

## People's Participation in Community Development: Ban Khon Khwang Community, Mueang District, Prachinburi Province, Thailand

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### Abstract

People's participation is necessary in development in organization, community, and national level. In Thailand, there is Local administration, which is decentralized from the government, is one of the sectors that people can participate directly. It has autonomy to serve the needs of people in the local society. Therefore, people's participation is important to make their rights and evaluate the local administration. The objective of this study is to the impact of between perceptions of information on community development and factors that supporting participation that effect people's participation in the community. This study was conducted in Prachinburi is one of the prosperous provinces in Thailand by using quantitative method and there were 112 respondents. The results showed that perception of information on community development including information about policy, planning, and operations, and factors supporting participation including training attendance, activity attendance, and group membership had effect on people's participation for 72.70 percent. The recommendation was that the government sector or related organizations could enhance the level of people's participation by increasing the channels that provide information to the community and encourage people attending the training, activities and group membership.

**Keywords:** Community development, Good governance, Participation, Participatory governance

## Introduction

Nowadays people's participation is necessary in development in organization, community, and national level. The concept of people's participation has played important role since The fifth National Economic and Social Development Plan which emphasized on people rather than economic growth. This approach has changed from top-down to bottom-up in order to serve the plan. The bottom-up approach also in accordance to Oakley (1984) that stated that it was closely relate to people's participation concept.

In Thailand, there is Local administration, which is decentralized from the government, is one of the sectors that people can participate directly. It has autonomy to serve the needs of people in the local society. Therefore, people's participation is important to make their rights and evaluate the local administration. However, involvement of people in the community is inadequate in term of recognition and analysis of problems and solutions. Communications between community administrators, leaders, developers, and the Subdistrict Administrative Organization are deficient in order to make decisions.

There are tourist attractions such as adventure and historical tourism. Khon Kwang is one of the villages that are supported by the Provincial Community Development Office of Prachinburi. The Office is operated under the The 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan that focuses on the community development in order to achieve honest livelihood under the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. The objectives of the Office is to develop system and mechanism of participation and learning in community, develop mechanism and activities in accordance to the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, solve poverty problems in the community, reinforce the gross happiness, develop leadership in organization and networks, and integrate the community development plan into action. In order to achieve the community development plan according to the Office's objectives, people's participation plays important role to drive plan into action. However, the obstacles in accordance to the community development plan is that people in the community is lack of interest or participation (Yuenyong, 2018). Moreover, there was lack of publicity about the ability of people to participate in community development programs. Therefore, the objectives of the study were to explore factors that have impact on people's participation in Prachinburi Province. The results would be the guideline for the government and related sectors in order to improve and develop people's participation in community.

## Literature Review

### People's participation

People's participation has been used for approximately 30 years. According to the United Nations Department of International Economic and Social Affairs (1981), people's participation is structuring and distributing authority for people in the community in order to enable them to express their needs and participate in community development. People in the community also gain benefits from the development. Chittangwattana (2005) stated that people's participation is associations of individuals or group of people that responsible in

developing activities that benefits the community. Those individuals become a part of developing local wisdom, able to analyze and make decisions in their own lives. King Prajadhipok's Institute (2005) as cited in Boonratmaitree et al. (2020) stated that people's participation is activity involvement of people that truly benefits the community as a whole. In practice, people can participate in operation in activities, operation, resources. Some approaches concern people's participation as presence in activities that are from top-down policy, while others used public hearing that are bottom-up approach. However, the practices such as provide resources to external organizations' project or attend the public hearing and involve only in acknowledging the projects are not considered as people's participation. People's participation concept is originated in order to have stakeholders in the community address their needs and attend activities that affect the way of live. Those needs are considered as a part of policy and decision making of the government. The procedure can start from providing information to stakeholders, public hearing, planning in cooperation, and develop potential of people in the community.

