

Title: The Opinions of the People of Beungkarn District, Nongkhai Province,
On the Improvement of Kamnan and Village Headman Selection

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Abstract

This research aimed to: study the opinions of the people of Beungkarn District, Nongkhai Province, on the improvement of the method of Kamnan and village headman selection; compare the opinions on the improvement of the method of Kamnan and village headman selection, classified by gender, age, occupation and level of education; and study the suggestions from the people of Beungkarn District, Nongkhai Province on the improvement of the method of Kamnan and village headman selection. The sample consisted of 393 people who had the right to vote for a Kamnan and a village headman. These people were 18 years old or older and had their names in the census registration in the District. The instrument used in data collection was a rating scale questionnaire containing 13 items. The statistics used included percentage, mean, and standard deviation. T-test (independent sample) and F-test (One-way ANOVA) were employed in hypothesis testing. When a difference was found, a paired test according to LSD (least significant difference) was used.

The findings are as follows:

1. The level of the opinions of the people of Beungkarn District, Nongkhai Province, on the improvement of the method of Kamnan and village headman selection, as a whole, was in the low level. Ranking from high to low according to the value of the mean, the aspects are as follows: the Ministry of Interior prefers having a Kamnan or a village headman from a selection committee chaired by the district head officer rather than from an election as before;

the selection of Kamnan and village headman will give the highest benefit because people's votes are not concerned; the selection of Kamnan and village headman gives a chance for the people to participate; the 6 committeemen who have been chosen by the people themselves should create transparency in Kamnan and village headman selection and appointment; the selection will acquire persons who clearly separates local government from local area government; the selection method will create unity in the village; the persons selected will be appointed Kamnan or village headman by the provincial governor; the performance of Kamnan and village headman is evaluated every 5 years as long as he is not over 60 years of age; the selection committee have come from a people's meeting where they selected 3 persons; the selection method will provide a chance for capable persons to become Kamnan or village headman; the persons selected will be in their positions continuously for 10 years. And the aspect with the smallest value of the mean is the district head officer appoints 3 persons selection committeemen.

2. In the comparison of the opinions, it was found that male and female had a difference without a statistical significance at .05 level. The difference of age made a difference without a statistical significance at .05 level. The difference in occupation made a difference with a statistical significance at .05 level. Then paired tests were made and it was found that farmers or laborers had a different opinion from merchants or personal career holders with a statistical significance at .05 level.. When classified by level of education, there was a difference with a statistical significance at .05 level. Then paired tests were made and it was found that people with an education at least of associate degree level or equivalent had a different opinion from those with an education in primary level or equivalent. And people with secondary education or equivalent had a different opinion from those with primary education with a statistical significance at .05 level.

3. The suggestions from the people of Beungkarn District, Nongkhai Province are: the method of acquiring Kamnan or village headman should not be a selection but should be an election by the people as in the past; the Ministry of Interior should promote democracy for the people.