



## Public Participation in Local Development: A Case Study of Local Government Organizations in Wang Man Subdistrict, Wat Sing District, Chainat Province

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### Abstract

The research aimed to study 1) the level of public participation in local development 2) comparing personal factors with public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chainat Province. The sample group consisted of 400 people living in the area under the responsibility of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, stratified random sampling. The data collection tool was a questionnaire with a reliability of 0.96. Data analysis was performed by frequency distribution, percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test, one-way ANOVA with F-test, and Fisher's least-significant difference. The research results found that 1) the level of public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chainat Province was at a low level. When considering each aspect, the average values were as follows: operations, followed by policy determination, and monitoring and evaluation. 2) Comparison of average public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District Chai Nat Province classified by gender found statistically significant differences at the .05 level. Classified by occupation found statistically significant differences at the .001 level. Suggestions for applying the research results Increase public relations channels and survey readiness, including adjusting the duration of village community meetings or organizing public forums to be consistent with the context of the people, in order to provide opportunities for the people to express their opinions and participate in determining the direction of local development, making decisions on projects or activities of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province. And open opportunities for the people to participate in the monitoring and evaluation committee by publicizing and explaining the importance of monitoring and evaluation, both directly and indirectly, and to be able to independently present opinions on community development in order for people in the community to receive the greatest benefit.

**Key words:** Participation, public participation, local development



## Introduction

The Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand B.E. 2560, Part 10, Policy on Public Participation, Section 78, The state shall act in accordance with the policy on public participation as follows: (1) Promote public participation in policy-making and planning for economic and social development at both the national and local levels. (2) Promote and support public participation in political decision-making, economic and social development planning, and the provision of public services. (3) Promote and support public participation in scrutinizing the exercise of state power at all levels, in the form of professional organizations or various professional fields, or other forms. (4) Promote the strength of the public in politics and enact laws to establish a civic political development fund to assist in the implementation of public activities in the community, including supporting the operations of public groups that come together in the form of networks of all types to be able to express opinions and propose the needs of the community in the area. (5) Promote and provide education to the public about political development and democratic governance with the King as Head of State, including promoting the public to exercise their right to vote honestly and fairly. (Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, 2017)

The Subdistrict Council and Subdistrict Administrative Organization Act B.E. 2537 (amended to No. 6 B.E. 2552) stipulates the principle of public participation in the administration of the Subdistrict Administrative Organization in Section 69/1, which states that “The performance of duties of the Subdistrict Administrative Organization must be for the benefit of the public by means of good governance and taking into account public participation in the preparation of the Subdistrict Administrative Organization development plan, budgeting, procurement, inspection, performance evaluation, and disclosure of information. This must be in accordance with the laws, regulations, and rules on such matters in accordance with the criteria and methods determined by the Ministry of Interior.”

Study on the level of public participation in local development to apply the results of the study to promote public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chainat Province. To apply the results of the study to be a guideline for developing public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chainat Province.

## Research objectives

1. To study the level of public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province
2. To compare personal factors with public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province



## Research hypothesis

People's participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province is different when classified by gender, age, education level and occupation.

## Research Methodology

### 1. Population and Sample

1.1 Population: People in the area under the responsibility of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, aged 18-60 years, totaling 1,798 people (Wat Sing District Community Development Office, Chai Nat Province. (2022))

1.2 Sample: People in the area under the responsibility of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, aged 18-60 years, totaling 1,798 people. The sample size was determined by calculating from Yamane T.'s formula (1973) at a confidence level of 95% and an acceptable error of 0.05. The calculation resulted in a sample of 328 people. The researcher therefore collected data from a sample of 400 people, which was no less than the calculated number.

### 2. Research instruments

The research instruments used in data collection were closed-form questionnaires and rating scales. They were used to measure and show the level of public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, with 2 sections as follows: Section 1: Personal factors of the respondents; and Section 2: Public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province. The index of Item – Objective Congruence (IOC) was 0.67-1.00 and the reliability of the whole section was 0.96.

### 3. Data analysis

Data analysis was performed using a ready-made program, which has the following steps:

1. Analyze personal factors data by frequency distribution, percentage, and present in a table with an essay.

2. Analyze data on public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province by using the mean ( ) and standard deviation (S.D.) statistics, interpreted according to the specified criteria.

3. Comparison of differences in the level of public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, classified by gender, age, education level, and occupation by using the t-test to compare the sample groups with status divided into 2 groups and



the one-way ANOVA with the F-test statistic for the sample groups with 3 or more status groups. In the case of statistically significant differences, they will be tested for pairwise differences using Fisher's method (Fisher's least - significant difference).

### Research results

1. The results of the analysis of the personal factors of the respondents found that the majority of the respondents were female, 224 people, or 56.00 percent, and 138 people, or 34.50 percent, were farmers.

2. The results of the analysis of the participation of the people in the local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1 .** Public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province.

Public participation	$\bar{X}$	S.D.	Interpretation
Policy formulation	2.39	1.04	Low
Operational aspects	2.73	0.79	Medium
Monitoring and evaluation aspects	2.27	0.84	Low
Total	2.46	0.81	Low

From Table 1, it was found that the level of public participation in community development in Wang Man Subdistrict, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province was at a low level overall. When considering each aspect in order of average values, the operational aspect was ranked as follows: policy determination, and monitoring and evaluation, respectively.

