CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Introductory Aspects of the Study</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2 Objectives of the Study</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3 Variable of the Study</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4 Hypothesis of the Study</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 Definition of the Important Terms</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 Limitation of the Study</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7 Brief Information about Politics in Thailand</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference: 13
1.1 Introductory Aspects of the Study

The present study is an effort to study the Political Socialization of Thai youths in three broader areas:

The knowledge about politics, political socialization and attitude towards the effectiveness of the government amongst Thai students. The study also try to find out the relationship between that three important areas. This chapter is devoted to the details of the introductory aspect of the study.

In the present time, it has been accepted that politics do not only belong to a specific group of persons but it concerns every member of the society, because no one can exist in the society without getting involved in politics.

Therefore, in giving interest in politics, it is the right and duty of the people of the country, Political system of any country depend on many supportive factors, such as, history and background of such nation, socio-economic condition as well as level of education of the people. The important thing is political socialization which comprises of political interest, political efficacy as well as attitude towards administration by the government.

Thailand is ruled by democratic system which is based on a principle that it is the administration of the people, by the people and for the people. People have equal rights, have freedom and liberty within the scope of the law. But the fact which appears throughout the period is an effort to develop political system of Thailand towards democratic system is not so successful as it should be. This is due to
the fact that it does not correspond with social condition and culture in that society which enables the political system to be unstable. Also the parliament is weak, Political parties are not developed.

Another important basic problem which is not beneficial to democratic development is that, the people or members of such political system has political culture which sends as impact to having attitude, belief and value which do not correspond with democratic administration. Gabriel A. Almond and Sidney Verba mentioned about this that "development of the pattern of ruling in democracy, the state of having official democratic institution, such as, giving right to elect, having political party, having legislator which is from election, etc. is not sufficient. Democratic administration should have political culture which corresponds with such political system." (1)

Verba has explained the word "political culture" that it is the system of pattern of belief, thinking which members of a political community has towards politics and things which happen in political world, such as political activities, political institutes, political culture which will create stability which can develop any political system very well, must be political culture which corresponds and be supportive to such political system. Members of political system have to have faith and give support to political system. (2)

Thinapan Nakata: proposed that political culture which will be supportive to certain aspects of political system, i.e. have faith in human beings and political environment acceptance of opinion and criticism have political efficacy as well as having faith in political participation. (3)
The political culture of a person will concern directly with political socialization which is a process in forming shape, the political culture in every political system. Political socialization may be both a process to maintain, heritage, change or create political culture.

Apart from the fact that political socialization will send a result in forming concept or a certain pattern in political culture, i.e. autocracy or democracy, political study, important in perception and such as interest in politics, political efficacy, political trust and political cynicism, etc. The basic political orientations relate with participatory politics which is important characteristics of modern democratic system. Principle roles and duties of the people is to participate in the political process of the country. thai political administration has also a structure which emphasizes on democracy where people also participate.

If study in politics in any political system is able to create and send the trend which supportive to democratic system in participatory politics, such as, political interest, political efficacy, political trust and political cynicism, etc. This will enable such members in political system to become enthusiastic and are able to participate efficiently and give support to political system in the form of participation which will be benificial to developing a firm and stable democratic system. In this research, the researcher would like to make a study about the learning in politics of Thai youngsters in the aspects of political interest, political efficacy, political trust, political attitude of Thai youths which have impact on the working performance of the government.
1.2 Objectives of the Study
The objectives of the present study is to understand the following:-

1.2.1 To study the level of knowledge about politics of Thai youths.

1.2.2 To study the affect of sex, age, socio-economic status and academic performance of knowledge about politics of Thai youths.

1.2.3 To study the level of political socialization of Thai youths.

1.2.4 To study the affect of sex, age, socio-economic status and academic performance of political socialization of Thai youths.

1.2.5 To study the level of the political attitude of Thai youths.

1.2.6 To study the affect of sex, age, socio-economic status and academic performance on political attitude of Thai youths.

