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GUIDELINES FOR PROMOTING PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATION OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS: A CASE STUDY OF PAK NAM PRAN SUBDISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION, THAILAND

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Abstract

This mixed methods research aimed to study: (1) the level of people's participation of local development plans, (2) factors affecting people's participation with a causal relationship with the participation of people, and (3) guidelines for promoting people's participation in the preparation of local development plans. Samples used in this study were 372 representatives of households aged 18 years and over residing in Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization and 8 key informants. Data were analyzed by using which were frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, chi-square and multiple regression analysis. Research results: (1) the level of people's participation in the preparation of local development plans was at a moderate level, (2) factors affecting people's participation in terms of people's knowledge and understanding, communication, and people's way of life had causal relationships with people's participation at the level of 0.001 statistical significance, and (3) guidelines for promoting people's participation in the preparation of local development plans were: to organize community meetings to prioritize problems, to publicize information in various channels, to encourage people's awareness to participate on sharing resources, to put vocational training projects to the development plans, to follow up and to evaluate the development plans.

Keywords: Participation, Local Development Plan, Subdistrict Administrative Organization

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Introduction

The development strategic framework of local government organizations in Prachuap Khiri Khan Province indicates that the preparation of local development plan of the local government organization in each area is very important which can be used as a guideline for local development in accordance with the environment, potential of local government organizations and respond to the needs of local people. (Prachuap Khiri Khan Provincial Administrative Organization, 2021: 1) In addition, according to the Pranburi District development strategic plan, there is bolstering the development, strengthening of villages and communities, Improve quality of people's life. (Pranburi District Office, 2021: 1-10). Therefore, people's participation in local development is very important to the development of all the organizational, community, local and national level. Especially, the local government organizations which is the organizations that people can participate the most because it is a decentralized agency from the central government to the people to self-government. Local government organizations are like governments of local with independence power to manage local development and can respond to the needs of the local the most. As Abraham Lincoln (Gettysburg Foundation, 2021) said: "Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people." causing the people's participation and the local development are the important matters in accordance with the principles of democracy and government policies. (Deelamai, 2015: 25-26)

Local development in each area needs to come up with a local development plan. Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization has been prepared the local development plan according to the vision and development guidelines in line with the National strategy, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province local government organizations Development strategy and Pranburi District Development Strategy. In fact, in the preparation of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization development plan is quite less participated people compared with the total population of 7,328 people (Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization, 2021) causing a proposing problem, prioritization of problems and solutions and development of each village that in which each village has different needs and problem conditions. As a result, the organization's operations still do not cover all the problems and needs. In addition, people are not interested to solve the community problems by themselves. They are lack of interest in the plan preparation and do not know what the plan is about them. People still misunderstand that solving local problems is duties of government agencies, therefore, they do not pay attention. The most of the decisions are come from local leaders and community leaders. Therefore, the importance of local development plan is to use as a framework for the preparation of the annual budget expenditure provisions which is an important manual in Local development and practice of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization because the people do not give importance to participate in the process of the local development plan preparation which affects the success of public service and the policy of Subdistrict Administrative Organization.

From the above stated problems, this research found the importance of people's participation in local development to promote people in community, leaders and stakeholders to have participated in comments, suggestions, the needs statements, participation in consensus decision-making, participation in the actual operations, and to follow up and to evaluate the local development. It also makes the local development appropriate and truly meet people's needs which will result in sustainable local strength. The results of the study will improve and guidelines for promoting people's participation in the preparation of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization local development plans.

Research Problems

- 1) What is the level of people's participation of local development plans?
- 2) Are the factors that affecting people's participation affect to the Preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization?

3) How are the guidelines for promoting people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization?

Objectives

- 1) To study the level of people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization.
- 2) To study the factors affecting people's participation with a causal relationship with people's participation in the preparation of Local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization.
- 3) To study the guidelines for promoting people's participation in the preparation of Local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization.

