

The Effect of Training on Administration and Enforcement of Environmental Laws of Local Government Officers

¹Phirach Chaisomkhun, ¹Prayoon Wongchantra and ²Katharat Hengtragoon
¹Faculty of Environment and Resource Studies, Mahasarakham University,
44000 Mahasarakham, Thailand

²College of Politics and Governance, Mahasarakham University, 44150 Mahasarakham, Thailand

Abstract: Current environmental laws to play a role in local government. Therefore, local government staff need to have knowledge relating to the administration and enforcement of environmental laws as well. This research purposes were to studies the effect of training on administration and enforcement of environmental laws of local government officers and to comparing their knowledge before and after training. The sample composed of 73 officers in Tambon administrative organization of Koeng Mueang district Mahasarakham province which have been selected by a purposive sampling technique. The research design was just one group pre- and post-test. The data collection was analyzed by percentage usage and t-test. The study results are as following; the local government officers had knowledge on administration and enforcement of environmental laws after training was rated higher that before training ($p < 0.05$).

Key words: Environmental law, enforcement, administration, training, local government officer, knowledge

INTRODUCTION

The promulgation of Royal Thai Constitution of 1997 and the Decentralization Plan and Process Act of 1999 has expanded the obligations of Thai local government to provide public services. According to these documents there are 6 core functions and 245 tasks to be devolved to local governments by the year 2010. While some were already devolved to localities, most of them are presently undertaken by national government agencies, although they are due to be transferred to local authorities. Consequently, enhancing the capacities of local government to handle more complex responsibilities has become a high priority (Krueathep, 2004).

Environmental law is a complex and interlocking body of treaties, conventions, statutes, regulations and common law that operates to regulate the interaction of humanity and the natural environment, toward the purpose of reducing the impacts of human activity. The topic may be divided into two major subjects; pollution control and remediation and resource conservation and management. Laws dealing with pollution are often media-limited, pertain only to a single environmental medium, such as air, water (whether surface water, groundwater or oceans), soil and control both emissions of pollutants into the medium as well as liability for exceeding permitted emissions and responsibility for cleanup. Laws regarding

resource conservation and management generally focus on a single resource, natural resources such as forests, mineral deposits or animal species or more intangible resources such as especially scenic provide guidelines for and limitations on the conservation, disturbance and use of those resources. These areas are not mutually exclusive for example, laws governing water pollution in lakes and rivers may also conserve the recreational value of such water bodies. Furthermore, many laws that are not exclusively environmental nonetheless include significant environmental components and integrate environmental policy decisions. Municipal state and national laws regarding development, land use and infrastructure are examples (Hardman, 2011).

In term of training, refers to knowledgeable, skilled and competent acquisition as a result of vocational teaching, practical skill and knowledge that are having a relation to the specifically useful competencies. It forms up the apprenticeship's core and provides the content's backbone at institutes of technology. Additionally, basic training is required for trading, occupation or profession, observers of labor-market suggest that there needs to be continued training beyond initial qualifications in order to maintain, upgrade and update skills throughout working life. People who are within a various professions and occupations may referred to this sort of training as a professional development (Vougias, 1988).

The training program is the process for improving the abilities of each person in many aspects such as knowledge, attitude and skills that happen systematically. If some of them know and understand clearly in each topic, they would change their behavior according to the experiences that they have learnt under the condition of the situation and appropriate time (Jansamood *et al.*, 2010). This research purposes were to studies the effect of training on administration and enforcement of environmental laws of local government officers and to comparing their knowledge before and after training. The research's purposes is to compare knowledge on administration and enforcement of environmental laws of local government officers before and after training.

Hypothesis: The local government offices had knowledge on administration and enforcement of environmental laws after training were higher than before training.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research was an quasi-experimental one with the one group pre- and post-test design. Population and sample are as follows; population were 9,870 local government officers in Mahasarakham province. Sample is 73 officers in Tambon administrative organization of Koeng Mueang district, Mahasarakham province which have been selected by a purposive sampling technique. Research instrument including the following; the training activities on administration and enforcement of environmental laws for local government officers. The test of knowledge on administration and enforcement of environmental laws for local government officers. For data collection, there was the step as follows:

Step 1: Collecting pre-training data from the sample by the test of knowledge on administration and enforcement of environmental laws.