### **The principle of people's participation**

Hutanuwat and Hutanuwat (2003) stated that the principle of people's participation includes 3 principles as shown below:

1) The principle of consciousness and responsibility. The principle of consciousness and responsibility is an important principle that organizations in public sectors, private sectors, and civil society. This principle includes providing opportunity to audit those sectors. This will reflect responsibility to the public and stakeholders. This principle is necessary to act in accordance with the rule of law and transparency.

2) Worthiness. Worthiness is to consider the best interests of the public by utilizing limited resources for maximum benefit and sustainability. Moreover, environment protection should be considered as well as the competitive advantages.

3) Goals and methods of participatory planning. People's participation can be considered as goals and methods. This procedure requires involvement to create sense of owner, resulting in mutual responsibility and group benefits as the strength of the group is one of the goals (Hutanuwat & Hutanuwat, 2003).

### **Level of people's participation**

In order to measure the level of people's participation, Arnstein (1969) put the importance on the power of decision making and presented Ladder of Citizen Participation. This concept has been accepted and used since 1969. There were 8-step participation ladder namely: manipulation; therapy; informing; consultation; placation; partnership; delegated power; and citizen control.

It can be indicated that minimum level or step 1 – step 2 is false participation or nonparticipation. Most people do not have the power to make decisions. Only a minority of people play a major role in the decision making.

Intermediate lever or step 3 – step 5 is partial participation or tokenism. People have opportunity to express their opinions but there is no guarantee that those opinions will be responded from the decision-makers.

Advanced level or step 6 – step 8 is citizen power. People have more power in decision making and are able to enhance the level of negotiations by having representatives, controlled by the people through representatives, or acting as a decision-maker.

### **Dimensions of people's participation**

Cohen & Uphoff (1980) stated people's participation requires four dimension as follow:

1) Decision making is the process that people can express opinions about structure or the structure of the project. Decision making can be categorized into three parts: initial decision; ongoing decision; and operational decision.

2) Implementation is the operation in accordance to the project and plan. This dimension enables people to be part of the owner of the activities and outcomes. Implementation can be categorized into three parts: resource contribution; administration and co-ordination supports; and program enlistment activities.

3) Benefits, Keaw-udom (2009) stated that benefits of people's participation including: (1) the quality of decision making, the process of public consultation allows the clarification of the objectives and needs of a project or policy; (2) reducing cost and time; (3) commitment, people's participation can build firm and sustainable commitment. Political conflicts can be reduced as well as the government has legitimacy to make decisions; (4) the ease to implementation. People's participation creates sense of belonging in the community; and (5) avoidance of confrontation in "the worst case". Conflicts lead to hostility and can be uneasy to solve. Involvement from the beginning can reduce confrontation in the worst case scenario.

4) Evaluation is an assessment and analysis of the results of the operations by people in the community. Evaluation includes analyzing advantages and disadvantages in alternatives in order to find solutions for better operations. Wattanasen (2016) stated that a role of people in auditing the management of public affairs of the organization and local government is in line with the new government administration of the Strategic Plan for the Development of the Thai Government System (B.E. 2556-2561).

These dimensions are continued as cycle in community development activities that requires continuous effort. Though, there was no full cycle or completed cycle in practice as there were obstacles. However, these dimensions can be tangible toolset that attract and present as the principle of people's participations in community development.

### **Characteristics and Factors Supporting People's Participation**

In order to have people participate in community development programs, factors supporting people's participation should be considered in order to improve the effectiveness and enhance the involvement in decision making, implementation, benefits, and evaluation as mentioned above.

Phiratham (2012) stated that people's participation helps people understand, initiate, and plan for operations that help developing the community. Therefore, there should be an initiation that enable people develop the community together, develop themselves to feel that they are valuable and honored, and fully open for participation. They also stated that the uses of practice in people's participation include participation in planning, initiate programs, utilizing resources, express opinions or recommendations, acknowledgement of policy, participate as a group member, participate in activities, and participate in training sessions.

From the study above, these factors that affect people's participation were align with Cohen and Uphoff (1980)'s concept of people's participation.