3. Results of the comparison of public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province

**Table 2** Comparison of public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, classified by gender.



Public participation	Male (n =176)		Female (n =224)		t	p
	$\bar{X}$	S.D.	$\bar{X}$	S.D.		
1. Policy formulation	3.26	0.496	3.09	0.518	3.230	.902
2. Operation	3.16	0.662	2.94	0.508	3.620	.000***
3. Monitoring and evaluation	3.51	0.616	3.51	0.950	0.061	.000***
Overview of all 3 aspects	3.32	0.514	3.18	0.526	2.451	.035*

\* $p \leq .05$  \*\* $p \leq .01$  \*\*\* $p \leq .001$

From Table 2, it was found that the participation of the people in the local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, classified by gender, overall, there was a statistically significant difference at the .05 level.

**Table 3** Comparison of people's participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, classified by occupation.

Categorized by occupation	Sources of variability	SS	df	MS	F	p
1. Policy determination	Between groups	16.445	4	4.111	18.602	.000***
	Within groups	78.461	395	0.221		
	Total	94.906	399			
2. Operational aspects	Between groups	36.737	4	9.184	35.498	.000***
	Within groups	91.847	395	0.259		
	Total	128.584	399			
3. Monitoring and evaluation aspects	Between groups	87.723	4	21.931	54.035	.000***
	Within groups	155.081	395	0.406		
	Total	231.804	399			
Overview of all 3 aspects	Between groups	38.446	4	9.611	56.668	.000***
	Within groups	60.212	395	0.170		
	Total	98.657	399			

\*\*\* $p \leq .001$

From Table 3, it was found that the participation of the people in the local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, classified by occupation in general and each aspect, was found to be significantly different at the .001 level.

When the difference in the mean was found, a pairwise test was performed using LSD using Fisher's method (Fisher's least -significant difference) as follows:



**Table 4** Comparison of pairs of people's participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, classified by occupation in the overall picture.

Public participation	$\bar{X}$	Occupation				
		Government/ State Enterprise	Agriculture	Private Business	Employment	Other
	$\bar{X}$	2.62	3.07	3.66	2.57	2.45
Government/State Enterprise	2.62	-	0.488	.000***	0.407	0.846
Agriculture	3.07	-	-	.000***	.042***	0.335
Private Business	3.66	-	-	-	.000***	.000***
General Employment	2.57	-	-	-	-	0.534
Other	2.45	-	-	-	-	-

\*\*\* $p \leq .001$

From Table 4, the participation of people in the local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, classified by occupation, overall, there were 5 pairs with statistical significance at the .001 level, as follows:

1. The government/state enterprise group had a lower average value than the private business group.
2. Agriculture group has a lower average than Private business group
3. Agriculture group has a higher average than General employment group
4. Private business group has a higher average than General employment group
5. Private business group has a higher average than Other groups

**Table 5** Comparison of pairs of people's participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, classified by policy-making occupation.

Public participation	$\bar{X}$	Occupation				
		Government/ State Enterprise	Agriculture	Private Business	General Employment	Other
	$\bar{X}$	2.28	3.12	3.39	3.00	2.86
Government/State Enterprise	2.28	-	.000***	.000***	.005***	1.000
Agriculture	3.12	-	-	.00*	0.497	.000***
Private Business	3.39	-	-	-	.022***	.000***



Public participation		Occupation				
		Government/ State Enterprise	Agriculture	Private Business	General Employment	Other
	$\bar{X}$	2.28	3.12	3.39	3.00	2.86
General Employment	3.00	-	-	-	-	.005***
Other	2.86	-	-	-	-	-

\*\*\* $p \leq .001$

From Table 5, the participation of the people in the local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, classified by occupation in policy-making, found a statistically significant difference at the .001 level for 8 pairs as follows:

1. The civil service/state enterprise group had a lower mean than the agriculture group.
2. The civil service/state enterprise group had a lower mean than the private business group.
3. The civil service/state enterprise group had a lower mean than the general employment group.
4. The agriculture group had a lower mean than the private business group.
5. The agriculture group had a higher mean than the other groups.
6. The private business group had a higher mean than the general employment group.
7. The private business group had a lower mean than the other groups.
8. The general employment group had a higher mean than the other groups.

**Table 6** Comparison of pairs of people's participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, classified by operational occupation.

