

Governance Concept and Its Index

Nattha Vinijnaiyapak

Abstract

This article reviews governance concept and index. The governance is an important factor in a complex, diverse, and dynamic human society as it is today. The international organizations and developed countries agree on its necessity to improving governmental efficiency, legitimacy, and accountability. The sections provided are Good Governance concept in foreign countries, its concept, index, and situation in Thailand.

There are four research objectives -- 1) to specify a proper frame for evaluating education units' performance according to the governance principles, 2) to study the suitability and obstacle of the present governance index used, 3) to develop a more suitable index, and 4) to guide data management for governance evaluation. The researcher chooses the National Institute of Development

Administration with seven schools as unit of analysis using questionnaire and interview as data collecting method. The research specifies six governance principles --1) Rule of Law, 2) Ethics, 3) Transparency, 4) Participation, 5) Accountability, and 6) Efficiency. The finding is that it is an existing governance index for education units. However, the index that could be used to measure governance is not decided specifically for measure governance in all aspects but mixed with other education quality assessment indicators. Then the article concludes with the research results as the suggested governance index for education units.

Keywords: Governance, Index, Education, Public policy

Has Privatization Been a Positive Development?: the Case of the United States

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Abstract

Privatization advocates argue that reducing the number of public employees is the key to reducing government costs and improving efficiency. In this respect, if privatization has been a positive development, we should see evidence that after privatizing, government agencies provide services more efficiently, spend less money, and have fewer employees. This paper examines whether the trend of privatization in the public sector has been a positive development. Focusing on the ongoing theoretical debate among scholars on the effects of privatization on public employees,

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this paper argues that privatization has not been a positive development in all cases. Relying on a method of examination which consists of both qualitative analysis and quantitative data gathered from secondary sources, the paper finds evidence suggesting that even though public agencies implement privatization, citizens still receive inefficient services, government spending is still increasing, and the number of public employees has not been significantly reduced. This study is important because it provides a clearer picture regarding the development of privatization than many previous studies, particularly those that base their argument on case studies at the local or state level. It also suggests the importance of public personnel management in helping and shaping privatization to function in the way in which privatizers expect.

Keywords: Privatization, Government contracting, Public services improvement, United States

**Citizen Participation in Local Government:
A Case Study of the Tambol Administrative
Organization (TAO) in Namphong District,
Khonkaen Province, Thailand**

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Abstract

The objectives of this article were: (1) to study the participation of citizens in the community in local government administration, and (2) to study the problems and obstacles of such participation. This study employs a qualitative methodology that is based on the interview technique of two groups of citizens: (1) the 21 executive groups and Tambol administrative organization (TAO) Council members, (2) the 30 local community activity leader groups. The data from a total of 51 samples were then analyzed. The research findings include the following.

1. In an exploration of 4 main dimensions of the community citizens' participation, it was found that: 1) In terms of local political participation, most of the citizens demonstrated a high degree of participation because this type of participation offered both monetary and non-monetary compensation. Moreover, some of the leaders were led into local politics by their relatives and by their personal connections. 2) In terms of local society/community participation, the citizens also demonstrated a high degree of participation because they needed to have a social circle where they could express their opinions, exchange ideas, and perform activities that would benefit the community and themselves. 3) With reference to local economic participation, the citizens participated at a moderate to low level because they were busy with earning a living so they did not have enough time to participate. Further, if they were involved in this type of participation, it was because they were required to do so by the TAO. Participation was not regular but was based on the projects. 4) Participation in the TAO's performance, it was found that the level of participation ranged from a moderate to low degree because most of the citizens preferred to receive the existing public services provided by the TAO rather than making requests based on their own needs. There was almost no attempt to examine the TAO's performance from these citizens because they did not wish to be involved in the matter.

2. *The problems and obstacles in relation to the citizens' participation in local government were the following: 1) The local citizens were used to a top-down administration, which was the result of the government's long-standing centralization. and they preferred to be led rather than being agents for change, and this was also true in the case of these citizens. 2) The TAO and local citizens had low experience and lacked skills in self-governance; further, local network cooperation and participation of self-government were not strong enough. 3) Most of the local community citizens were not strong enough to govern themselves, and therefore they were easily influenced and persuaded. 4) Finally, the TAO's administrators tended to respond more to national and provincial politicians' demands rather than those of the local citizens because of the political support gained from these politicians.*

Keywords: Citizen participation, Sense of belonging, Sense of community, Local network, Social safety net

Management Process for Strengthening Communities Patterns, Factors and Indicators

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Abstract

This paper, “Management Process for Strengthening Communities: Patterns Factors and Indicators” is aimed at the study of history of these procedures factors and measurement indexes, related conditions to these procedures, difference among Thai strong communities management, procedures, and social development processes. This research integrates document research, field quantitative research, and qualitative research

The results from this study shows that there are seven factors that generate community development potential including: participation of locals, experience sharing, recreation procedures, rules obligation, community, network, and self-organizing programs.

