

GUIDELINE FOR THAI SCOUT MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE NEW NORMAL ERA BANGKOK METROPOLITAN

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ABSTRACT

The process of Thai scout's program management is the method of a systematic education which evidently proven to improve youths of the nation to be fully equipped with ethical and moral behavior, and discipline. The purposes of this research were 1) to study the levels of improvement in Thai scout's program in the 'New Normal' society in the districts of Bangkok. 2) To study the factors that have an impact on improving the scout's program in the modern era in Bangkok area, using questionnaire to collect information from 398 educational personnels, namely the scoutmasters and deputy scoutmasters (usually are school's director and school's deputy director), teachers, students, and scout's staffs that are members under the institutions in the districts of Bangkok. The data were gathered and statistically analyzed through value of frequency, mean, standard deviation, and multiple regression analysis. The results of this research have found that 1) the overall improvement in Thai scout's program in the modern era in the districts of Bangkok was highly increasing in the aspect of international standard, society acceptance, the effectiveness of the trainees and modernization, respectively. 2) Government policies factor in the area of institute management, training procedures, and standard assurance which led to improvement boy scout's program in the 'New Normal' society in the districts of Bangkok up to 43.3 percent.

Keywords: Scout development, Thai scout, New Normal society

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INTRODUCTION

World Scout Movement is an educational course for youths which has its purpose to help young kids build personality and develop themselves to live in society. With political dissociation, scout is open to all people emphasizes the important principles of scouts that were once established by Lord Baden Powell who was the founder of World Scout Movement which are to have faith in their own religious beliefs, stay loyal to their country, reinforce peace and cooperate with society, responsible for their self-improvements, participate in improving society by commending and respecting other's honors in order for the world to be united as one. These are the principles for improving youths to become good citizens of the world, and be responsible according to an oath of scout. Scouts learn through actions in the form of groups to develop themselves individually though different courses that were provided, which takes place in both outdoors and indoors. World Organization of the Scout Movement is a non-governmental, international organization that composed of 3 factors, which are World Scout Conference, World Scout Committee, and World Scout Bureau. In 1922, Scout Movement of Thailand have applied as member of the World Scout Conference which there were only 31 countries joined at the time. Scout Movement of Thailand considered to be one of the Foundation Members whom established the World Scout Conference. Currently, Scout Movement have grown and spread out all over the world which is now active in 172 countries with over 30 million members, controlled by the World Scout Bureau which located in Geneva, Switzerland. Moreover, there were also 6 scout bureaus located in different continental areas, consists of Eurasia, Inter-Americas, Arabs, Africa, and Asia-Pacific. Thailand is in the Asia-Pacific area which the bureau is located in Manila, Philippines (World Scout Bureau, 2023).

"Scout plays significant roles in building national stability because it aims to create good citizens and societies through training different courses completely and correctly is the effective way to help youths to have strength, honesty, integrity, have all-around knowledge and good discipline. Also, they will be able to have an attitude of self-reliance and others can rely on them. In addition, those who follows the principles of scout in other occasions on daily basis will have widely great advantages and work would be efficient." (King Bhumibol's Royal Speech in an opening ceremony of the 6th National Scout Rally at Chonburi in 1968).

The process of Thai scout's program management which is the methodology of a systematic education which evidently proven to improve youths of the nation to be fully equipped with ethical and moral behavior, and discipline. It is a process of raising young children of the country to reach level of acceptance accordingly to the national education strategic reform that focuses on qualitative refine of citizens at every level to have desirable attributes to the society. Thailand had brought in Scout Movement to refine youths for almost a century, with the courses and activities currently available in schools all around the country. (Photharamic, 2005)

Nowadays, the images of Thai Scout's positive contribution to the society seem rarely to find, although the main office and its subsidiaries have been greatly functioning; correspondingly to society turned chaotic in past years that came from groups of unreasonable people and lack of discipline. Meanwhile, schools are trying to educate youths to have discipline whether on their punctuality, lining up for lunch, or participate in activities. However, once the children are leaving from school, have to admit that the outside world are different from inside the school fences, specifically adults' behaviors in the society that young children tend to follow as their example. So, in order to cultivate youths of the country to be disciplinary would be seemingly rare if the society does not cooperate to provide great examples for the younger generation (Rattanasuwan, 2016).