Public participation		Occupation				
		Government/ State Enterprise	Agriculture	Private Business	General Employment	Other
	$\bar{X}$	2.28	3.12	3.39	3.00	2.86
Government /State Enterprise	2.57	-	0.102	.000***	.038***	0.145
Agriculture	2.92	-	-	.000*	.000***	.000***
Private Business	3.42	-	-	-	.022***	.000***





Public participation	$\bar{X}$	Occupation				
		Government/State Enterprise	Agriculture	Private Business	General Employment	Other
		2.28	3.12	3.39	3.00	2.86
General Employment	2.00	-	-	-	-	0.603
Other	2.14	-	-	-	-	-

\*\*\* $p \leq .001$

From Table 6, the participation of the people in the local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, classified by occupation in terms of operations, found significant differences at the .001 level in 7 pairs as follows:

1. The civil service/state enterprise group had a lower mean than the private business group.
2. The civil service/state enterprise group had a higher mean than the general employment group.
3. The agriculture group had a lower mean than the private business group.
4. The agriculture group had a higher mean than the general employment group.
5. The agriculture group had a higher mean than the other groups.
6. The private business group had a higher mean than the general employment group.
7. The private business group had a higher mean than the other groups.

Table 7 Comparison of pairs of people's participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, classified by occupation, monitoring and evaluation aspects.





Public participation	$\bar{X}$	Occupation				
		Government/State Enterprise	Agriculture	Private Business	General Employment	Other
		2.28	3.12	3.39	3.00	2.86
Government /State Enterprise	3.00	-	0.488	.000***	0.407	0.846
Agriculture	3.18	-	-	.000***	.042***	0.335
Private Business	4.18	-	-	-	.000***	.000***
General Employment	2.71	-	-	-	-	0.534
Other	2.93	-	-	-	-	-

\*\*\* $p \leq .001$

From Table 7, the participation of the people in the local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, classified by occupation in monitoring and evaluation, found a statistically significant difference at the .001 level for 5 pairs as follows:

1. The civil service/state enterprise group had a lower average than the private business group.
2. The agriculture group had a lower average than the private business group.
3. The agriculture group had a lower average than the general employment group.
4. The private business group had a higher average than the general employment group.
5. The private business group had a higher average than the other groups.

## Discussion

1. The level of public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, is at a low level overall. When considering each aspect, the average value is as follows: Operational aspect, followed by Policy formulation and Monitoring and Evaluation aspect.

1.1 Participation in policy formulation found that the level of public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province is at a low level. This may be because the public relations channels for information and news use the loudspeaker and news announcements by community leaders. In addition, the public does not



understand the process of participating in decision-making. The community is an agricultural society, so there are personal responsibilities that make it difficult to participate in local development activities, which is inconsistent with the research of Benchathikul D. et al. (2023). who studied public participation in local development of Ongkharak Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ongkharak District, Nakhon Nayok Province. The results of the study found that public participation in decision-making was at a moderate level.

1.2 Participation in operations found that the level of public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province was at a moderate level. This may be because the public is an agricultural occupation, lives a sufficient economy, and forms occupational groups. Which is inconsistent with the research of Khampuang, P. et al. (2024). who studied the participation of people in the local development of Nong Khu Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Na Dun District, Maha Sarakham Province. The results of the study found that the participation of people in the local development of Nong Khu Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Na Dun District, Maha Sarakham Province was at a moderate level. 1.3 Participation in monitoring and evaluation It was found that the level of public participation in the local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province was low. This may be because the people only participated in the committee to monitor and evaluate activities according to the local development plan. Acknowledge the summary of the results of the operation according to the report, which is inconsistent with the research of Homhuan L. & Muenduang. P. (2021). who studied the participation of people in the local development of Na An Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Mueang Loei District, Loei Province. The results of the study found that the participation of people in the evaluation of the overall was at a high level.

2. Comparison of differences in the level of public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, when classified by gender and occupation

2.1 Classified by gender, it was found that the level of public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, in the overall picture and in each aspect was different, which was inconsistent with the research of Khampuang, P. et al. (2024). Which studied the participation of people in local development of Ban Han Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Kaset Sombun District, Chaiyaphum Province. The study found that people with different genders, ages, education levels and occupations participated in local development of Ban Han Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Kaset Sombun District, Chaiyaphum Province no differently.

2.2 Classified by occupation It was found that the participation of people in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province, in the overall picture and classified by each aspect, was



significantly different at the .001 level, which was inconsistent with the research of Worasethakun, P. et al. (2020). Which studied the participation of people in the preparation of local development plans of subdistrict administrative organizations in Buriram Province. The study found that people with different occupations There are no different opinions on public participation in the preparation of local development plans by sub-district administrative organizations in Buriram Province.

## Suggestions

### 1. Suggestions for applying the research results

1.1 Increase public relations channels and survey readiness, including adjusting the duration of village community meetings or organizing public forums to be consistent with the context of the people, in order to provide opportunities for the people to express their opinions and participate in determining the direction of local development, making decisions on projects or activities of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province.

1.2 Promote community leaders and the general public to play a greater role in community development, including supporting and encouraging people in the community to participate in projects or activities.

1.3 Open opportunities for the people to participate in the monitoring and evaluation committee by publicizing and explaining the importance of monitoring and evaluation, both directly and indirectly, and to be able to independently present opinions on community development in order for people in the community to receive the greatest benefit.

### 2. Suggestions for future research

2.1 Those interested in studying public participation in local development may choose to study the factors that facilitate or hinder public participation in local development of Wang Man Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Wat Sing District, Chai Nat Province.

2.2 There should be a study of guidelines for developing public participation in local development in order to apply them as guidelines for developing public participation in local development in the future.

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