

A Study of Characteristic of Citizenship for Well-Being Society According to the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

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Abstract. The purpose of this research was to study characteristic of citizenship for well – being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy. This research was a survey research. The samples used in this study were 1) the documents and research papers about characteristic of citizenship since 1997 to the present. 2) The group of 50 experts in all four main parts of Thailand; north, middle, north east and south. This sample was selected by using the purposive sampling and 3) 1,092 students and people in each parts of Thailand who was selected by using the multi-stage sampling. The research tools were interview form and questionnaire about characteristic of citizenship according to the sufficiency economy philosophy. The results showed that the characteristics of citizenship for well- being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy composed of the condition factors were 1) the assiduity 2) the discipline 3) the munificence 4) the integrity 5) the public mind and 6) the wisdom. The process factors were 1) the moderation 2) the reasonableness and 3) the immunity. In conducting the second order confirmatory factor analysis about characteristic of citizenship for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy in the foundation education, higher education and public sector found that the research model was consistency with empirical data by the Chi – Square of the fit test.

Keywords: Citizenship, Social Well-Being, the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy

1. Introduction

From a review of the national development plan concerned about economic development and social, the first issue in term of society found that the quality of the citizens which is the main factors of the development is inconsistent about the direction and development of the country. The major institutions of the society play less of a social capital. Especially the institution of the family, this is the main institution to nurture young people to be good people tends to weaken. The education institutions have to teach children and youth to be a good citizen. It is not as fast as changing in society. Thai people have an ineffective immunity to protect and cope with changes. (Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board 2006: 4-5).

Because of these factors, the violent conflict in Thai society is increasing both in personal and social issues. There are changes of dynamic such as the poverty, the gap between rich and poor, the competition for resources, the conflicts between the different political polarization problem, the sectarianism party, drug problems, the degradation of natural resources and environment, and in particular the problem of terrorism in the three southern provinces (Prawes wasee, 2005: 2). The current society is a reflection of society which is not ready to deal with conflicts that exist in society. In other words, Thai society is not peaceful and free from violence. But actually Thai society has been violence existence in all societies. In order to take peace to Thai society, so we have to create tools, human and the necessary elements for enhancing the harmony and peace. The important tools to achieve a peaceful of society are the environmental and social development education for living in peace society. The real success is to solve the problem of human society to make human life better, happier with peace society as well as to expand the definition that to be pleasant of the world. (Dhammapitaka. 1997: 8-27). Actually, the human development has to link between people and nature for living together, such as, when the people have good thing, they will have good life. And when the people do something good for them so it would be good for the nature. It is the achievement of sustainable development.

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The social development strategy of the 2007 Act and requires that Thai society is a utopian society as just and peaceful society. The sufficiency and peace society should not be neglected. It is fair, moral, cultural and ability to maintain a balance themselves among the changes and the outside world. (Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. 2006: 7-13), including the goal of the study (year 2002-2006) has defined that Thai people are perfect human, smart, good and happiness. In section of society to have the strength and balance in three dimension as society of wisdom and learning, social solidarity and generosity to each other. (Suntiprap. 2003: 47 - 48).

Therefore, researchers have recognized the problem and the importance of this issue.. It is interesting to study the characteristics of citizens for social well-being, according to the philosophy of sufficiency economy. The need to know the characteristics of good citizenship, according to the philosophy of sufficiency economy that has featured some of the information to be used as the basis for the development of a learning process. "The civil education according to the philosophy of sufficiency economy" will increase well-being of the Thai society in the future.

2. Literature Review

"Sufficiency Economy" philosophy of His Majesty the King guided the lives of Thai people has always been more than 25 years since the first crisis of the economy and when the latter has emphasized solutions to protect and save under sustainable globalization and changes. A philosophy point to the existence and practice of the people at all levels, from family and community level to state level. In the development and administration, they are forced to act in the middle. The economic development is to keep pace with the globalization with moderation, reasonableness, including the need to have a reasonably good immune system. To have any rising effect from changes in both external and internal. This requires knowledge which are the integrity, honesty and knowledge of appropriate care. And caution, especially in applying the academic for planning and implementation process. At the same time It has to enhance the basic spirit of the Thai people. In particular, The theorists and businessmen, government officials at all levels have to realize the life with patience, perseverance, intelligence, consciousness and wisdom. These are used to balance and to support rapid and extensive changes along the social and cultural environment of the outside world as well. The basic principle for application of sufficiency economy is the self-reliance. It means to do something step by step carefully consider carefully the extent it fairly reasonable. And ready for changes and creating the harmony based on the balance in the each part of the society. Including the psychology, social, environment, technology, natural resources and economic dimension. The psychological dimension as mental strength and self reliance, a good attitude, Caring, compromise and public mind. The social dimension is helpful for the others, harmonious, strengthening families and communities. The natural resources and environment dimension is used and managed efficiently and carefully and use existing resources to provide sustainable benefits. For technology dimension is the use of appropriate technology consists with the needs and environment (social landscape), development from local wisdom, benefits to the people so much. (Preeyanuch pibulsarawut, 2006 : online)