Thai Scout Movement is essential in the form of its program which split into 2 types; 1) The compulsory scout which is scout course and activities in schools, composed total of 7 million members that consist of Cub Scout (Elementary, age of 8-11 years old), Scout (Primary School, age of 11-16 years old), Senior Scout (Primary-High School, age of 14-16 years old), and Rover

Scout (High School, age of 17-20 years old). 2) The voluntary scout amounted total number of 7.4 million members who aren't associated with institutions, such as scout club, scout volunteer, and community scout including ordinary scout. The Provincial Association of Thai Scout Club widespread throughout the country, the overall performance in the past rarely made any progress to become a successful program as it should be due to certain factors; namely 1) the scout program wasn't outstanding and popular among young people. 2) the program hasn't been modernly adapted to introduce new courses to use, like the scout program in Japan. 3) The program required full-time chief executives to managed head members who still need to develop in certain areas, and also lacking of database to support the program. 4) The lacking of program's assets management which the assets have never been showed clearly on papers and also, other resources that should be able to be inspected. Furthermore, there weren't any upgrade on assets or privileges of scout to generate income; especially 133 scout camps that are widespread through Thailand but only 9 camps have been approved and only 5 camps that can generate and manage income (Puntusak, 2016).

Academic management system of scout is important toward improving national youths significantly despite the subjects in the course are not the subjects listed accordingly to Article 9 of the Ministry of Education, which its job is to provide and support the execution of the National Scout Organization of Thailand (NSOT). The NSOT is a legal entity under the Ministry of Education and the ministry also have the Office of the Basic Education Commission (OBEC) under their control, so student that are under the OBEC and other administrations have scout course as a basic subject added to their class schedule to instruct boys and girls scout to enhance them for the better health, mind, soul, and moral to become good people in the society and good citizens of the world. Additionally, scout course is set to refine youths to bond with people to have a harmonious society and advance forward for the peaceful country (Sungkapun, 2021).

According to the government policy, boys-girls scouts subject is a required subject in the basic level of education, which consist of activities that help to shape youths to have discipline and have hearts of a volunteer to make contributions to the society. Among the rapid changes in the society, courses and activities need to be adapted to become more flexible and modernized. For the Leadership Scout Training Program batch 920 has its purpose to teach the trainees to carry out the principles, techniques, mindset, and methodology of scout and be able to spread out and continue to guide others in institutions or other administrations of the scout courses and activities. With this in mind, scout program also aims to develop youths to be able to live with others in the society, capable to work as a team, including have heart of a volunteer to give contributions of knowledge and experiences that they received in the program to develop youths to become good citizens of the country in the future.

Upon the activities in the program, there was an unsafety situation occurred on February 8th, 2023 that caused 5 scout members getting burned by fire from the campfire assembly located in Nong Bua Lamphu province. After the investigation, it had been found that the fire used in the assembly was supposed to be fueled by gasoline, instead the staff used alcohol which was an action of carelessness from the chief of staff and the instructors. However, in the modernized scout course management would not be focusing much on burning things but to use the artificial fire instead, so that the Ministry of Education could give out an appropriate policy for schools to carry out and follow as given strictly (Office of the Basic Education Commission, 2023).

Scout Movement in Thailand, King Rama VI had bestowed the birth of Thai scout on July 1st, 1911 which is 112 years from today. Scout program have been applied to teach young children for many generations from an elementary to a high school level. However, the course has been updated in certain areas throughout the years and surroundings but there were some areas of the program has never been updated or modernized in the past many years, so the program still follows the old traditional ways. With that being said, it is necessary to find new methods for

the program to continuously move forward and still be in existent in Thailand. Firstly, the members have to study about what are the important fundamentals, and how to make it becoming effective in the aspect of developing management to correlates with the ‘New Normal’ society. Based on the poll results from the online media, Endzone, it can be seen that youth of the new generation in the modern society does not recognize the importance of the scout program and they are requesting to eliminate the scout program from their academic schedules due to the lack of improving and reconstruct the program to make it much more interesting. So, because of this, the program has been looked over and acknowledged as an unnecessary program.

