

# WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL ADMINISTRATION: A CASE STUDY OF BANG LEN DISTRICT, NAKHON PATHOM PROVINCE

VILASINEE JINTALIKHITDEE

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, Thailand  
E-mail: vilasinee.ji@ssru.ac.th

---

**Abstract**— This research aims to study the level of women participation in local administration and the factors affecting women participation in local administration of Bang Len district, Nakhon Pathom province by using random sampling technique which did not rely on the probability of accidental random sampling. The researcher collected data by giving questionnaire to 397 female samples. This covered 19 local administrations in Bang Len district, Nakhon Pathom province. These consist of 4 sub-district municipalities and 15 sub-district administrative organizations. Afterwards, the data was analyzed by using descriptive statistics that consists of arithmetic average, standard deviation and inferential statistics or One way ANOVA (F-test). The research result showed that women in local administration in Bang Len district, Nakhon Pathom province had medium level of administrative participation in local administration. The factors that affect the participation of women in local administration compose of age, income, career, educational level, news recognition, participation in community activities, and social supporting force.

---

**Keywords**— Women Participation, Local Administration.

---

## I. INTRODUCTION

The current democracy is a form of choosing a representative to govern the country. Up until now, the majority of the representatives in Thailand have been male. This would be influenced by the fact that Thai women have been taught to be noble ladies who mainly look after housework and families. Later, the time has changed the role of women. Women not only can work to support their family's living, but also play a significant role in the country's governance and local administration by being political representatives such as members of the House of Representatives, senators, executives and members of local council of local administration [1]. Nowadays, the call for women's right is increasing. Everyone realizes and acknowledges the political participation of women. There are direct and indirect ways to promote and support women in political participation. The examples of direct methods are joint planning, joint determination, joint operation, joint receiving benefit, and joint development results follow-up. An example of indirect method is participation in the election of executives and members of local council of local administration [2]. The increase of women's political participation not only gives advantages to women, but also benefit the development of quality of lives of the people that women are looking after such as children, youth and disadvantaged people since women pay attention to any affairs thoroughly and are interested in the quality of lives of every group; this is different from men who are mostly interested in the big affairs only. For this reason, political participation in every level needs to be based on the equal participation of both women and men, especially at the local government level that is closed to the public the most. To develop democracy successfully, it is necessary to create democratic political culture among the people [3].

In Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province, there were 19 local administrations which include 4 sub-district municipalities and 15 sub-district administrative organizations. Within all of the 19 local administrations, there were only 2 local administrations that have female executives which were Don Tum sub-district administrative organization and Bua Pak Tha sub-district administrative organization. Even though there were still only few female members in the local council of local administration, every female members who were either an executive or council member were accepted by the government officers, local administration staff, and the local people in the areas, not only by the women who lived in the local administration of Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province thanks to their hard work for developing their own organizations. Moreover, they were prime movers who had increased efficiency of the local administration and truly promoted gender equality.

## II. OBJECTIVES

To study the level of women's political participation and the factors influencing the women's administrative participation in the local administration in Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province.

## III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The population used in this research was 47,866 women who lived in the local administration of Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province area; the size of samples was calculated by Taro Yamane formula [4]. Afterwards, 397 samples were selected by non-probability sampling. By using accidental sampling, this research collected data from questionnaires, and then analyzed them by descriptive statistics which included arithmetic mean, standard deviation and

inferential statistics or one-way ANOVA (F-test). The level of the participation in the administration of local administration organization is measured by the means between 4.21-5.00 (Highest), 3.41-4.20 (High), 2.61-3.40 (Medium), 1.81-2.60 (Low), 1.00-1.80 (Lowest).