Step 2: Collecting the immediate post-training data from the same sample by the same instruments, namely; the tests of knowledge on administration and enforcement of environmental laws.

Step 3: Analyzing data by statistical, percentage and t-test.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The local government offices had knowledge on administration and enforcement of environmental laws after training is higher than before training.

Table 1: Knowledge on administration and enforcement of environmental laws of local government offices with difference gender

Gender	n	Before		After		t-values	p-values
		\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD		
Male	30	17.23	1.43	26.30	1.80	-18.46	0.000*
Female	43	17.60	1.47	26.58	1.05	-33.85	0.000*
Total	73	17.45	1.45	26.46	1.40	-35.60	0.000*

Table 2: Knowledge on administration and enforcement of environmental laws of local government offices with difference age

Age	n	Before		After		t-values	p-values
		\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD		
21-30	10	17.90	1.28	26.30	1.77	-10.804	0.000*
31-40	15	14.20	1.56	26.67	1.34	-15.174	0.000*
41-50	23	17.56	1.56	26.34	1.33	-20.173	0.000*
51-60	20	17.10	1.33	26.45	1.53	-20.832	0.000*
>60	5	18.20	1.30	26.80	0.83	-9.274	0.001*
Total	73	17.45	1.45	26.46	1.40	-35.600	0.000*

Table 3: Knowledge on administration and enforcement of environmental laws of local government offices with difference education level

Education	n	Before		After		t-values	p-values
		\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD		
High school	45	17.42	1.52	26.49	1.39	-27.787	0.000*
Diplomas	10	17.40	1.42	26.10	1.91	-9.339	0.000*
Bachelor	13	17.77	1.36	26.61	1.26	-19.626	0.000*
Over bachelor	5	17.00	1.22	26.60	0.89	-11.817	0.000*
Total	73	17.45	1.45	26.46	1.40	-35.600	0.000*

Table 4: Knowledge on administration and enforcement of environmental laws of local government offices with difference position

Position	n	Before		After		t-values	p-values
		\bar{X}	SD	\bar{X}	SD		
Local staff	45	17.38	1.42	26.62	1.28	-30.805	0.000*
Administration committee	5	17.40	1.81	26.00	1.87	-6.306	0.003*
Local member	23	17.61	1.50	26.26	1.54	-18.132	0.000*
Total	73	17.45	1.45	26.46	1.40	-35.600	0.000*

In difference gender, the female local government offices had knowledge higher than the male (\bar{X} = 26.58) (Table 1). In difference age, the local government offices at age over than sixty years had the most knowledge (\bar{X} = 26.80) (Table 2). In difference education level, the local government offices at the bachelor degree had the most knowledge (\bar{X} = 26.61) (Table 3). In difference position, the local government offices at the local staff and local member had the most knowledge (\bar{X} = 26.26) (Table 4).

The local government officers had knowledge on administration and enforcement of environmental laws after training is higher than before training with statistically significant difference at the level of 0.05 which shows that the developed training activities making more knowledge and experience receiving for the local administration officers which relating to the administration and enforcement of environmental laws directly to the activities's target which is accorded to Traithip *et al.* (2008)'s research who found that the community

environmental leaders had knowledge in a forest resource conservation that according to a sufficiently economic philosophy after training is higher than before training.

CONCLUSION

From this research, the training activities on administration and enforcement of environmental laws for the local government officers was rated as a high efficiency and they also had knowledge on administration and enforcement of environmental laws after training were higher than before training. Information from the study was giving beneficially to the administration and enforcement of environmental laws development system in local government department.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research has completed perfectly with a support and kindness of Dr. Prayoon Wongchantra (thesis committee chairman) and Asst. Prof. Pol. Capt. Dr. Katharat Hengtragoon (thesis committee) who

have greatly given a useful advice and weakness verification from the beginning till its completion.

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