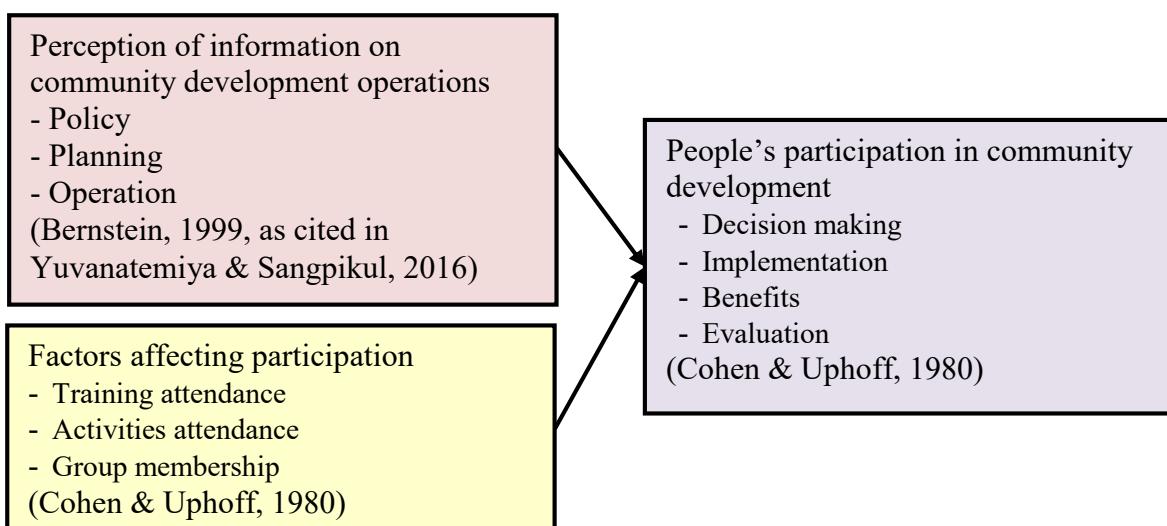
### Perception of information on community development operations

Bernstein (1999) stated that perception is the process after the stimulator is interpreted by using knowledge, experiences, and understanding of each person. Learning to perceive is important since it is only sensing without knowledge and experiences. Perception behavior is the process that after sensing, which is to respond to the environment. It is the process of translating the meaning of stimuli that come from sensing process. Once the receiver or organs has stimulated, the process will be sensing and the sensing are translated or interpreted as a perception.

From literature review, 2 hypothesis and conceptual framework was shown below:

Hypothesis 1: Level of perception of information on community development including policy, planning, and operation had effect on people's participation in Ban Khon Khwang Community, Mueang District, Prachinburi Province

Hypothesis 2: Level of factors that supporting participation including training attendance, activity attendance, and group membership had effect on people's participation in Ban Khon Khwang Community, Mueang District, Prachinburi Province



**Figure 1** Conceptual framework

(Source: Joomsoda & Tirasuwanvasee, 2022)

## Methodology

### Research design

This study used quantitative methodology. Samples were selected by using stratified random sampling including 112 family leaders or representatives. The instrument used was questionnaire that comprised four parts. The first part included gender, age, educational level, occupation, incomes, and period of residence in the community. The second part was the environment of respondents including the environment of the community and group attendance. This part was open-ended questions. The third part was the perception to people's participation in developing the community in four dimensions: decision making; implementation; benefit; and evaluation. The scale of each questions were five levels: 1 means very rarely participated; 2 means rarely; 3 means moderately participated; 4 means frequently; and 5 means very frequently participated. Descriptive statistics including mean and standard deviation (S.D.) were analyzed. The criteria of perception level were: 4.50 – 5.00 means the perception has the highest level; 3.50 – 4.49 means high level; 2.50 – 3.49 means moderate level; 1.50 – 2.49 means low level; and to 1.00 – 1.49 means the least level. Cronbach's alpha of the questionnaire was 0.90. After the questionnaires were distributed to the sample of the study, data was analyzed by using descriptive statistics and correlation between perception of information on community development and people's participation, and factors effecting participation and people's participation.

## Results

Results of this study were categorized into 5 parts which were demographic, level of perception of information, factors supporting people's participation, level of participation, and hypothesis testing.