**IV. RESEARCH RESULTS**

Most of the women in the local administration of Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province participated in the administration of local administration at medium level (3.00). The criteria with the highest average is “participating in the community for showing their opinions upon the decision of plan, project or any activity” (3.27), following by “participating in the meeting with the locality about problems and needs of the public” (3.15), “receiving information” (3.10), “being a member in the group of community to operate the activity arrangement or project development with the locality” (3.06), “providing materials, equipment, or mobilizing locality’s forces” (3.04), and “examining the administration of local that operated work transparently and fairly and meet the needs of the public” (2.97), respectively. The criteria receiving the lowest mean is “participating in the procurement committee” (2.72).

**TABLE I THE LEVEL OF WOMEN’S ADMINISTRATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION IN BANG LEN DISTRICT, NAKORN PATHOM PROVINCE**

Participation	Mean	S.D.	Level
Participating in the committee meeting	2.84	1.28	Medium
Request for receiving information	3.10	1.12	Medium
Participating in the community to show their own opinions upon the decision of plan, project or any activity	3.27	1.14	Medium
Participating in the procurement committee	2.72	1.27	Medium
Making suggestion to local executives in operation/any project	2.87	1.15	Medium
Examining the administration of locality to operate work transparently, fairly, and meet the needs of the public	2.97	1.16	Medium
Being a member in the group of community to operate the activity arrangement or project development with the local	3.06	1.14	Medium

Monitoring budget spending according to the annual budget spending of local legislation correctly, transparently and beneficial	2.96	1.20	Medium
Participating in the meeting with the locality about problems and needs of the public	3.15	1.14	Medium
Providing materials, equipment or mobilizing locality’s forces	3.04	1.12	Medium
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>Medium</b>

The factors influencing women’s participation in local administration, Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province, which are statistically significant at 0.05, consist of age, income, career, education level, receiving information, and participating in the community activities and social support. Meanwhile, “marital status” and “understanding about the local governance” do not affect the participation of women in local administration as shown in the table below:

**TABLE II COMPARISON BETWEEN THE WOMEN’S ADMINISTRATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, SORTED BY AGE**

variables	df	SS	MS	F	P-Value
Between groups	5	1549.634	309.927	2.967	.012*
Inside group	391	40837.303	104.443		
<b>Total</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>42386.937</b>			

\* P-Value < .05

According to Table II, the hypothesis assessment proved that women in the local administration of Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province, who had high diversity in age groups, participated in the administration of the local government in various ways in agreement with the hypothesis.

**TABLE III COMPARISON BETWEEN THE WOMEN’S ADMINISTRATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, SORTED BY INCOME**

variables	df	SS	MS	F	P-Value
Between groups	10	4815.708	481.571	4.948	.000*
Inside group	386	37571.229	97.335		
<b>Total</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>42386.937</b>			

\* P-Value < .05

According to Table III, the hypothesis assessment proved that women in the local administration of

Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province, who had high diversity in income groups, participated in the administration of the local government in various ways in agreement with the hypothesis.

TABLE IV COMPARISON BETWEEN THE WOMEN'S ADMINISTRATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, SORTED BY CAREER

variables	df	SS	MS	F	P-Value
Between groups	5	2071.217	414.243	4.018	.001*
Inside group	391	40315.720	103.109		
Total	396	42386.937			

\* P-Value < .05

According to Table IV, the hypothesis assessment proved that women in the local administration of Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province, who had high diversity in career groups, participated in the administration of the local government in various ways in agreement with the hypothesis.

TABLE V COMPARISON BETWEEN THE WOMEN'S ADMINISTRATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, SORTED BY EDUCATION LEVEL

variables	df	SS	MS	F	P-Value
Between groups	5	1296.696	259.339	2.468	.032*
Inside group	391	41090.241	105.090		
Total	396	42386.937			

\* P-Value < .05

According to Table V, the hypothesis assessment proved that women in the local administration of Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province, who had high diversity in education level groups, participated in the administration of the local government in various ways in agreement with the hypothesis.