To build up confidence moving forward in this research paper, data of opinions was collected from qualified personnels of the Scout Organization of Thailand. Total number of 479 people including executive members of scout, and lecturers, which 116 participated in doing questionnaires (24.2%). It was concluded that there were 38.8% who thinks that scout program is ‘highly necessary’ in the modern-day society. While there was 25% respectively who thinks program is ‘necessary’, and 35.3% thinks that it’s ‘partially necessary’, lastly 0.9% thinks that scout is ‘unnecessary’. In conclusion, this research topic has a much importance toward the improving of the Thai scout program and make it correlates with developing management subject (Google form, 2022).

The effectiveness in developing the Thai scout program in the New Normal society needs to be developing management (A of D) and managing development (D of A) to make it up to date by adapting modernized methods and procedures, improving the teaching subjects to be in line with the context of the new society. Also, correcting regularities that the government sector are in charge. Today, the NSOT and other scout clubs in Thailand have the concept of managing and updating the program to make it accordingly to the societal changes which the researcher himself is also personnel of the scout program, positioned as the assistant inspector under the NSOT. The researcher saw that this is an interesting topic to explore in order to improve Thai scout program according to the rapid changing society for the better effectiveness, including the improvement of the national basic level of education and apply to improve personnels in different ways that rely on scout program as guidance due to the limitations following the traditional policy that quite old-fashioned. So, this research would aid in correction of the law and policy, including program of the Thai scout program in order to be able to move forward with efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainable.

The researcher has a personal interest in studying the important factors that affects the effectiveness of management and development of the Thai scout program in New Normal society which there’s a gap in researching upon relating to the government’s policy, management system, training procedures, and standard approval. Because the system of Thai scout program has to be updated following with the modern society. The New Normal society has drastically changed socially and technologically. With this in mind, if the program tends to not start to make a change anytime soon, the scout program in the country of Thailand would become inexistent. However, if the scout executives plan to develop and improve the program to be more modernized and more compelling with great advertisement, the program will have a bright future moving forward for the next of generations of Thailand.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept and Theory relating to scout program development

Scout program is the course of activities to guide and educate young people of the country to be moral and become good citizens. The program helps youths physically and mentally to prepare for their adulthood and use it to give it back to the community. Scout program is a progress of the “Scouts movement” that other countries around the world approved that it can

develop youths to be moral and have responsibilities toward themselves, others, and their country as a whole.

National Scout Organization of Thailand (2022) had set principles in developing Thai scout program, listed as follows: 1) the effectiveness of the trainees means the development of the program has to be efficient and effective towards the trainees in all levels, including teachers, students, chiefs, or even trainees that are the leader of certain organizations. 2) Program modernization meaning the development of the scout program has updated into a modernized structure in order to be in line with the modernized 'New Normal' society that influenced the way of living of humans with the rapid change in technological innovations. 3) Globalization meaning the development of the Thai scout program has to be the same with the standards of the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOST), there can be minor changes within the program or policy but it is necessary to keep it similarly with the global standard. The program can't be traditional-based, it has to be developed in a similar manner with scouts of other countries as well. 4) Society recognition means that the development of the program has to be accepted by the society locally and internationally, the program can be brought to train in countries without changing the context of the scout.

The development of the Thai scout program would be successful from 4 factors as follows (Suwet, 2013) 1) Government Policy means that the imposing of policies relating to Thai scouts whether it's the program management, royal legislation enactment, program supervision all the way to praiseworthy of the scout committees. 2) Organization Development means that Thailand has the National Scout Enactment in 2008 issued to establish the National Scout Organization of Thailand to organized all the scout program in Thailand with authorization and duties in many different aspects. This means that the organization is necessary to be adjusted, changed following with the New Normal society in the current and future generation. 3) Practicing System means the practices of scout in Thailand in all levels of youth, teenage, and adult. Youth level means the practices for the Cub scout, teenage level is the practices for Boy scout and Senior scout, lastly adult level is the practices for Rover scout to be able to control and manage the program under the NSOT. Moreover, there are additional practices that certain scout camps have set up, not associates with any certificate acceptance from the NSOT. These practices are the locally dependent and occasional. 4) Standard Accreditation means the NSOT have to build and approval of standards with inspection.