### Part One: Demographics of respondents according to the first part of the questionnaire

Respondents' demography was shown in Table 1.

**Table 1** Demographics of respondents

Demographic	Amount	Percentage
1. Gender		
Male	48	42.86
Female	64	57.14
2. Age (year)		
Under 20	8	7.14
20 – 40	57	50.89
41 – 60	45	40.18
61 or above	2	1.79
3. Educational level		
Undergraduate	84	75.00
Bachelor's Degree	25	22.32
Post-graduate	3	2.68
4. Occupation		
Business owner	7	6.25
Agriculture	68	60.71
Government service/state enterprise	27	24.11
Work for hire	10	8.93
5. Income (Baht/Month)		
Under 15,000	55	49.11
15,000 – 20,000	32	28.57
20,001 – 25,000	20	17.86
25,001 or above	5	4.46
6. period of resident in the community		
5 year	3	2.68
5-10 year	46	41.07
10 or above	63	56.25
7. Status in the community		
Community leader/member of Sub district Administrative	12	10.71
Organization/ group member/ villager		
Villager	100	89.29
Total	112	100.00

## Part two: The level of perception of information on community development operations

Perception of information on community development operations of respondents were categorized into perception of policy, planning, and operation. Mean and standard deviation of each category was shown in Table 2.

**Table 2** Mean and standard deviation of perception of information on community development operations

Perception of Information	Mean	S.D.	Level of perception
<b>Policy</b>	4.66	0.50	Highest
1. There was a policy on assistance and/or public system that is beneficial to the community.	4.66	0.53	Highest
2. There was a policy on assistance and/or a policy that continuously support volunteer activities with the community, such as environment and local traditions conservation.	4.65	0.55	Highest
3. There was a policy on cooperation with the government sector in career, education, sports and sanitation improvement in order to enhance the quality of life.	4.68	0.63	Highest
<b>Planning</b>	4.59	0.54	Highest
1. There was a management approach in community development to become a desired community.	4.60	0.53	Highest
2. There was a risk management plan in case of problems and impact on manpower or environment.	4.58	0.55	Highest
3. There was a plan that indicates direction and approach in community development.	4.60	0.63	Highest
<b>Operation</b>	4.60	0.55	Highest
1. Leaders of the community put emphasized on social and environment in operations.	4.59	0.67	Highest
2. Leaders of the community focused on participation with people in the community in the operations.	4.54	0.63	Highest
3. Leaders of the community had good values towards the society and are responsible for all stakeholders.	4.61	0.66	Highest
4. Leaders of the community built trust and confidence in by taking into account the prevention of potential impacts.	4.66	0.62	Highest
5. Leaders of the community had intention in enhance well-being of people and environment in the community	4.64	0.60	Highest
6. Leaders of the community focused on strengthen the community and communicate their intention for community development	4.62	0.63	Highest
<b>Average</b>	<b>4.62</b>	<b>0.54</b>	<b>Highest</b>

Table 2 showed that people in Khon Kwang Village had highest level of perception equal to 4.62. Every elements had highest level, the most score was perception of information about policy ( $\bar{x} = 4.66$ ), perception of information about operation ( $\bar{x} = 4.60$ ), and perception of information about planning ( $\bar{x} = 4.59$ ), respectively. Moreover, standard deviation of all elements were in between 0.50 – 0.55, meaning that level of dispersion was low.

Respondents had highest level of perception equal to 4.66. Considered each element, every element had highest level. The most score was perception of policy on cooperation with the government sector in career, education, sports and sanitation improvement in order to enhance the quality of life. ( $\bar{x} = 4.68$ ), perception of policy on assistance and/or public system that is beneficial to the community ( $\bar{x} = 4.66$ ), and perception of policy on assistance and/or a policy that continuously support volunteer activities with the community, such as environment and local traditions conservation ( $\bar{x} = 4.65$ ), respectively. Moreover, standard deviation of all elements were in between 0.50 – 0.63, meaning that level of dispersion was low.

