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Actual Economy

Local
Solutions for
Global challenges



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ACTUAL ECONOMY

LOCAL SOLUTIONS FOR GLOBAL CHALLENGES

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Local Government Administration and Environment Management

Sukanya Sripho

Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, Bangkok, Thailand

sukanya.sr@ssru.ac.th

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to investigate the role of local government administration in managing the environment. This was a quantitative research and the population included all people in Chiang Karn district, Loei Province, Thailand. A total of 400 samples were collected by simple random sampling method. The questionnaire was developed to collect the data, and one way ANOVA analysis was performed. The finding revealed that there were six important roles of environment management: 1) the promotion of knowledge, understanding, and conscious, 2) the management and preservation of natural resources, 3) the management and hazardous control, 4) the environment projects, 5) the local participation in environment projects, and 6) the policies of environment management. The environment projected was rated at the highest level. In addition, the difference in gender and age makes no differences in the opinions of respondents on the environment management.

Key-words Environment, Management, Roles, Projects

Introduction

Nowadays, the tourism in Thailand spreads into every community in Thailand which creates tremendous effects of on the local environment. One of the environmental problems was the unbalance of over using the resources and the management to preserve and maintain proper environment. This is now an important government policy to make certain that local government administration must play a major role in management and solution in the preservation the environment problems.

Literature review

The management of community environment is the way to promote, maintain, and control the community environment to be in a good condition. It is a process to set up a policy to make local community to have basic knowledge and understand ways to manage environment. Therefore, local participation is an important ingredient of success. To implement the plan of managing the local environment, this must be done with the local support and make certain that local community understand the impact of the hazardous environment to local community in the long run (Cohan, 1996). In Thailand, there is Constitution of Law (2009) Section 290 stated the roles of the local government to promote and preserve the quality of the local environment (Thongpinyochai, 2011) There are six important roles of local government (Department of Local Administration, 2006). The first role is to promote understanding and conscious of protecting the environment. The second is to manage and preserve the quality of natural resource. The third role is to manage and control hazardous materials. The fourth role is to promote environment projects. The fifth role is the role to participate in environment projects. Finally, the sixth role is to create any policy to enhance the quality of local environment.

Methodology

The objective of this research paper was to investigate the role of local government administration to manage the local environment. The population of this study included all people in the Chiang Karn district, Loei Province, Thailand. A total of 400 samples were collected by simple random sampling method (Yamane, 1974). The Likert five scales questionnaire was developed to collect the data, and one way ANOVA analysis was performed. Also, the validity of the questionnaire was tested by using IOC method. The pilot test on 30 samples was performed to obtain a 0.907 Cronbach Alpha.

Conclusions

The findings revealed that the majority of the respondents were female about 53.62 percent and had the age between 31-40 years old or about 48.70 percent. Also, the majority of the respondents reported that in terms of education, the majority had at least high school education or about 30.2 percent with the average income of 10,001-20,000 baht per month or about 21.74 percent. In terms of occupation, the majority of respondents stated that they worked in agriculture or about 33.62 percent. In addition, the majority reported that each one received news from village voice radio or about 45.2 percent. Moreover, there are six important roles of local government administration to manage the local

environment effectively. 1) the promotion of knowledge, understanding, and conscious, 2) the management and preservation of natural resources, 3) the management and hazardous control, 4) the environment projects, 5) the local participation in environment projects, and 6) the policies of environment management. In addition, the difference in gender and age make no differences in the opinions of the respondents on the environment management. Whereas, occupation, income, information received, and level of education made difference in the opinions of the respondents on the environment management with a level 0.05 significance.

TABLE 1 IMPORTANT OF SIX ROLES TO MANAGE THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

Six roles to manage the local environment	Mean	S.D.	Level of Role	Rank
1) the promotion of knowledge, understanding, and conscious	3.41	.88	High	2
2) the management and preservation of natural resources,	3.32	.86	Medium	3
3) the management and hazardous control of the environment	3.30	.89	Medium	4
4) the environment projects	3.49	.93	High	1
5) the local participation in environment projects	3.26	.81	Medium	6
6) the policies of environment management.	3.28	.85	Medium	5

From table 1, the table revealed that there are six important roles of local government need to do in order to improve the local environment. The role of environment projects was ranked number one with a mean of 3.49 and .93 SD. The role of promotion of knowledge, understanding, and conscious was ranked number two with a mean of 3.41 and .88 SD. The role of the management and preservation of natural resources was ranked number three with a mean of 3.32 and .86 SD. The role of the management and hazardous control of the environment was ranked number four with a mean of 3.30 and .89 SD. The role of the policies of environment management was ranked number five with a mean of 3.28 and .85 SD. Finally, the role of the local participation in environment project was ranked number six with a mean of 3.26 and .81 SD.

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