Research Conceptual Framework

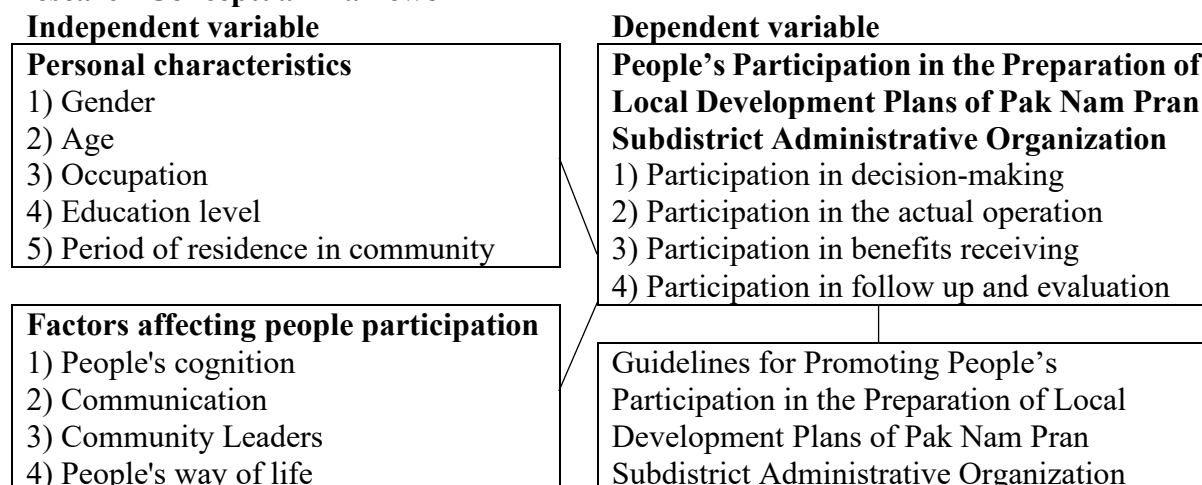


Figure 1 Research conceptual framework

Methodology

Population and Samples

The population used in this study were 5,146 representative's households aged 18 years and over in the Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization (Pranburi District Registration Office, 2021).

The sample used in this study were representative's households aged 18 years and over in the Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization that was determined by the Taro Yamane's formula (1973: 727-728) of 372 people. This research determined the sample by using the principle of probability and Stratified Random Sampling.

The key informants in in-depth interview were selected by the purposive sampling method. This research defined purposive sampling in a group of Chief Executive Officer of the SAO of Pak Nam Pran, the 2 members of the SAO council, 2 community leaders, Chief Administrator of the SAO of Pak Nam Pran and 2 Subdistrict officer who involved with the preparation of Local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization.

Research Instruments

The research Instruments in this study were the 372 questionnaires. The questionnaire structure had 4 important parts as follows:

Part 1: personal characteristics were 1) gender 2) age 3) occupation 4) education level 5) period of residence in community. There were 5 questions in the form of a check list.

Part 2: Information on factors affection people's participation were 1) people's cognition 2) communication 3) community leaders 4) people's way of life. It consists of 20 questions with a score of 5 levels.

Part 3: It was a questionnaire about people's participation in the preparation of local development plans: 1) participation in decision-making 2) participation in the actual operation

3) participation in benefits receiving and 4) participation in follow up and evaluation. It consists of 20 questions, with a score of 5 levels.

Part 4: Comments and Suggestions.

Correctively has been done by the advice of advisor that reviewed questionnaire for accuracy in content, including language and idiom. Content Validity has done by the 3 experts that reviewed for Content Validity and bring the results together then calculating content fidelity, find Index of item Objective Congruence (IOC) of 1.00. Reliability test has been made by testing the revised questionnaire (Try-Out) with the people who had the same characters as the population and not the research sample. The groups of people who took this questionnaire were 30 people of the representative's households aged 18 years and over in the Sam Roi Yod Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Sam Roi Yod District, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province, who were not the samples, to find Reliability of the questionnaire by a software package for calculating Cronbach's Alpha Coefficient and get the confidence alpha coefficient value of 0.941 of the overall questionnaires.

