Strengthening the Conciliation and Harmony of the Society

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Abstract: This research aimed to examine conflict conditions, examine the impact towards the conflicts and develop the approaches to strengthen the conciliation and harmony to solve the conflicts in Pathum Thani. This research applied the mixed method between quantitative research by distributing 2,800 questionnaires to people in 7 districts of Pathum Thani and 400 people each and the qualitative research by studying the documents on interviewing and arranging the forum for important informants, i.e., academicians, administrators of the governmental agencies in Pathum Thani and 65 chief executives of the local administrative organization in Pathum Thani as well as observing the activities leading to the harmony in the society and politics. This research analyzed the quantitative data by using descriptive statistics, i.e., frequency, percentage, means and standard deviation and inferential statistics, i.e., independent t-test, one way ANOVA, pairwise comparison by LSD Pearson correlation and multiple regression and analyzed the qualitative data through interpretation and logical assumption and then describing the research result. The result could be concluded as follows: the overall of the conflict conditions in Pathum Thani was at the moderate level ($\bar{x}$ = 3.21, SD = 1.15). When considering by factors, most of them related to conflicts in political ideology ($\bar{x}$ = 3.42, SD = 1.08). The factors affecting the conflicts were differences in favor of political ideology, liking different political parties, liking different politicians and benefits from political endorsement, so that, they attempt to make the political party or the politicians they endorse to win the election for the benefits from administration and exercising administrative authority. Moreover, the political conflicts in Pathum Thani resulted from the intervention of political system. The political powers have intervened local politics and lead to the conflicts, especially, for political leaders influencing people because most of the people believe in the leaders. If the leaders have conflicts and separation, people will also have separation the same as the leaders. The approach to strengthen the conciliation an harmony was to solve the conflict by collaboration ($\bar{x}$ = 3.63, SD = 1.01). The important approaches to strengthen the conciliation were using the activities as an instrument to strengthen the conciliation of people in the commconciliation, especially, for the public interest activities for the public or benefits for all and organizing the activities continuously. To carry out the activities require the process for people at all levels, genders, age and communities to have an opportconciliation to participate the activities to discuss and express their opinion independently and mutually make a decision and take action. Therefore, the process of solving the conflicts through collaboration needs to have the consensus of collaborative activities through participative process from expressing opinion, making decisions, taking action, evaluating, getting benefits from participative activities from expressing opinions, making decisions, taking action, evaluating and getting benefits from the mentioned activities of people related to the conflicts.

Key words: Political conflict, conciliation, harmony, Pathum Thani, collaboration, conflicts

INTRODUCTION

Changes of the society will always lead to the conflict, especially, for changes of values and norms. However, the conflict is an important variable leading to changes and development (Coser, 1956). Social conflicts result in legislation, laws and regulations and development of judicial administration and courts. Whereas there is an advantage, there is also a disadvantage which should not be overlooked because it will have severe impacts towards human society and human relations. More importantly, it has severe impacts towards the political order consisting of political system, society, economy and values.

Pathum Thani is the province considered as having high political conflicts and violence in the top rankings of the country. It has used violence in case of conflicts for many times, such as movement of red shirt people in Pathum Thani on March 3, 2010. The red shirt leaders in Pathum Thani along both sides of Chao Phraya River