Respondent had highest level of perception equal to 4.59. Considered each element, every element had highest level. The elements the had the most score were a perception of information about a management approach in community development to become a desired community and a plan that indicate direction and approach in community development ( $\bar{x} = 4.60$ ), and perception of information about a plan that indicate direction and approach in community development ( $\bar{x} = 4.59$ ). Moreover, standard deviation of all elements were in between 0.53 – 0.63, meaning that level of dispersion was low.

Respondents had highest level of perception of information about operations equal to 4.60. Considered each element, every element had highest level. The elements the had the most score were a perception of information that leaders of the community built trust and confidence in by taking into account the prevention of potential impacts ( $\bar{x} = 4.66$ ). The latter were perception of information about leaders of the community that had intention in enhance well-being of people and environment in the community, leaders of the community focused on strengthen the community and communicate their intention for community development, leaders of the community had good values towards the society and are responsible for all stakeholders, leaders of the community put emphasized on social and environment in operations, and leaders of the community focused on participation with people in the community in the operations ( $\bar{x} = 4.64, 4.62, 4.61, 4.59$ , and  $4.54$ ), respectively. Moreover, standard deviation of all elements were in between 0.60 – 0.67, meaning that level of dispersion was low.

### Part three: Factors Supporting Participation

Part 3 presented the factors supporting people's participation divided into 3 elements: training attendance; activity attendance; and group membership. Descriptive statistics was as shown in Table 3.

**Table 3** Mean and standard deviation of factors supporting participation

Factors Supporting Participation	Mean	S.D.	Level of perception
<b>Training attendance</b>	2.81	1.25	Moderate
1. You have practiced the activities and guidelines for the operation in order for achieve the community development goals.	2.82	1.27	Moderate
2. You often take training on community development operations	2.81	1.26	Moderate
<b>Activity attendance</b>	3.14	1.31	Moderate
1. You are involved in motivating neighbors to participate in community development activities/projects	3.05	1.26	Moderate
2. You participate in all community development activities	3.24	1.42	Moderate
<b>Group membership</b>	2.87	1.31	Moderate
1. You voluntarily become a member of the group to participate in community development activities.	2.88	1.35	Moderate
2. You have a discussion group to exchange constructive ideas on community development operations.	2.86	1.32	Moderate
<b>Average</b>	<b>2.94</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>Moderate</b>

Table 3 showed that factors supporting participation had moderate level equal to 2.94. Every elements had highest level, the most score was activity attendance ( $\bar{x} = 3.14$ ), group membership ( $\bar{x} = 2.87$ ), and training ( $\bar{x} = 2.81$ ), respectively. Moreover, standard deviations of all elements were in between 1.25 – 1.31, meaning that level of dispersion was high.

Training attendance factors had moderate level equal to 2.81. Considered each element, every element had moderate level. The element the had the most score were practicing the activities and guidelines for the operation in order for achieve the community development goals ( $\bar{x} = 2.82$ ), and attend training on community development operations ( $\bar{x} = 2.81$ ). Moreover, standard deviations of all elements were in between 1.26 – 1.27, meaning that level of dispersion was high.

Activity attendance factor had moderate level equal to 2.81. Considered each element, every element had moderate level. The element the had the most score were participating in all community development activities ( $\bar{x} = 3.24$ ), and involvong in motivating neighbors to participate in community development activities/projects ( $\bar{x} = 3.05$ ). Moreover, standard deviations of all elements were in between 1.26 – 1.42, meaning that level of dispersion was high.

Group membership factors had moderate level equal to 2.87. Considered each element, every element had moderate level. The element the had the most score were voluntarily become a member of the group to participate in community development activities ( $\bar{x} = 3.24$ ), and have

a discussion group to exchange constructive ideas on community development operations. ( $\bar{x} = 2.86$ ). Moreover, standard deviations of all elements were in between 1.32 – 1.35, meaning that level of dispersion was high.

*Part four: Level of People's Participation in Community Development*

This part presented the level of people's participation which was separated into three parts: decision making; implementation; benefits; and evaluation. Descriptive statistics was as shown in Table 4.