Data Collection

The primary data was collected by distributing 372 questionnaires manually to the sample. This research collected data from the questionnaires to check for accuracy and completeness for statistical analysis and synthetic analysis to achieve research objectives. The secondary data was collected from the concept, theories, documents, textbooks and related research as well as searching for information in the information technology and on the internet. The questionnaires have been collected then verify correctness to prepare for the data analysis process. Data were collected from in-depth interviews with 8 key informants by structured-the interviews, compiled the information and then compiled in the further process.

Data Analysis

This research conducted a statistical data analysis consisting of frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and analysis of personal characteristics. It had causal relationship with the people's participation in the preparation of Local Development Plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization. This research used Chi-square Test Statistic that the significance was set at the 0.05 level and analyzing the correlation cause-effect of factors affecting people participation with the people's participation in the preparation of Local Development Plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization by Multi Linear Regression Analysis and the independence of the error test was Durbin-Watson, which was equal to $1.5 \leq \text{Durbin-Watson} \leq 2.5$, where Significance was set at the 0.05 level.

Qualitative data was analyzed by content analysis techniques. This research examined the data before analyze to ensure the research results were accurate and the credibility of the data. The information obtained from various sources was compared from the contributors then used content analysis techniques by interpreting from the preliminary data to be the information that conveys the meaning of the informants by categorizing and attenuating data to categorize in order to interpret and draw conclusions. This research had brought together the results of various conclusions to form a structure of conclusions that can answer the problem according to the research objectives.

Research Results

Personal characteristics of the respondents found that most of them were female (63.70%), aged 51-60 years (30.40%), Occupation: Farmer (33.10%), completed high school/vocational education (48.90%), and had a period of residence in community 11 years and over (52.70%). The effected factors of people participation with the people's participation in the preparation of Local Development Plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization, on the whole, in the moderate level ($\bar{x} = 3.39$, S.D. = 0.40). In each aspect, found that the issue that was at a high level was community leaders with the highest mean ($\bar{x} = 3.62$, S.D. = 0.51),

people's way of life ($\bar{x} = 3.53$, S.D. = 0.51). The issues that were at the moderate level was communication ($\bar{x} = 3.35$, S.D. = 0.60) and People's cognition ($\bar{x} = 3.07$, S.D. = 0.50).

The people's participation in the preparation of Local Development Plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization, on the whole, in the moderate level ($\bar{x} = 2.81$, S.D. = 0.44). In each aspect found that the issue that was at a high level was participation in benefits receiving with the highest average ($\bar{x} = 3.55$, S.D. = 0.50). The issues that were at the moderate level was participation in follow-up and evaluation ($\bar{x} = 2.74$, S.D. = 0.66). The issue that was at the low level was participation in the actual operation ($\bar{x} = 2.53$, S.D. = 0.65) and participation in decision-making ($\bar{x} = 2.41$, S.D. = 0.70).

The guidelines for promoting people's participation in the preparation of Local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization found as follow:

1) the participation in decision-making suggest that the SAO should organize a community meeting in each village regularly to clarify the importance of prioritizing problems that need to be addressed first through the vote in the village community as the main resolution. To rate the importance of each problem.

2) the participation in the actual operation as a whole view, the SAO should be placed on coordinating and providing the necessary information for the preparation of local plans by publicize information in various channels thorough Facebook or line, SAO website, public broadcasting, online media, community leaders, and various volunteer groups to push the problems passed through the vote from the community forum. The executives, council members and community leaders should survey the area to ask for opinions of people then prepare the invitation, public broadcasting and online media of the Subdistrict Administrative Organization for the people to participate on activity. The organize activities or projects that are relevant to the people in the area as much as possible to create motivation, to encourage people's awareness about the importance of the community and to participate on sharing resources for the project or activities of the SAO in the following years.