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gathered people to board over 20 ships on the waterside in Pathum Thani and opened for new red shirt members. Mr. Somboon Khunthongthai, the red shirt leader in Pathum Thani, revealed that he rented a 70-people ferry boat to transport students. During that time, the schools were off, so that, the ferry boat was empty and did not transport passengers. Therefore, they could take transportation jobs and he coordinated over 20 boats in many areas to go through Chao Phraya River with the destination of Sanam Luang Pier because the forklift trucks would set up the barrier to block red shirt people from gathering on March 14. This made them to rent ships to transport people for assembly. Moreover, some went there by bus to assemble at the meeting points and now there were over 15,000 tickets issued for people who signed their names and red shirt people for this assembly (komchadluek.net). Another event was the assembly moving to Thaicom Station, Bo Ngoen Subdistrict, Lat Lum Kaeo District and binding the red cloth for remembering 1 year anniversary of closing Thaicom Station. The reporter state that at 11.30 am on April 7, 2011, a group of over 1,000 red shirt people in Pathum Thani moved from several districts, such as Mueang District, Lam Luk Ka District, Nong Suea District, Thanyaburi District and Lat Lum Kaeo District led by Mr. Somrak Pakjai, Mr. Korn Lam Luk Ka, red shirt Comm conciliation radio DJ of the frequency wave 150.40. DJ Lob and DJ Maew of the frequency wave 96.35 organized the parade of over 150 of bicycles and motorcycles and over 150 of cars and pickups assembling in front of Pathumthani Provincial Administrative Organization to make a move to Thaicom Station, Lat Lum Kaeo District, Pathum Thani (Thairath online).

Research objectives: To examine conflict conditions in Pathum Thani, to examine the impact towards the conflicts in Pathum Thani and to develop the approaches to strengthen the conciliation and harmony to solve the conflicts in Pathum Thani.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

This research applied the mixed method between quantitative research by distributing 2,800 questionnaires to people in 7 districts of Pathum Thani and 400 people each and the qualitative research by studying the documents on interviewing and arranging the forum for important informants, i.e., academicians, administrators of the governmental agencies in Pathum Thani and 65 chief executives of the local administrative organization in Pathum Thani, as well as observing the activities leading to the harmony in the society and politics.

This research analyzed the quantitative data by using descriptive statistics, i.e., frequency, percentage, means and standard deviation and inferential statistics, i.e., independent t-test, one way ANOVA, pairwise comparison by LSD Pearson correlation and multiple regression and analyzed the qualitative data by collecting secondary data from relevant document and primary data from in-depth interview of important informants and physical observation and environment of study area through interpretation and logical assumption and then describing the research result. The result could be concluded as follows:

Conflict conditions in Pathum Thani: The overall of the conflict conditions in Pathum Thani was at the moderate level ($\bar{x}$ = 3.21, SD = 1.15). Considering by factors, most of them were conflicts in political ideology in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.42, SD = 1.08), followed by conflicts in social regulations from the old to the new one ($\bar{x}$ = 3.28, SD = 1.09) and conflicts in flow of Foreign culture and civilization ($\bar{x}$ = 3.07, SD = 1.16).

The overall of the conflict conditions in Pathum Thani in terms of conflicts in values (concepts) and norms (practice) in Pathum Thani was at the moderate level ($\bar{x}$ = 3.21, SD = 1.22). Considering by factors, most of them were actions based on different reasons or their own reasons which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.26, SD = 1.14), followed by values of admiring rich people and high position people which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.25, SD = 1.17) and different respect for the Royal Institution which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.16, SD = 1.28).

The overall of the conflict conditions in Pathum Thani in terms of conflicts in social changes in Pathum Thani was at the moderate level ($\bar{x}$ = 3.20, SD = 1.16). Considering by factors, most of them were using common resources and public interest, such as water resources, roads and parking place which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.24, SD = 1.15), followed by changes from agricultural society to urban society which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.23, SD = 1.13) and last settlement of the newcomers such as living in housing development and condominium which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.17, SD = 1.15) and using new technologies for communication such as Facebook, Line, etc. which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.17, SD = 1.20).

The overall of the conflict conditions in Pathum Thani in terms of racial conflicts in Pathum Thani was at the moderate level ($\bar{x}$ = 3.10, SD = 1.20). Considering by factors, most of them were multi-racial alien labors in the area which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.15,

SD = 1.16), followed by racial differences such as traditional Thai people, Thai-Mon people, Thai-Chinese people, etc. which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.08, SD = 1.21), differences in cultures and traditions leading conflicts in the society ($\bar{x}$ = 3.08, SD = 1.19) and using different regional, local or national languages leading conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.08, SD = 1.22).