**Table 4** Mean and standard deviation of people's participation in community development

People's participation element	Mean	S.D.	Level of perception
<b>Decision making</b>	2.97	1.13	Moderate
1. You participate in discussions and considerations on various projects that may cause problems in the community.	3.00	1.17	Moderate
2. You participate in discussion with reasonable opinions, objections or arguments when the community committee decides on a project that does not match the community development.	2.97	1.17	Moderate
3. You participate in deciding on the procedures, planning, meeting, or selecting community development project activities.	2.96	1.16	Moderate
<b>Implementation</b>	3.76	1.44	Frequently
1. You involved in the implementation or participate in the community development project.	3.76	1.46	Frequently
2. You participated in the selection of community committees for community development operations.	3.79	1.45	Frequently
3. You participated in the activities when there are community development project.	3.75	1.45	Frequently
<b>Benefits</b>	4.50	0.62	Most frequently
1. You perceived that the community had benefited from various community development activities or projects that the community had done together.	4.53	0.67	Very frequently
2. You perceived that community development can solve problems in the community sustainably.	4.47	0.66	Frequently
<b>Evaluation</b>	2.99	1.10	Moderate
<b>Average</b>	<b>3.55</b>	<b>0.84</b>	<b>Frequently</b>

Table 4 showed that people in Khon Kwang Village had frequently level of participation with the mean of 3.55. Considered each element, participation in benefits had the highest score of 4.50. The latter were participation in implementation that had the score of 3.36, participation in evaluation that had the score of 2.99, and participation in decision making that had the score of 2.97. The overall standard deviation was 0.84, meaning that the samples of

this study had various level of participation. Considered each element, the standard deviation was between 0.62 – 1.44, meaning that the level of dispersion was high.

People's participation in decision making had moderate level equal to 2.97. Considered each element, every element had moderate level. The element that had the most score was participate in discussions and considerations on various ( $\bar{x} = 3.00$ ). The latter were and participate in discussion when the community committee decides on a project that does not match the community development ( $\bar{x} = 2.97$ ) and participate in deciding on the procedures, planning, meeting, or selecting community development project activities ( $\bar{x} = 2.96$ ), respectively. Moreover, standard deviations of all elements were in between 1.16 – 1.17, meaning that level of dispersion was high.

People's participation in implementation had frequently level equal to 3.76. Considered each element, every element had frequently level. The element that had the most score was participate in the selection of community ( $\bar{x} = 3.79$ ). The latter were and participate in discussion when the community committee decides on a project that does not match the community development ( $\bar{x} = 3.76$ ) and participate in the activities when there are community development project ( $\bar{x} = 3.75$ ), respectively. Moreover, standard deviations of all elements were in between 1.45 – 1.46, meaning that level of dispersion was high.

People's participation in benefits had very frequently level equal to 4.50. Considered each element, every element had frequently level. The element that had the most score was *perceive that the community had benefited from various community development activities or projects that the community had done together* ( $\bar{x} = 4.53$ ) and *perceive that community development can solve problems in the community sustainably* ( $\bar{x} = 4.47$ ), respectively. Moreover, standard deviations of all elements were in between 0.66 – 0.67, meaning that level of dispersion was high.

People's participation in evaluation had moderate level equal to 2.99. Considered each element, every element had moderate level. The element that had the most score was participate in providing suggestions and useful comments to improve the community development project ( $\bar{x} = 3.02$ ). The latter was involve in monitoring work, problem, and obstacles in operations and involve in the auditing various plans/projects in community development ( $\bar{x} = 2.98$ ), respectively. Moreover, standard deviations of all elements were in between 1.11 – 1.16, meaning that level of dispersion was high.

#### *Part five: Hypothesis Testing*

The researcher analyzed the effect of perception of information and factors supporting people's participation on people's participation by using multiple regression analysis with stepwise technique and using Pearson's correlation with the confident level equal to 0.05.

