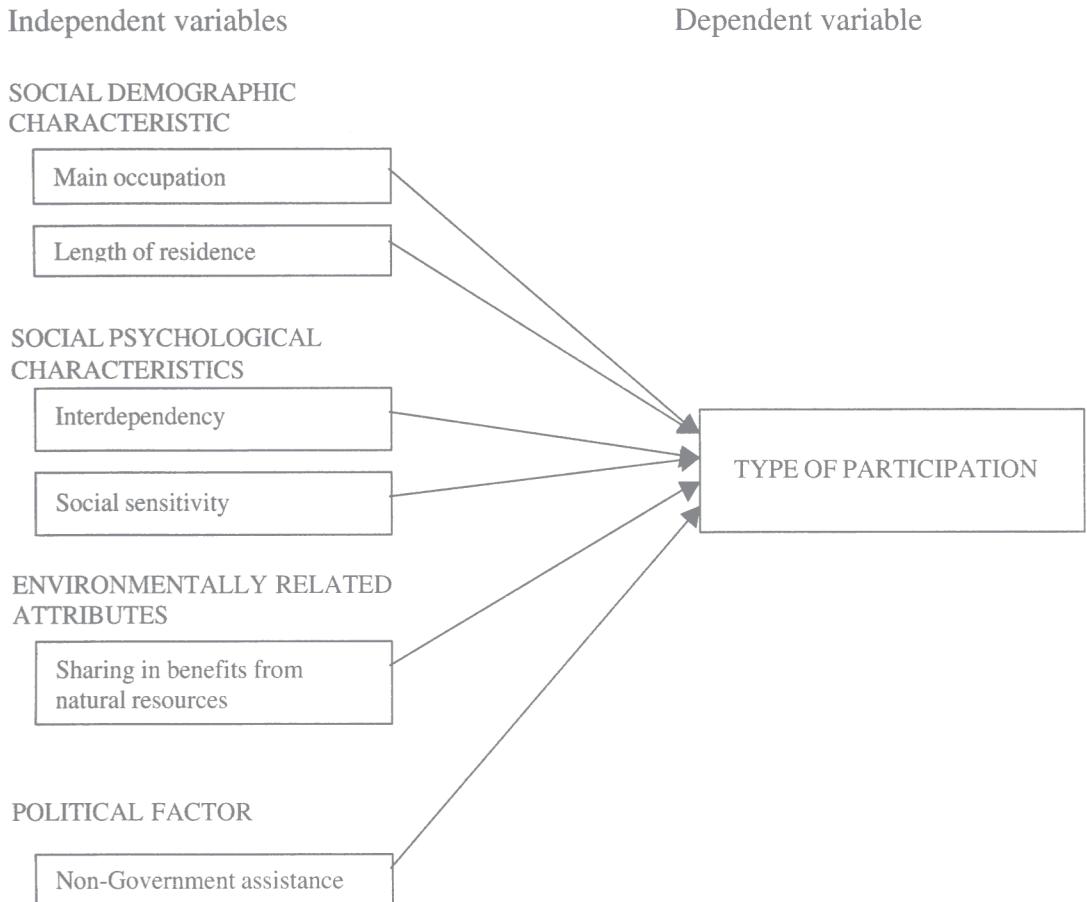
## CONCLUSIONS

Participation in tourism development in Ban Ruammit was obtained at any phase of the program, at the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and sharing of benefits. The type of participation was generally genuine participation in planning, implementation and sharing of benefits, with cooperation being the dominantly type, while in the monitoring and evaluation phase was in

pseudo type. However, they still need to improve knowledge and skill in tourism management, since they had low education and were underprivileged.

Main occupation, length of residency, interdependency, social sensitivity, sharing in benefits from natural resources and non-government assistance have relationship with the types of participation.

Participation is often become a problem of powering the relationships within the community, and empowerment practices, such as bottom-up



**Figure 3** Revised conceptual model showing the independent variables related to type of participation.

planning strategies, are not matched to empowering philosophies. Unequal distribution of power and uneven flows of information can disenfranchise members of the community when decisions are taken.

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