The overall of the conflict conditions in Pathum Thani in terms of conflicts in political ideology in Pathum Thani was at the high level ($\bar{x}$ = 3.42, SD = 1.08). Considering by factors, most of them were liking different political parties which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.52, SD = 1.09), followed by liking different politicians which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.43, SD = 1.06) and last differences in understanding towards democracy which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.36, SD = 1.11) and beliefs in right and freedom of people according to the democracy which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.36, SD = 1.06).

The overall of the conflict conditions in Pathum Thani in terms of conflicts in flow of Foreign culture and civilization was at the moderate level ($\bar{x}$ = 3.07, SD = 1.16). Considering by factors, most of them were changing the concept of buying or building Thai-style houses into modern houses such as town home, condominium, etc. which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.08, SD = 1.17), followed by values of using high-priced Foreign brand names which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.07, SD = 1.15) and last, using technologies for producing such as farming which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.05, SD = 1.16).

The overall of the conflict conditions in Pathum Thani in terms of conflicts resulting in social regulations from the old to the new ones was at the moderate level ($\bar{x}$ = 3.28, SD = 1.09). Considering by factors, most of them were establishing the governmental policies unaccepted by people which led to the social conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.29, SD = 1.11), followed by enforcing rules and regulations of the governmental agencies unaccepted by people which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.28, SD = 1.10) and last, issuing new laws and regulations of the commconciliation without people's participation which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.26, SD = 1.10).

Conflict conditions and important factors leading to conflicts in Pathum Thani: At present the conflicts in Pathum Thani are not as violent as during 2002-2014 because the current government (NCPO Government) does not allow to organize the political activities or movements of interest groups. However, the conflicts still exist, especially, for political conflicts which are more

violent than other factors. The conflicts and important factors leading to the conflicts in Pathum Thani were as follows:

Conflicts from different values (Concepts) and norms (Practice): Pathum Thani is the metropolitan province with the expansion of urban Comm conciliation having a lot of new condominiums and housing development. This led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani because people in the urbanized Comm conciliation would increasingly value in materialism, differ in economy, create status inequality. Though the conflicts have not caused any violence, it increasingly leads to different thoughts and lack of cooperation, different behaviors and depend on their own reasons which are the urbanized Comm conciliation in Thailand and Foreign countries.

Conflicts from changes: Social changes in Pathum Thani from expansion of urbanized commconciliation and settlement of the newcomers such as living in housing development and condominium have caused diversity of people moving from many provinces and many cultures increasingly leading to conflicts in Pathum Thani that is environmental changes due to pollution, especially, for quickly increasing solid waste pollution which led to the conflicts in Pathum Thani and tended to be more aggressive in the near future.

Political conflicts: Political ideology, liking different political parties, liking different politicians and benefits from political endorsement, so that, they attempt to make the political party or the politicians they endorse to win the election for the benefits from administration and exercising administrative authority. Moreover, the political conflicts in Pathum Thani resulted from the intervention of political system. The political powers have intervened local politics (major politics intervened minor politics) and lead to the conflicts, especially for political leaders influencing people because most of the people believe in the leaders. If the leaders have conflicts and separation, people will also have separation the same as the leaders. At present the conflicts in Pathum Thani are not as violent as during 2002-2014 because the current government (NCPO Government) does not allow to organize the political activities. However, the conflicts still exist, especially, for political conflicts which are more violent during the national and local elections.

Approaches to strengthen the conciliation and harmony: The overall of strengthening the conciliation and harmony and solving the conflicts in Pathum Thani was at the high level ($\bar{x}$ = 3.43, SD = 1.04). Considering by factors, most of

them were solving the conflicts by cooperation ($\bar{x}$ = 3.63, SD = 1.01), followed by solving the conflicts by harmony ($\bar{x}$ = 3.56, SD = .971) and solving the conflicts by competition ($\bar{x}$ = 3.11, SD = 1.14).

