

**The Participation of the Local Community in the Longboat Racing of Klong 14
Community, Tumbol Buengsan, Ongkarak Sub-District,
Nakhon Nayok**

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Abstract

The objective of the research is to study the participation levels of the local community in the Long- boat racing of Klong 14 community, Tumbol Buengsan, Ongkarak Sub-district, Nakhon Nayok and to compare the levels of the participation of the local

community in the Long-boat racing classified by genders and monthly income. This is quantitative research; the sample group of 380 persons was done by simple random search from the 4,896 local folks living in the community of Klong 14, Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province. Tools used were questionnaires; statistic used in data analysis is by standard valiance mean, t-Test, and One-way ANOVA. It is found from the study that the levels of the participation of the local community in the Long-boat racing, overall, is at a high level. Comparing the levels by classifying the genders, it is found that the female gender has a higher level of participation in order to develop tourism than the male, with a difference of no statistically significant. Comparing the levels of community participation, classified by the monthly income, it is found that with the different amounts of income, there is no different level in the participation of the community in the Long-boat racing.

Keywords: Participation, Organizing, Long-boat race

1. Background of the Study

The boat racing tradition can be considered a game that has been passed down since ancient times. From the recording of foreign document archives of la Loubère, mentioning the boat racing in the Ayuddhaya period that, in the past, the boat racing activity was related to the beliefs of the local folks in the area in building and strengthening the unity in the community. It is also a belief that those who participate in the racing competition would receive merits and in some regions, the boat racing competition is held as an offering and worship to the sacred things the local folks in the community believe in. However, it has been an annual traditional festival and it is widespread in almost every region in the country (Kluenklad, 2013)

In Thailand, the traditional festival of Long-boat racing is held in every region and both at the regional level and at the national level. The purpose of the Longboat racing in various regions is similar in the belief of showing respect to the holy things that protect the waterways and to strengthen the unity of the people in the communities living around and along with the waterways. At the present days, the traditional festival of Long-boat racing has become an important community traditional festival which has an effect in the business sector (Juntown, 2016)

Today, there are more complicated economic and social problems, therefore, to be able to develop sustainability in every aspects, it needs to have the cooperation

process and participation from many sectors in the society (Mekphun, 2009). Participation is a good driving force of the organization where it has a highly psychological effect, due to the reason that those who get involved or participate in the activity, would be proud of being a part of helping to organize the activity. Any opinions viewed would be listened to and action taken, that it creates development in various aspects. That the community will benefit from being a part in the participation of finding the solutions to the problems. As a result of brainstorming the ideas of the people with a diverse range of knowledge and experience (Wattanasab, 2003).

The Klong 14 community in Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province, has been holding a Longboat racing competition annually. In the past, the date of the event was mainly held on the same day of a religious holiday, but today, the event is arranged, not depending on the religious holiday but mainly for the purpose of winning a championship cup and prize money. Today, the competitors come from neighboring provinces such as Pathumthani, Bangkok and Nonthaburi provinces. On the day, it is a big fair of many food stalls, other products for sale which bring the income for the local folks in the communities in the area.

Therefore, organizing the event to be held must have the cooperation and participation from the folks in the community, helping in good planning, good management system. The researcher aimed at studying the participation of the local community in the Long-boat racing and studying the levels of participation of the local community in the event, to be beneficially to the community as a guideline in developing cultural and tradition tourism in the future.

2. Objective

1. To study the participation of the local community of Klong 14, Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district, Nakhon Nayok province, in the Long- boat racing.
2. To study the comparison levels of participation of the local community of Klong 14, Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district, Nakhon Nayok province, in the Long-boat racing, by classifying the gender and the monthly income.

3. Beneficial

1. The data collected, the community can use as a guideline in developing the tourism in the area for a better change.
2. The data collected can be used to guide the direction of tourism development by the community.