TABLE VI COMPARISON BETWEEN THE WOMEN'S ADMINISTRATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, SORTED BY MARITAL STATUS

variables	df	SS	MS	F	P-Value
Between groups	2	9.960	4.980	.046	.955
Inside group	394	42376.977	107.556		
Total	396	42386.937			

\* P-Value < .05

According to Table VI, the hypothesis assessment found that the different marital status of women in the local administration of Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province didn't cause any different in their

participation to administration which did not meet the prior assumption.

TABLE VII COMPARISON BETWEEN THE WOMEN'S ADMINISTRATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, SORTED BY RECEIVING INFORMATION

variables	df	SS	MS	F	P-Value
Between groups	2	3885.990	1942.995	19.88	.000*
Inside group	394	38500.947	97.718		
Total	396	42386.937			

\* P-Value < .05

According to Table VII, the hypothesis assessment proved that women in the local administration of Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province, who had high diversity in receiving information groups, participated in the administration of the local government in various ways in agreement with the hypothesis.

TABLE VIII COMPARISON BETWEEN THE WOMEN'S ADMINISTRATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, SORTED BY UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE LOCAL GOVERNANCE

variables	df	SS	MS	F	P-Value
Between groups	2	192.076	96.038	.897	.409
Inside group	394	42194.861	107.094		
Total	396	42386.937			

\* P-Value < .05

According to Table VIII, the hypothesis assessment found that the different understanding about the local governance of women in the local administration of Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province didn't cause any different in their participation to administration which did not meet the prior assumption.

TABLE IX COMPARISON BETWEEN THE WOMEN'S ADMINISTRATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, SORTED BY PARTICIPATING IN THE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

variables	df	SS	MS	F	P-Value
Between groups	2	6562.096	3281.048	36.08	.000*
Inside group	394	35824.841	90.926		
Total	396	42386.937			

\* P-Value < .05

According to Table IX, the hypothesis assessment proved that women in the local administration of Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province, who

had high diversity in participating in the community activities groups, participated in the administration of the local government in various ways in agreement with the hypothesis.

TABLE X COMPARISON BETWEEN THE WOMEN'S ADMINISTRATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION, SORTED BY SOCIAL SUPPORT

variables	df	SS	MS	F	P-Value
Between groups	2	8311.125	4155.56	48.05	.000*
Inside group	394	34075.812	86.487		
Total	396	42386.937			

\* P-Value < .05

According to Table X, the hypothesis assessment proved that women in the local administration of Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province, who had high diversity in social support groups, participated in the administration of the local government in various ways in agreement with the hypothesis.

## DISCUSSION

The women's administrative participation in local administration in Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province, was scored at medium level in overall. The criteria that received had the highest mean is "participating in the community to show their own opinions upon the decisions of plans, projects or any activities"; this was because the local governance is a form of decentralization to local administrative organizations in order to free them in terms of operations while the central have the legal authority only. Participation is a key to local administration. Women can participate in the local administration through elections, discharges of local executives, local legislation proposals, and participating in local community. Participating in local community will show the political expression that women can easily join in. When the local administration arranged a local assembly to listen to the public's problems and needs, women in the area usually participated in expressing their own opinions mostly to maintain the local interests. This is conformed to the words of [5] stating that the local administrative organization must adhere to the public to work on local area's development. There must be a public forum for the citizens to gather public opinions. In other words, implementing the local development plan requires a community forum as thinking base, resources collection base, decision-making base, operation base and result evaluation base. This open public forum allows the local people to express their needs to local administration. This must be a true chance for the

public to express their ideas, not only listen to the presentations of the local administration. The criteria that had the lowest mean is "participating in the procurement committee" due to the fact that there were a lot of processes highly related to the law which require specific knowledge to operate. Moreover, most of the female samples did not have high education and rather old, so these factors influenced only few women who participated in the procurement committee. This is conformed to the research of [6] entitled "People's Participation in Local Administration: Case Study of Tambon Naikhleng Bangplakot Administration Organization, Phrasamut Chedi, Samutprakarn". This research found out that the samples had the lowest level of local administration in the participation of community committee.