3) the participation in benefits receiving in the whole view, found that the SAO set the project of Promotion of vocational training at agricultural and Improve the Quality of Life. The community inquiry about professional needs in each occupation group to be able to set up a budget, to conduct training to achieve the local development plan that have been defined. For example, street food roads along the coast for that people can participate in selling food to tourist causing people have more income. In addition, people can express their opinions on the needs and problems in public use. As well as informing the public that if they want to use public areas, they must be approval from the village committee and from the SAO and come to a conclusion together. when it was concluded, the comments will take into the further local development plans.

4) The participation in a follow up and evaluation, SAO should focus on organizing the community meeting with the people in the village, the subdistrict leader and the village leader to inquire about problems and find solutions from follow-up and evaluate as well as inquire about people's satisfaction from local development plans, projects or activities from local development plan. In the part of budget expenditure Monitoring, SAO selects the village representatives to attend the Monitoring, Publicizing or announcing the annual budget expenditure report and all project performance through the website or post an announcement in front of the office. Therefore, people can verify the information openly.

Hypothesis Testing

The results of the analysis of personal characteristics had a causal relationship with people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization.

Table 1 Personal characteristics had a causal relationship with people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of SAO of Pak Nam Pran.

Personal characteristics	People's participation in the preparation of local development plans of SAO of Pak Nam Pran				
	participation in decision-making	participation in the operations	participation in benefits receiving	participation in follow up and evaluation	On the whole
1) Gender	0.000***	0.000***	0.000***	0.031*	0.000***
2) Aged	0.002**	0.000***	0.000***	0.049*	-
3) Occupation	0.003**	0.000***	0.000***	-	0.041*
4) Education level	-	0.000***	0.000***	-	-
5) period of residence in community	-	0.000***	0.000***	-	0.001***

From Table 1, it was found that overall personal characteristics are as follows: gender and the period of residence in community has casual relationships with people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization at the level of 0.001 statistical significance. The occupation had casual relationships with people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization at the level of 0.001 statistical significance.

Table 2 The factors affecting people's participation that causal relationship with people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization.

Factors affecting people's participation	People's participation in the preparation of local development plans of SAO of Pak Nam Pran				
	B	S.E.	Coefficient	t	Sig.
(Constant)	0.487	0.146	-	3.343***	0.001
1) People's cognition	0.251	0.039	0.283	6.450***	0.000
2) Communication	0.182	0.035	0.248	5.223***	0.000
3) Community leaders	-0.065	0.035	-0.074	-1.825	0.069
4) People's way of life	0.331	0.040	0.384	8.348***	0.000

Note: * $p \leq 0.05$; $R = 0.718$; ** $p \leq 0.01$; $R^2 = 0.516$; *** $p \leq 0.001$; Adjusted $R^2 = 0.510$; $F = 97.717$; Significance level = 0.000; Durbin-Watson = 1.501

From Table 2, the results of the data analysis revealed that factors affecting people's participation had a causal relationship with people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of the SAO of Pak Nam. From the test Durbin-Watson is equal to 1.501. The correlation between independent variable and dependent variable (R) was at a high level of 0.718 and considering the Standardized Variables 51.00-51.60 percent in multiple regression analysis and Coefficient Beta. Sorted in the following order: people's way of life ($\beta_{\text{people's way of life}} = 0.384$, Sig. = 0.000), People's cognition ($\beta_{\text{people's cognition}} = 0.283$, Sig. = 0.000), Communication ($\beta_{\text{communication}} = 0.248$, Sig. = 0.000) and Community's leader ($\beta_{\text{community's leader}} = -0.074$, Sig. = 0.069). Namely, people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of the SAO of Pak Nam Pran had a causal relationship with the result of various factors: people's way of life, people's cognition and communication.