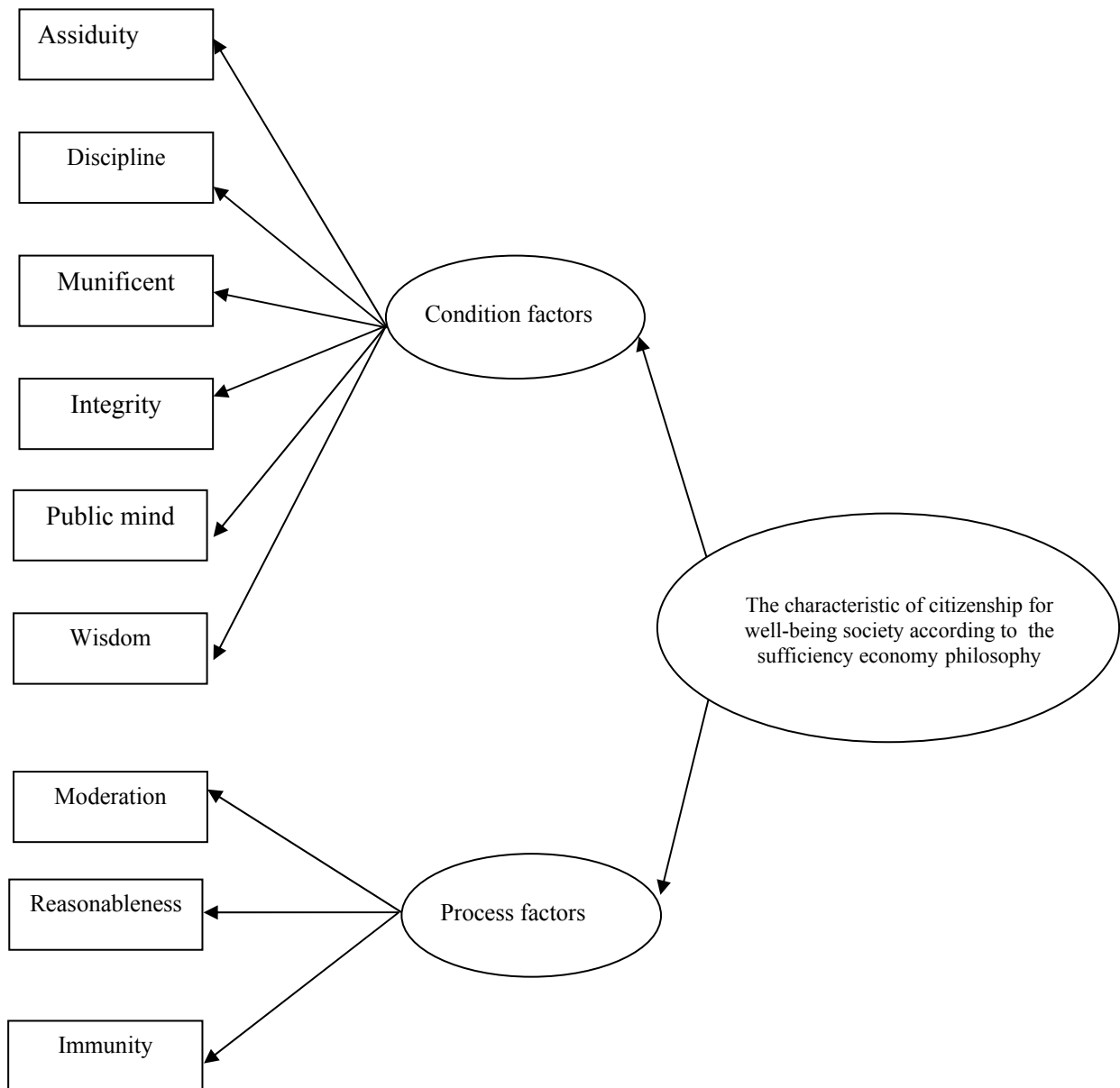


Fig. 1. of the conceptual framework of this research

3. Methodology

3.1. Participants

The sample used in this study is divided into.