After the literature review, hypothesis of this study can be written as H1 is factors of government policy in the areas of program management, training procedures, and standard approval influenced the development of Thai scout program in the New Normal society in Bangkok districts.

From the literature review, the conceptual framework can be drawn as shown in figure 1

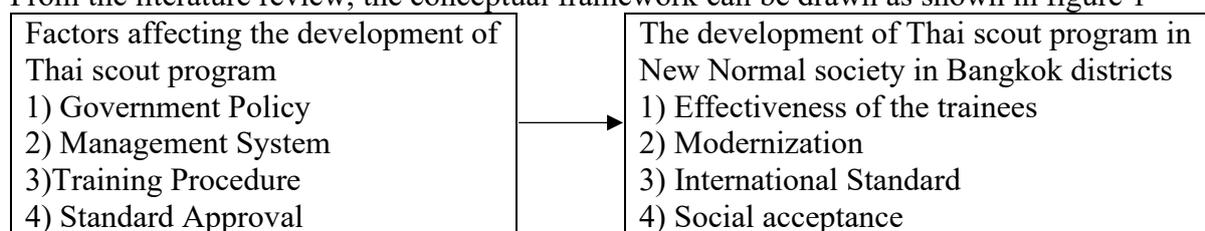


Figure 1 Conceptual Framework

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The population used in this study include scoutmaster/deputy scoutmaster (School's director/School's deputy director), teachers, lecturers, and scout personnels in all levels total of 14,535 participants (Department of Education Bangkok Metropolitan Administration, 2021), and 389

were used as samples by using Yamane's sample size calculation (Yamane, 1973). With reliability of 95%, the stratified sampling is used in this study.

For the tool in this research is the questionnaires which consist of 3 parts; part 1 is the personal information of the participants including sex, age, level of education, and their income. The questionnaire is in a form of multiple choices. Part 2 of the questionnaire asked about the factors that deliver an impact toward the development of Thai scout program, the questions in this part are in the form of Likert Scale which has the scale of 5; 5 is strongly agree, 1 is strongly disagree. Part 3 of the questionnaire covered the development of Thai scout program in the New Normal society in Bangkok districts which also used Likert Scale as the score of 5 is the highest (strongly agree) and 1 is the least (strongly disagree).

Before using the tools to collect data, The Index of Item-Objective Congruence (IOC) and Cronbach's alpha were carried out through the process. Based on an observation, IOC has a value of 0.890 and Cronbach's alpha has the value of 0.983 which showed that the research's tools have sufficient quality to collect data. (Polit & Beck, 2006; Hair et al., 2012). In this research, the questionnaires were sent to participants who were the scout personnels; including scoutmasters, teachers, lecturers, and staff members in all levels of scout. The data in this research was analyzed by descriptive statistics; includes frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and regression analysis.

RESEARCH RESULTS

1) Participants in this study were mostly male, 78% were between the age of 41-50 years and 65% succeeded in Bachelor's degree and have an income between 25,000-35,000 baht.

2) The development of the Thai scout program in the New Normal society in Bangkok districts in overall and particular aspects were highly increasing in terms of international standard, social acceptance, effectiveness of trainees, and modernization respectively following Table 1

Table 1

No.	List	\bar{X}	S.D.	Result
1	Effectiveness of trainees	3.61	0.81	high
2	Modernity	3.60	0.77	high
3	International standard	3.87	0.82	high
4	Social acceptance	3.67	0.71	high
Total		3.69	0.71	high

3) Government policy factor has a value of β equivalent to 0.106, system management has a value of β equivalent to 0.251, training program has a value of β equivalent to 0.180 which showed a significant positive effect toward the development of scout program in New Normal society in Bangkok districts statistically at 0.5 by the Sig. values equal 0.038, 0.000, 0.004, and 0.007 respectively. This means that the results were agreeable with the hypothesis. The analysis of the coefficient correlation has a value of 0.673 which showed that the independent variables have high correlation with dependent variables. The coefficient has a value of 0.433 which means that the independent variables have significant effect toward the development of the Thai scout program in New Normal society in Bangkok districts (43.3%).