The overall of solving the conflicts by avoiding the problems or refusing recognition was at the moderate level ($\bar{x}$ = 3.36, SD = 1.08). Considering by factors, most of them were avoiding the problems or refusing recognition could solve the conflicts of different values and norms in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.47, SD = 1.10), followed by avoiding the problems or refusing recognition could solve the conflicts of social changes in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.39, SD = 1.08) and last, avoiding the problems or refusing recognition could solve the racial conflicts in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.30, SD = 1.07) and avoiding the problems or refusing recognition could solve the conflicts in flow of foreign culture and civilization in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.30, SD = 1.06).

The overall of solving the conflicts by avoiding the problems or refusing recognition was at the high level ($\bar{x}$ = 3.56, SD = 0.971). Considering by factors, most of them were compromising and sacrificing their own needs could solve the conflicts of different values and norms of people in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.60, SD = 0.972), followed by compromising and sacrificing their own needs could solve the conflicts from rules and regulations of the old Comm conciliation and the new one in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.59, SD = 1.05) and last, compromising and sacrificing their own needs could solve the conflicts of political ideology of people in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.51, SD = 0.950).

The overall of solving the conflicts by compromising was at the high level ($\bar{x}$ = 3.48, SD = 0.994). Considering by factors, most of them were halfway meeting could solve the conflicts of different values and norms of people in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.54, SD = 0.995), followed by meeting could solve the conflicts of social changes of people in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.49, SD = 1.00) and last, meeting could solve the conflicts in flow of Foreign culture and civilization in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.44, SD = 0.984).

The overall of solving the conflicts by competition was at the moderate level ($\bar{x}$ = 3.11, SD = 1.14). Considering by factors, most of them were winning or losing could solve the conflicts from rules and regulations of the Comm conciliation from the old Comm conciliation to the new one in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.23, SD = 1.21), followed by winning or losing could solve the conflicts of different values and norms in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.13, SD = 1.12) and winning or losing could solve the racial conflicts of people in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.05, SD = 1.11).

The overall of solving the conflicts by cooperation was at the high level ($\bar{x}$ = 3.63, SD = 1.01). Considering by factors, most of them were cooperation to comply with the agreement could solve the conflicts of different values and norms in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.65, SD = 1.01), followed by cooperation to comply with the agreement could solve the conflicts of social changes in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.63, SD = 1.01) and cooperation to comply with the agreement could solve the conflicts in flow of Foreign culture and civilization in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.63, SD = 0.996) and last cooperation to comply with the agreement could solve the conflicts in political ideology in Pathum Thani ($\bar{x}$ = 3.60, SD = 1.01).

There were several approaches to strengthen the conciliation and harmony in Pathum Thani to solve the conflicts in Pathum Thani such as avoiding the problems or refusing recognition, harmony, compromising, competition and cooperation. However, there are 3 main approaches to strengthen the conciliation and harmony in Pathum Thani as follows:

Solving the conflicts by harmony: In case of the harmony to solve the conflicts, the leaders and people should be sacrificed to lose their benefits from taking advantage of other people in the society, not to exploit too much advantage for themselves or their companions which probably leads to the conflicts. The harmony could solve the conflicts from the benefits from political endorsement and not attempt to make the political party or the politicians they endorse to win the election beyond the boundary of the competition, according to the democracy.

The important harmony is to use activities as a tool to strengthen the conciliation and harmony of people in the conciliation, especially, for the public benefit activities for the public or for all. The activities are organized continuously and to conduct the activities should have the processes for people of all walks of life to participate the activities as well as to have freedom to express their opinions, make decisions and take action together.

Solving the conflicts by compromising: In case of conflicts, one of the best solutions is compromising through halfway meeting in which the process should provide the forum or the parties to meet each other, share opinions and turn to talk together by the middleman or the agency acting as the mediator. The middleman or the agency acting as the mediator should be approved or accepted from both parties of the conflicts.