The factors influencing the women's administrative participation in local administration in Bang Len District, Nakhon Pathom Province, which were statistically significant at 0.05, consisted of age, income, career, education level, receiving information, participating in the community activities, and social support. This is conformed to the research of [7] stating that the factors influencing the political participation of women in the local administration area in Ban Phaeo District, Samut Sakhon Province, which were statistically significant at 0.05, consisted of education level, career, meeting participation, being a member of social group, and receiving the political information. This is also conformed to the research of [8] since the factors influencing the political expression of female members in House of Representatives were educational factors, security factors, economic status, political experience factors and the amount of period being the members in House of Representatives. Furthermore, this is also conformed to the research of [9] stating that women in the local administration area in western region had political participation at medium level. The differences in education levels also caused the differences in political protest participation. The differences in careers and political experiences also caused differences in the levels of community activity participation. The differences in adoption of political information via mass media also caused the differences in election results.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The local administration should provide information about the administration of the local government and the ways to participate in the administration of the local government via media channels that women regularly receive information. This consists of personnel media (such as government officers/local administration staff and executives/members of the local administration committee),

broadcasting tower, billboards, public relations, Twitter/Facebook, and so on, that encourages women's information retrieval and political participation.

2. Women should be promoted to have high education. Mostly, they only graduated from elementary schools. Therefore, they should promote and support women to graduate bachelor's degrees due to the fact that education is very important. When women have higher education level, they will recognize the importance of participation and realize their own rights and duties; this will increase their administrative participation in local administration.
3. Women who work in the field of trades or self-employment should be increasingly promoted to participate in the administration of local government
4. due to the fact that since women in this group do not work full-time unlike female government officers or private company officers, so they have more time to work for public. Therefore, there should be promoting the women in this group to participate in the administration of local administration.
5. The local government should participate in any activity arranged with the community and always organize activities to help the women who participate in the community activities to be more familiar and enthusiastic to participate in the activities arranged by the local government as well as encourage them to express their opinions toward the administration of the local government.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is very grateful to Institute for Research and Development, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University ([www.ssru.ac.th](http://www.ssru.ac.th)) for encouragement and supporting.

## REFERENCES

- [1] College of Local Government Development, King Prajadhipok's institute. (2008). *Woman and politics: Reality, political area and motivation*. Bangkok: Thammadaplace Publishing.
- [2] Timraksa, T. (October-December). *Participation of Woman in Local Development: Case Study of Bankhok District, Uttaradit Province*. *Quality of Life and Law Journal*, 9, p. 43.
- [3] Phukamchanoad, P. (2010). *The Pattern of Political Participation of the People in Dusit District, Bangkok*. The Research of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.
- [4] Yamane, T. (1973). *Statistics: An Introductory Analysis*. (3rd ed.). Tokyo: Harper.
- [5] Puang-Ngam, K. (Friday 18 - Thursday 24 march 2011). *How the Local Government Set Up the Public Forums*. *Siam Rath Weekly*, 58, p. 43.
- [6] Udomsri, T. (September-December 2012). *People's Participation in Local Administration: Case Study of Tambon Naikhlung Bangplakot Administration Organization, Phrasamut Chedi, Samutprakarn*. *Veridian E-Journal*, 5, p. 220-238.
- [7] Guedmali, S. (2004). *Political Participation of Women in the Ban Phaeo District, Samut Sakhon Provincial local administration*. Thesis, Master of Arts Program in Social Sciences for Development, Nakhon Pathom Rajabhat University.
- [8] Sangchai, W. (1999). *The Role of Female Members of the House of Representatives in Politics*. Master of Arts (Political Science) Ramkhamhaeng University.
- [9] Chindaphrom, S. (March-August 2013). *Political Participation of Thai Women in the Western Local Government Area*. *Journal of Politics and Governance*, 3, p. 118-133.

★ ★ ★