4. Definition

1. Participation means, the local people in the area have an opportunity of expressing ideas, making decisions, sharing the benefits and evaluating the tourism development in the area
2. Organizing means organizing and managing towards the goal
3. Long-boat means the Long-boats the competitors use in the boat race

5. Scope of research

1. Area scope: The researcher has collected the data in the community of Klong 14, Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province.
2. People scope: The people used in this research consisted of a group of 380 persons out of 4,896 local folks living in the Klong 14 community of Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province, by using the Krejcie and Morgan chart, and by stratified random sampling.
3. Time scope: The study took place between November 2018-April 2019

6. Methodology

1. The sample group of people consisted of 380 persons, out of 4,896 local folks living in the Klong 14 community, Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province, by using stratified random sampling and Krejcie and Morgan chart.
2. The variations used are as follows:
 - 2.1 Independent variable consisted of genders, occupation, monthly income
 - 2.2 The dependent variable consisted of the participation of the Klong 14 community, Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province, in the Long-

boat racing. The researcher has used the concept of participation of Rampaipun Kaewsuriya and Narin Kaewmeesri (ref. in Janwara, 2002:12), which consisted of 4 aspects:

- 1) Proposing the idea, planning and decision
- 2) The procedure of work and the operation
- 3) Receiving and sharing the benefits
- 4) Following up and evaluation

3. The data collected was from primary data, from questionnaires and collected by researcher self. Secondary data was collected by document research, references of concerned topic, thesis and other research papers, to be able to obtain the basic data to use in the concerned research.

4. The main tool used in this study consisted of questionnaires, with the reliability at 0.87

5. Statistic used is by mean and t-Test, analysis by One-way ANOVA.

7. The findings

The findings are divided into 3 parts as follows:

Part 1: General data of the questionnaire responders

The sample group of people in this study consisted of 380 persons in the area of Klong 14 community, Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province, using stratified random sampling. The findings from the general questionnaire responders are shown in Table 1-3 as follows:

Table 1: Shows the genders, numbers of people in the study and mean of the questionnaire responders.

Gender	Number of Person	mean
Male	137	36.1
Female	243	63.9
Total	380	100

It is found from Table 1 that, most of the questionnaire responders are 243 females which is 63.9% and 137 males or 36.1%

Table 2: Shows the occupation of the questionnaire responders

Occupation	Number of Person	mean
Agriculture	129	33.9
Employee	182	47.9
Trading	34	8.9
Government Personnel	32	8.4
Others	3	0.8
Total	380	100

From Table 2, it is found that most of the questionnaire responders are 182 employees which is 47.9%. Next is a group of 129 persons in agricultural occupation which is 33.9%.

Table 3: Shows the mean of monthly income of the questionnaire responders

Monthly Income	Number of Person	mean
Lower than ₱ 10,000	65	17.1
10,000 - 20,000	300	78.9
Higher than ₱ 20,000	15	3.9
Total	380	100

From Table 3 it is found that most of the questionnaire responders, 300 persons which is 78.9%, have the monthly income of ₱10,000-20,000 while 65 responders have a monthly income lower than ₱ 10,000.- which is 17.1%.

Part 2. The study of the levels of participation in the Long-boat racing of the Klong 14 community, Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province

The study of the levels of participation in the Long-boat racing of the Klong 14 community, Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province, as shown overall, in Table 4.

Table 4: Shows the mean and standard deviation levels of community participation (n=380).

Aspect	mean	S.D.	Level of participation
Proposing the idea, planning and decision	3.972	.387	High
The Procedure of work and the operation	3.997	.390	High
Receiving and sharing the benefits	3.953	.388	High
Following up and evaluation	3.973	.429	High
Total	3.974	.336	High

From Table 4 it is found that the levels of the community's participation in organizing the Long-boat race are at a high level. Considering in each aspect, it is found that in all the aspects are at a high level.

Part 3. Comparing the levels of participation in organizing the long-boat race of Klong 14 community Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province, classified by the genders.

Comparing the levels of participation in organizing the Long-boat race of Klong 14 community Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province, classified by the genders, as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Comparing the levels of community participation in organizing the Long-boat race (n=380).

Aspect	Male (n =137)		Female (n =243)		t	p
	Mean	SD	mean	SD		
Proposing the idea, planning and decision	3.967	.392	3.975	.385	.179	.85
Procedure of work and operation	4.001	.404	3.995	.383	.133	.89
Receiving and sharing	3.948	.412	3.956	.375	.180	.85
Follow up and evaluation	3.940	.429	3.991	.428	1.127	.26
Overall	3.964	.348	3.979	.330	.423	.67

* p< .05** p< .01

From Table 5 it is found that the community’s participation in the Long-boat racing, classified by the genders, overall, the female gender has a higher level of participation in the event than the male. Considering by each aspect it is found that in the aspect of procedure of work and operation, the male gender has a higher level of participation than that of the female gender differently with no statistic significant. As in the other aspects of proposing the idea, planning and decision, in the aspect of receiving and sharing the benefits and in the aspect of following up and evaluation, the female gender has a higher level of participation in the Long-boat racing than the male gender differently with no statistic significant.