Respectively, the equation can be written as follows:

$$Y = 0.947 + 0.251X_2 + 0.185X_3 + 0.180X_4 + 0.106X_1$$

From the analysis of the regression coefficient, it has been found that factors of government policy, system management, training procedures, and standard approval altogether have the ability to predict the development of the Thai scout program in New Normal surroundings in the Bangkok districts. So, the government policy has the highest effect on the prediction of the

development (Beta = 0.175) followed by management system of institutes (Beta = 0.158), training procedures (Beta = 0.129), and standard assurance (Beta 0.124), respectively. The following data can be seen in Table 2

Table 2 The multiple regression analysis of factors affecting the development of Thai scout program in the New Normal society in the districts of Bangkok

Factors	Unstandardized (b)	SE	Standardized (β)	t	Sig.
(Constant)	0.947	0.256		3.707	0.000
Government policy	0.175	0.039	0.106	2.303*	0.038
Management system of institutes	0.158	0.038	0.251	4.810*	0.000
Training procedures	0.129	0.044	0.185	2.919*	0.004
Standard assurance	0.124	0.046	0.180	2.712*	0.007
R = 0.673		Adjusted R ² = 0.433			
R ² = 0.453		SE = 0.284			

* Statistical significance at the 0.05 level

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSION

The study of the development of Thai scout in the New Normal society in the districts of Bangkok, there are key points to discuss following the purpose of the research, as follows:

1) The development of Thai scout program in the New Normal society in the districts of Bangkok in overall and particular aspects were highly noticeable in terms of international standard, social acceptance, effectiveness of trainees, and modernization respectively. The reason that the outcome portrayed in such way is because Scout plays essential roles in training and educating people of the world through the method of morality from the oaths and rules of scout movement to build a better world where all humans have the responsibility in their societies. By giving youths a proper education will help them to build own self-reliance, be supportive and have responsibilities in their own community. Also, youths will be able to help strengthen the morality from the rules and oaths of the scout in all sectors, such as national education system will be required a scout program in the class schedules to develop children and young adults in the country to be a wise person in the future. So, the results of the study are agreeable with the results of the research of Widjanarko, M., & Ismaya, E.A. (2022) which the study have found that scout program is focusing on training groups of descendant to bring out their intelligence, spirit, social, and physical at the highest level to help build their characters. Moreover, scout wants to cultivate patriotism and pass it on to the next, future generation. There was research by Chana Yadee (2021) which he studied the development of the structure of scout program for scoutmasters and directors in the basic knowledge, it has been found that there was a high increase in the development of the structure of scout program for scoutmasters and directors in the basic knowledge in all aspects.

2) The government policy factor in terms of in terms of program management, training methods, and standard assurance have a significant impact toward the development of the Thai scout program in the New Normal society in the Bangkok districts at the percentage of 43.3%. With this result, it means that the government policy importantly influenced the program development. Thailand have imposed strategic plan for the National Scout Organization of Thailand between 2017-2021 which this strategic plan was essentially emphasized on high expectation and participation of scout members in NSOT, interested persons of the plan, preparation of imposing the plan which be able to respond to strategic plan correlating with national level and institution level. With this intention, the development of the country would follow in the same direction with stability, resourceful, and sustainable that make the country

to develop according to the royal philosophy of ‘sufficiency economy’. All the information that has been mentioned were put to use in analyzing and planning strategy for the NSOT. Then, the NSOT would be sufficient in all aspects, including program development, service quality, the effectiveness of the missions which focus on the morality of scout and scout personnels (NSOT, 2022). In addition, the NSOT is responsible for the scout program management as the legal entity under the control of Ministry of Education. The organization was established following the royal enactment of scout 2008. On March 4th, 2008, the NSOT have full authority to carry out the purpose following of NSOT’s committee and the Council of Thai Scout. In addition, NSOT carried out training courses for scout in the proper institutions to be harmonized with the government policy which will deliver great impact for the national organization to get international standard accreditation. The result of this study corresponds with the research by Chanok Chiangmul (2021) upon the development of scout program management in schools in Thailand in the province of Kamphaeng Phet which the research had found that government policy factor in aspect of program management, training methods, and standard accreditation have an impact toward the development of Thai scout in the New Normal society in Bangkok districts.

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