Solving the conflicts by cooperation: Cooperation and compliance with the agreement is to solve the conflicts by cooperation. Therefore, the process of solving the conflicts by cooperation should have cooperative

activities by consent through the participative process from sharing opinions, making decisions, taking action, evaluating and getting benefits from the activities of people related to the conflicts.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The result showed that the improper culture of political participation led to the political conflicts in Pathum Thani. These were the conflicts of political ideology from misunderstanding which was consistent with Surasit (2012) that conditions and communication problems of community leaders, there is news from the media and use specialized media in the community causing misunderstandings about political participation especially for misunderstanding in political participation which closed the roads and important places to make a demand for the group leading to violence and violating rights of other people. This was consistent with Dhiravegin (2010) that the conflicts of political ideology led to solve the conflicts by violence and force which probably overturned the conflicts of political ideology. These are the conflicts which affect not only the society or related communities but also affect all over the world. Moreover, this was consistent with Sripen (2008) that the conflicts of political ideology were negative conflicts which were related to "violence" and the conflicts between people-people, people-group and group-group, the same as a group of people doing harm the other group of people.

According to the research, the conflicts of Thai politics partly resulted from the governmental policies which distributed resources and benefits to the political groups endorsing their political parties, providing political rights by appointing the leaders of the groups endorsing their political parties to take political positions and other positions as the rewards. The mentioned conflicts were consistent with Dahrendorf (1968) that the conflicts from social inequality resulted from authority. Both authority and non-authority groups also have latent interests behind. Therefore, each party makes an attempt to maintain their own interest and the leaders are responsible for negotiating to harmonize mutual interests. The degree of conflicts to be occurred depends on managing and coordinating interests of the dominant group.

CONCLUSION

Due to the possibility of the conflicts to be occurred in the future during the election, the researchers consisting of chief executive of the Khlong Sam SAO and president of Pathum Thani considered, if the local administrative organizations in Pathum Thani cooperated one another to solve the conflicts by finding out the root causes and seeking the solutions as well as strictly implementing, it would strengthen the conciliation and harmony and solve the conflicts in Pathum Thani.

SUGGESTIONS

Suggestions for making use of the research: According to the research, the improper culture of political participation led to the political conflicts in Pathum Thani. These were the conflicts of political ideology from misunderstanding, especially for misunderstanding in political participation which closed the roads and important places to make a demand for the group leading to violence and violating rights of other people. Therefore, to avoid those problems, people all walks of life should be provided knowledge for proper understanding of actual democracy to create awareness of proper culture political participation.

According to the research, laws and strict enforcement in terms of society and politics would solve the violent conflicts. Therefore, the government should issue laws and strict enforcement not to allow political movement of the political groups, especially, for the political mobs from different political ideologies or different political endorsement which led to the turmoil of closing the roads, official places or important places. These led to the riot and the government should strengthen the participative culture under the laws of people for the political and social reconciliation. Therefore, it will not cause violating rights of other people and the government should strictly enforce the laws with the same standard to everyone and every political group without discrimination.

According to the research, the conflicts of Thai politics partly resulted from the governmental policies which distributed resources and benefits to the political groups endorsing their political parties. Therefore, one of the important approaches to strengthen the conciliation and harmony id that to establish the equal and fair policies and distribute the resources and benefits to the political groups equally without double standard treatment. Moreover, the policy of the political party leading to the political conciliation is that the policy which does not draw the political group to endorse their political party and causes the separation of political parties or other groups. Apart from not creating separation, the policy should be beneficial to all of people.

According to the research, the political rights leading to the political harmony is that the politics provide opportunities for qualified people to develop the country as the representative of the people with fairness nor appointing the leaders of the groups endorsing their political parties to take political positions and other positions as the rewards. Moreover, another important factor leading to the political harmony is that the political party or the political group winning the election should respect other political groups and make them feel that they are part of the society without discrimination and have rights as everyone should have equally.

Suggestions for future research: The research should be studied on the factors and forms leading to the political harmony under different ideology. The research should be studied on the conflicts of Thai politics in terms of factors, conditions and solutions. The research should be studied to establish the policy of conciliation and harmony under the conditions of social equality by making them feel being more respected and accepted.

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