Forecasting equation as follows:

$$\hat{y} = b_0 + b_1x_1 + b_2x_2 + b_4x_4$$

= 0.487 + 0.251 (people's cognition) + 0.182 (communication) + 0.331 (people's way of life)
 \hat{y} means people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of the SAO of Pak Nam Pran which had suitable for the value of R^2 (Coefficient of Determination) at a moderate level, which is equal to = 0.516.

Conclusion and Discussion

The result on People's participation in the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization found that people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization at the moderate level. It shows that people in Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization express their views, exchange information, opinions, share problems and the needs of the people, in a joint decision, co-operate and participate in the monitoring and evaluation to solve problems and develop according to people's needs but not as much as it should be because the results of the research are moderate level. This is consistent with the theory of Cohen and Uphoff. (Cohen & Uphoff, 1977: 6) proposed that there are four steps of participation which are 1) Decision Making: it is an evaluation of problems or alternatives that can be feasible to implement for development by assessing the status and the cause of the problem, 2) Implementation: It is the implementation of projects and plans that gives a sense of ownership of activities and works, 3) Benefits and 4) Evaluation can be divided into 3 parts: (4.1) participate in goals evaluation setting. This process refers to how people determine what to evaluate, such as sufficiency, satisfaction, effectiveness and fairness. (4.2) Participate in defining steps in the evaluation process. This process refers to determines whether to evaluate: the productivity input, impact or evaluation at every process. (4.3) Participate in the process of administration, monitoring and evaluate. This process refers to participate in the evaluation process. Consistent with the research of Tepwong (2015: 75-86) Research Subject: People's Participation in Local Planning of Laem Fhapa Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Phra Samut Chedi District, Samut Prakan Province. The results showed that People's participation was at a moderate level in order to receive the benefit, collaboration and planning, participation in monitoring and evaluation, and implementation. This result consists with the research of Tophol (2018: 93-101) on the research of people's participation in the preparation of the four-year local development plan of the Na Rat Khwai Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Mueang Nakhon Phanom District, Nakhon Phanom Province. The results showed that People's participation was at a moderate level in 2 issues, at the low level in 1 issue and at the lowest in 1 issue which were the problems finding, decision, implementation and monitoring and evaluation respectively, and the result is also consistent with the research of Chamnanying (2017: 70-74) on the study of participation of People in the development plan of Tapraj Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Ta Praya District, Sa Kaeo Province. The results showed that People's participation was at a moderate level which were the operation, inspection, benefit receiving, planning and problems finding respectively. Factors affecting people's participation had a causal relationship with people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization found that the factors affecting people's participation are people's cognition, communication and people's way of life. In the overview, it had a causal relationship with people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization at the level of 0.001 statistical significance, which shows that people's cognition, communication and people's way of life had a causal relationship with people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization for the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization has been successful and meets

the needs of the people. This result is consistent with the research of Kumkong (2017: 169-173) on the people's participation in the preparation of the three-year development plan of Rai Som Subdistrict administrative organization, Mueang Phetchaburi District, Phetchaburi Province. The results showed that the factors affecting people's participation were people's cognition, communication, people's way of life and community leaders that had a causal relationship with people's participation in the preparation of the three-year development plan of the Rai Som Subdistrict Administrative Organization, Mueang Phetchaburi District, Phetchaburi Province at the level of 0.001 statistical significance.