- The comparison of the participation levels in the Long-boat racing of the Klong 14 community, Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province, classified by monthly income, as shown in Table 6.

Table 6: The comparison of the participation levels in the Long-boat racing of the Klong 14 community, Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province, classified by the monthly income.

Aspect	Source	SS.	df.	MS.	F	p
Proposing the idea, planning and decision	Between Groups	.239	2	.119	.793	.453
	Within Groups	56.677	377	.150		
	Total	56.915	379			
Procedure of work and operation	Between Groups	.140	2	.070	.456	.634
	Within Groups	57.779	377	.153		
	Total	57.918	379			
Receiving and sharing the benefits	Between Groups	.204	2	.102	.673	.511
	Within Groups	56.981	377	.151		
	Total	57.185	379			
Following up and evaluation	Between Groups	.449	2	.225	1.221	.269
	Within Groups	69.317	377	.184		
	Total	69.766	379			
Overall	Between Groups	.106	2	.053	.467	.627
	Within Groups	42.866	377	.114		
	Total	43.972	379			

* p< .05 ** p< .01

From Table 6 The comparison of the participation levels in the Long-boat racing of the Klong 14 community, Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province, classified by monthly income, it is found that both, in overall and each aspect, even though with the different amounts of monthly income, but the community's participation levels in the Long-boat racing is not different.

8. Conclusion and discussion

The findings from the study can be concluded as follows:

1. The study of the participation levels of the community in the Longboat racing, overall, is at a high level. Considering each aspect, it is found that in the aspect of proposing the idea, planning, and the decision is at (3.97). The aspect of the procedure of work and operation is at (3.99). The aspect of receiving and sharing the benefits is at (3.95) and in the aspect of following up and evaluation is at (3.97). Therefore, the community has a high level of participation in Longboat racing.
2. In the study of participation levels of the community in the Long-boat racing, classified by the genders, it is found that overall, the female has a higher level of participation in the Long-boat racing than the male. Considering each aspect, it is found that the male gender has a higher level of participation in the procedure of work and operation than the female gender with no statistically significant. In the other aspects such as the proposing of the idea, planning and decision, the aspect of receiving and sharing the benefits and in the aspect of following up and evaluation, the female gender has a higher level of participation in the Long-boat racing than the male gender with no statistic significant.
3. The comparison of the participation levels in organizing the Long-boat race of the Klong 14 community, Buengsan, Ongkarak sub-district of Nakhon Nayok province, classified by the monthly income, both overall and in each aspect, it is found that even though there are different amounts of monthly income but there is no difference in the levels of the community's participation in the Long-boat racing.

9. Discussion

It was found that the levels of the community's participation in the Longboat racing, overall, are at a high level. This could be because the traditional Longboat racing has been an event handed down since ancestor's time and continues to take place until today. That it is in the heart and soul of the local folks that the traditional event must be held once a year. Therefore, the local folks in the community feel strongly on preserving

this tradition to stay with the community for as long as possible which is the cause for the community to be inspired in participating and cooperating in this event. This shows that the community has a high level of participation in this event.

From the study where it is also found that the female gender has a higher level of participation in the Long-boat racing than the male gender, this could be because a female is more sensitive in good management, proposing the ideas, planning, together with the following up and the evaluation, that a female shows the spirit of participation more than a male.

10. Recommendation

1. The study of this research has had a limited time frame because when the researcher was in the area collecting the data, it was not during the event's dates of the traditional Longboat racing, that the researcher did not experience the real-life atmosphere of the event, did not obtain the information on which direction of the event would take, and the researcher was not able to obtain the information from the questionnaires for the outsiders, non-local people who attended the event.
2. Promoting the community's participation in the Long-boat racing: In addition to public relations outside the area, the people in the community must be aware of the importance of the event and all age groups must participate in the event also.
3. Every concerned unit of work should participate in area development, in managing, in procedures and operation of activities and also in sharing the benefits gained, in order to be able to organize the Long-boat racing to be a sustainable event of the region.

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