The results from the study of strong community measurement models indicate that there are six similar utilities: using the index from these models to set operational goals, to assess and to evaluate, to substantiate principles, to generate stronger relations among the community, and to use this as a prototype for the development of new guidelines.

The results from the study of the forms of this measurement index show that there are four important factors: economical indexes such as internal production consumption, internal economic activities, resource allocation, social indexes such as community management, internal relations and networks, cultural study indexes such as culture and local wisdom sharing, internal knowledge management, and natural resource consumption indexes such as resource consumption and conservation.

The following recommendations are made as a result of this study. First, the communities should found their own self-governing organizations in order to strengthen their educational network and to cooperate with the government in order to develop communities efficiently. Next, local governmental organizations should realize the importance of local development by setting development guidelines and allocating a sufficient budget for each community. Last, the national government should encourage local education and participation of community members in order to increase community development potential, and should conserve local knowledge and educational resources.

Keywords: Community, Strong community, Management for strengthening community

The Rule of the Free Trade Area and the Thai Agricultural Sector's Fair Share of Revenue

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the following:

- *The political role of the negotiating process in finalizing the agreement*
- *Recommendations of ideas for the future FTA between Thailand and other trading partners*

This study is a documentary research study. The documents employed come mainly from previous research studies, books, official documents, data and information from various website concerned, the discussion in the focus groups are also undertaken.

The results of the study are as follows:

1) Overall, the agreements benefit the industrial sector more than the agricultural sector. This may widen the income gap between the people in the industrial sector and the agricultural sector if the government does not have the correct? policies and measures to help alleviate the problem, particularly the small farmers that are a major part of the farmers' population.

2) The negotiating process in finalizing the Free Trade Agreements between Thailand and its trading partners is mainly undertaken by the cabinet, which is the administrative part of the country. The lack of symmetrical participation and information on the part of stakeholders, namely representatives from the agricultural and industrial sectors, is apparent in the process of negotiating the FTA. The current constitution, B.E. 2550 in Article 190, empowers the role of the House of representatives and all civil society in the process of negotiating and finalizing the Agreement.

3) Recommendations of guidelines in forming a negotiating framework for the future FTA are as follows:

- a balance between the free trade policy and sustainable development, including the conservation of natural resources and the environment of the country

- exploitation of the Free Trade Agreement in dealing with other trade barrier problems apart from tariff barriers

- a framework of the Agreement should indicate which topics should be included in the negotiations and which topics should not. The framework of the Agreement should also include issues relating to the living standard of the human being to protect poor farmers and the underprivileged in society, which may have a negative effect on the FTA

Keywords: Agricultural sector, Fair share

An Analysis of Burglary Hot Spots in Bangkok

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Abstract

The safety of lives and property of civilians is the fundamental factor in developing a society like Thailand in a continuous and steady manner. Theft (i.e. residential burglary, larceny, and auto theft) is causing a big problem for the entire society. Despite this theft occurring in a great number of cases every year, the clearance rate by police is obviously low compared to other crime offenses. Thus, the way to solve this problem cannot depend solely on police clearance, but also on research to find ways to prevent this type of crime from occurring.

This study utilized GIS (Geographic Information System) technology to identify the areas of theft hot spots and has three main research objectives:

1. *To generate a crime map of theft and identify hot spots for this type of crime in Bangkok*

To find out the factors related to the occurrences of theft in the environments that attract motivate offenders, opportunity, victims, and the police

3. *To suggest prevention measurements for theft offenses in order to reduce this crime*

The study is based on Ecological Criminology, i.e. Broken Windows Theory, Social Disorganization Theory, Theory of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, and Routine Activity Theory, to create a conceptual framework. It utilized call for police service data from the Metropolitan Police Bureau during a one year period, January 1-December 31, 2007. The crime locations were plotted on a digital map using GIS software in order to identify the theft hot spots. The hot spots cover only 2.02% of the Bangkok area but account for 16.17% of the theft occurrences.

The researchers collected the data in the hot spots in the various following ways: field observation; interview with three groups of 105 people that were theft victims, police responsible for the hot spot areas, and people living in the hot spot areas; and in-depth interviews with three experts. The data then were analyzed and compared with the data from the areas with few theft occurrences. The results were then used in three focus group meetings, concluding with the factors involving theft offenses and the measurements to prevent this crime.

The results of this study indicate that the hot spot areas possess the following characteristics: mixed land use, heterogeneous society, physical environment (physical and social deterioration), acceptance of law breaking and lax law enforcement, and the lack of self-protection and protection from the police. The measurements to prevent theft occurrences include the use of proactive patrol strategies, the providing of self-protection education and changing behaviors focusing on persons at risk of being theft victims, the encouragement of people in communities to coordinate in order to prevent crime, the improvement of physical and social environments, and stricter enforcement of law. Future research should pay attention to the areas without or with little theft, as well as the areas outside Bangkok.

Keywords: Crime mapping, Analysis of Burglary Hot Spots, GIS, Bangkok