The result of the guidelines for promoting people's participation in the preparation of Local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization found that the SAO should organize the community meetings in order for the people to understand the prioritize problems that must be solved first through voting in the village community as the main resolution by coordinating and providing necessary information in the preparation of local plans that the information published in various channels thorough Facebook line, SAO website, public broadcasting, online media, community leaders, and various volunteer groups to push the problems through the vote from the community consensus. The executives, council members and community leaders should survey the area to ask for people's opinions. Then, prepare the invitation, public broadcasting and SAO online media for the people to participate on activities or projects that are relevant to the people in the area as much as possible to create motivation, to encourage people's awareness about the importance of the community and to participate on sharing resources for the project or activities of the SAO. The SAO had the project of career promotion training at Agricultural and Improve the Quality of Life to meet the community inquiry about professional needs in each occupation group in order to be able to set up a budget. It requires to conduct the training to achieve the local development plan that have been defined. In addition, people can express their opinions on the needs and problems in public use as well as informing the public that if they want to use public areas, they must be approval from the village committee and from the SAO and come to a conclusion together. When it concluded, the comments will take into the further local development plans in terms of problems and solutions, from monitoring and evaluation, that the SAO should organize the community meeting with the people in the village, the subdistrict leader and the village leader to inquire about people's satisfaction from local development plans, projects or activities from local development plan. In the terms of Budget Expenditure Audit, SAO will select the village representatives to attend the inspection then publicize or announce the annual budget expenditure report and all project performance through the website or post an announcement in front of the office. So that people can verify the information openly.

Factors affecting people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization found that people's cognition have a highly causal relationship with people's participation in the preparation of local development plans because if the people have cognition, this will make people want to take part in the process of the preparation of local development plans. Therefore, the SAO should arrange the training to educate villagers, prepare a manual or make understood about the preparation of local development plans, meeting to clarify the policy and the direction from the management in accordance with the needs of the people, for people to have knowledge and understanding and participate in the preparation of local development plans correctly. Also make people understood about the importance of local development plans to persuade people to participate and understood the importance of local development plans. The communication had a highly causal relationship with people's participation in the preparation of local development plans. The SAO should develop the communication to be more comprehensive by publicize through public broadcasting, village line group and communicating people by the community leaders about the preparation of local development plans. The people's way of life had a quite highly

causal relationship with people's participation in the preparation of local development plans further to the most of the people are farmers or work outside the area which will have free-time in the evening, therefore, unable to participate in the preparation of the local development plan of the Subdistrict Administrative Organization comfortably. Hence, the SAO should arrange to suit the daily life of the people and in each village may be during non-working hours or in the early evening after work in order not to affect the work of the people in the community. The result is consistent with research by Boakye-Agyei (2009: 215); stakeholder participation of local development projects in Ghana implicated from the interviewed of 118 samples as follows: community leaders, people in the community and local officer. The research expressed that for more than 20 years, the local stakeholders had been concerned about growth by lack of cognition of Local Development Projects. The initial idea of participation was effective feedback and participation requires creativity from society. The relevant factor is the participation of the public sector more than publicize about participation. Therefore, effective local development requires the participation of people from all sectors, etc.

Suggestions for applying the research results

- 1) The Decision-Making Participation: the SAO should provide opportunities for people to participate in decision-making in prioritizing projects/activities, participated in the assessment of community problems and participated in the priority criteria determined of projects/activities.
- 2) The implementation Participation: the SAO should provide opportunities for people to participate in taking care of the public services which provided by the Subdistrict Administrative Organization, participate in the implementation of local development plans and providing advice on the implementation of projects/activities of the Subdistrict Administrative Organization.
- 3) The benefit-receiving participation: the SAO should provide opportunities for people to participate in the use of the public facilities through the preparation of local development plans, had career promotion and develop income from local development plans.
- 4) The participation in monitoring and evaluation: the SAO should provide opportunities for people to participate in monitoring the implementation of projects/activities in the local development plan, participated in the audit of the budget expenditures of the SAO and participate in finding solutions to problems through monitoring and evaluation.

Suggestions for the future research

- 1) Research should be done on guidelines for promoting people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization. By studying weaknesses, strengths, obstacles and opportunities. And to bring the research results to find solutions and to promote the people's participation in the preparation of local development plans of Pak Nam Pran Subdistrict Administrative Organization to be even better.
- 2) Should study the guidelines for promoting people's participation in the preparation of the SAO local development plans in everywhere in Pranburi District, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province. in order to obtain information in a broader picture and with close context to solve the problems that occur exactly to the point.

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Data Availability Statement: The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

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