1. The documents and research paper are related to citizenship education, well-being and the sufficiency economy philosophy since 1997 to the present.
2. The experts of characteristics of citizenship for well-being according to the sufficiency economy philosophy which are derived from a purposive sampling about 50 persons.
3. Students and people in 3 level from all regions of Thailand which are derived from multi-stage sampling about 1,092 persons.

3.2. Instruments

Instruments used to collect data in this research were 1) an interview about the characteristics of citizens for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy . 2) the questionnaires about the characteristics of citizens for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy have 3 sets as 1. the foundation education level 2. the higher education level and 3. the public sector level.

3.3. Methods

1. Synthesis of concepts and theories related to the characteristics of citizenship for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy.

2. In-depth interview experts about the characteristics of citizenship for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy.

3. The confirmatory factor analysis(CFA) about the characteristics of citizenship for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy by survey research and using a computer program.

3.4. Data Analysis

The researcher performed the data analysis that ; the qualitative data used to analyze the content by content analysis and quantitative data using confirmatory factor analysis by computer program.

4. Result

1. The characteristic of citizenship for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy was a reflection of the factors that could lead to citizenship for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy. It was composed of (1) the condition factors as 1.assiduity 2. discipline 3.munificent 4.integrity 5. public mind 6. wisdom, and (2) the process factors as 1.moderation 2.reasonableness and 3.immunity

2. The factor analysis for the characteristics of citizenship for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy of foundation education level. The results of the confirmatory factor analysis found that the basic model was harmony with the empirical data. On the basis of chi - square (Chi-Square) equaled to 17.10 at the degree of freedom 18 was the probability, or p equaled 0.51612.The Chi – Square was not statistically significant. The index of integration (Goodness of Fit: GFI) and the adjusted index of integration(Adjusted Goodness of Fit: AGFI) were 0.99 and 0.97 respectively.This result accepted the main hypothesis that model were fit to the empirical data. About the weight of the composition of the condition factors were positive, with values between 0.54 to 0.63 and were statistically significant at the .01 level . The weights of the composition of the process factors were positive except the reasonable factor was negative. The weights of the composition of the process factors valued -0.08 to 0.85 and significant at the .01 level for all, except the reasonable factor was statistically significant at the .05 level. This result indicated that all the factors were elements of the characteristics of citizenship for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy of foundation education level. As well as the results of the confirmatory factor analysis for the characteristics of citizenship for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy of higher education level, the result showed that the basic model was harmony with the empirical data. On the basis of chi - square (Chi-Square) equaled to 12.14 at the degree of freedom 15 was the probability, or p is equal to 0.66832.The Chi – Square was not statistically significant. The index of integration (GFI) and the adjusted index (AGFI) were 0.99 and 0.98, respectively. This result accepted the main hypothesis that model were fit to the empirical data. The weight of the composition of the condition factors were positive, with values between 0.04 to 0.76 and were statistically significant at the .01 level for all, except the assiduity factor was not statistical significance. The weight of the composition of the process factors were positive, with values between 0.51 to 0.81 and significant at the .01 level. This result indicated that all the factors were the elements of the characteristics of citizenship for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy of higher education level. Finally, the results of the confirmatory factor analysis for the characteristics of citizenship for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy of public sector level, the result showed that the basic model was harmony with the empirical data .On the basis of chi - square (Chi-Square) equaled to 8.61 at the degree of freedom 11 was the probability, or p equaled to 0.65788.The Chi – Square was not statistically significant. The index of integration (GFI) and the adjusted index (AGFI) were 0.99 and 0.98, respectively. This result accepted the main hypothesis that model were fit to the empirical data . The weight of the composition of the condition factors were positive, with values between 0.38 to 0.67 and was statistically significant at the .01 level. The weights of the composition of the process factors were positive with value between 0.45 to 0.63 and was statistically significant at the .01 level, This result indicated that all the factors were the elements of the

characteristics of citizenship for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy of public sector level.

5. Discussion

The results of this research showed that the characteristics of citizenship could lead to citizenship for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy. It was composed of (1) the condition factors as 1) the assiduity, 2) the discipline 3) the munificent 4) the integrity 5) The public mind 6) the wisdom and (2) the process factors were 1) moderation 2) reasonable and 3) immunity. This result corresponds with the conceptual of sufficiency economy philosophy of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Due to the characteristics of citizenship for well-being society according to the sufficiency economy philosophy have been developed from socialization and communication with the others. In addition this study showed the importance of the attributes of citizenship under the sufficiency economy philosophy in various ways which can lead to development that is consistent with the features properly. Including the study of the factors of the citizens according to the philosophy of sufficiency economy at different levels, in addition it can be possible to define a policy for deliver to related department for the future development

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