Hypothesis 1: Level of perception of information on community development including policy, planning, and operation had effect on people's participation in Ban Khon Khwang Community, Mueang District, Prachinburi Province

**Table 5** Correlations of Perception of Information and People's Participation in Community Development Correlations

	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Operation</b>	<b>People's participation</b>
Policy	1.000	.411**	.533**	.295**
Planning		1.000	.611**	.263**
Operation			1.000	.294**
People's participation				1.000

\*Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level

Table 5 showed the correlation between perception of information about policy, planning, operation, and people's participation. It can be seen that overall perception of information had positive relationship with people's participation at .01 significant level ( $r = .347$ ). There was a positive relationship between perception of information about policy and people's perception at .01 significant level ( $r = .295$ ). The R value was .347, which was not close to 1, meaning that there was only 34.7% correlation between dependent and independent variables in the same direction. R square value showed 12.00% meaning that perception of information had 12.00% effect on people's participation, while 88.00% was the effect from other variables that were not included in the questionnaire. In other words, 12.00% change in people's participation can be explained by change in perception of information. Based on ANOVA table, the value of F was 11.227 meaning that at least one independent variable had effect on dependent variable. Therefore, at least one of the perceptions of the information variable (policy, planning, and operation) had effect on people's participation. Sig. value is 0.000 that is lesser from Alpha value (0.05), therefore the hypothesis that stated that perception of information on community development had effect on people's participation was accepted.

Hypothesis 2: Factors supporting participation including training attendance, activity attendance, and group membership had effect on people's participation in Ban Khon Khwang Community, Mueang District, Prachinburi Province

**Table 6** Correlations of Factors Supporting Participation and People's Participation in Community Development Correlations

	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Planning</b>	<b>Operation</b>	<b>People's participation</b>
Training attendance	1.000	.815**	.866**	.773**
Activity attendance		1.000	.844**	.841**
Group membership			1.000	.765**
People's participation				1.000

Note: \*Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level

\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level

Table 6 showed the correlation between factors supporting participation and people's participation. It can be seen that the overall factors had positive relationship with people's participation at .01 significant level ( $r = .855$ ). Moreover, training attendance factor and activity attendance had positive relationship with people's participation at .01 significant level ( $r = .733$  and  $.841$ , respectively). The R value showed the relationship between factors supporting participation, which were training attendance, activity attendance, and people's participation. The R value was  $.855$ , which was close to 1, meaning that independent variable had high effect on dependent variable in the same direction. R square value showed that factors supporting participation had 73.1% effect on people's participation, while 26.9% was the effect from other variables that were not included in the questionnaire. In other words, 73.1% change in people's participation can be explained by change in factors supporting participation. Based on ANOVA table, the value of F was 222.530 meaning that at least one independent variable had effect on dependent variable. Therefore, at least one of the factors supporting participation (training attendance, activity attendance, and group membership) had effect on people's participation.

Sig. value is 0.000 that is lesser from Alpha value (0.05), therefore the hypothesis that stated that factors supporting participation had effect on people's participation was accepted.

## Discussions

The objectives of the study were to explore factors that have impact on people's participation in Prachinburi Province. From the result, perception of information on community development had effect on people's participation in the same direction. If the level of perception of information increases, level of people's participation in the community also increases. This finding aligned with the study of Yuvanatemiya and Sangpikul (2016). The perception of information included information about policy, planning, and operation. Factors supporting participation had effect on people's participation in the same direction. The factors included training attendance, activity attendance, and group membership. This finding aligned with the study of Cohen and Uphoff (1980).

## Conclusion and suggestions

The government and related sectors could use the result of the study to improve and develop people's participation in community and also expand the research in different community. The Provincial Community Development Office can provide variety of information channel in order to reach people in the community. Moreover, it can encourage people in the community to participate in training programs, activities, or group participation to develop people's participation in the community. The future research can be done by using qualitative method in order to explore more about people's participation in the community. Level of people's participation in each demographic can be analysed furthermore.

## New knowledge and the effects on society and communities

The research result can help people in community recognize the importance of participation in community development. Moreover, the readiness of the people in development their abilities will help them live in the community sustainably.

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