1.2.7 To study the relationship between political socialization and political attitude of Thai youths.

1.3 Variable of the Study

1.3.1 Independent Variable
- Sex
- Age
- Socio-economic Status
- Academic Performance

1.3.2 Dependent Variable
- Knowledge about Politics
1.4 Hypothesis of the Study

1.4.1 The level of knowledge about politics and political socialization of Thai youths is in medium.

1.4.2 There will be no significant affect of sex, age, socio-economic status and academic performance on the knowledge about politics of Thai youths.

1.4.3 The level of political socialization of Thai youths is in medium.

1.4.4 There will be no significant affect of sex, age, socio-economic status and academic performance on the political socialization of Thai youths.

1.4.5 There will be no significant affect of sex, age, socio-economic status and academic performance on the political interest of Thai youths.

1.4.6 There will be no significant affect of sex, age, socio-economic status and academic performance on the political efficacy of Thai youths.

1.4.7 There will be no significant affect of sex, age, socio-economic status and academic performance on the political trust of Thai youths.

1.4.8 The level of the political attitude of Thai youths towards the effectiveness of the government is in medium.
1.4.9 There will be no significant affect of sex, age, socio-economic status and academic performance on the political attitude of Thai youths towards the effectiveness of the government.

1.4.10 There will not be a significant relationship between political socialization and political attitude of Thai youths towards the effectiveness of the government.

1.4.11 There will not be a significant relationship between political socialization and political attitude of Thai youths towards the effectiveness of the government belonging to the different groups of sex, age, socio-economic status and academic performance.

1.5 Definition of the Important Terms

1.5.1 Political Socialization
1.5.2 Political Interest
1.5.3 Political Efficacy
1.5.4 Political Trust
1.5.5 Political Attitude of Thai youths towards the Effectiveness of the Government

1.5.1 Political Socialization means people's perception towards the country's administration including the acceptance of duties of the people in the capacity of a citizen of the country and the acceptance of the meaning and principle of democracy which is the result obtained from political training process and the result of understanding in politics by the people will be one of the reasons which will cause political consciousness.
1.5.2 Political Interest means feeling suggestion of the people in positive characteristics, that is, interested, satisfied or liking as well as in negative characteristics, that is fed up, uninterested, dissatisfied or dislike to participate in the country's administration, such as, following up political information, talk about or discuss or give suggestion about the country's problem, try to participate in decision-making or specifying political policy and local administration, such as, voting for election, participating in benefit group/influential group or becoming a member of political parties. (5)

1.5.3 Political Efficacy means the feeling that the government is capable of influencing towards the politics and the administration, i.e. the government is able to remedy the chaotic problem of the country in an efficient manner. The government has developed the country to a more progressive one. The government is fast in remedying the problems of the country. Thailand has political stability as well as the government has created quality of life with the people, etc. (6)

1.5.4 Political Trust means political trend or perception which a person has towards political activities, political power, those who use the political power or the total political system by assessing that such thing or such performance is right, justified, reasonable, is an attachment which shows the liking and trust. (7)

1.5.5 Political Attitude Towards the Effectiveness of Government means feeling, suggestion both positive, which means satisfaction, interest or liking, and in negative way, which means, fed up, dissatisfied, dislike or another characteristic, which is silent, not liking or hate by the people towards political system and administration. It also results in making the people show
political behaviour which is the result from accumulated environment from study on political teaching since childhood.(8)

1.6 Limitation of the Study

1.6.1 The present study is confined to only the Thai youths of age group of 14-22 years.

1.6.2 The Ministry of Education in Thailand has divided the country into 12 Educational Regions. This is done with the view to accommodate education according to the local, geographical and culture backgrounds as well as to particular economic and social needs. As it is not possible to cover all the Educational Regions. The researcher have selected only five provinces. They are:

1. Nakhonpathom
2. Nonthaburi
3. Pathumthanee
4. Samutprakarn
5. Samutsakorn

1.6.3 The study is further delimited to the sample of students studying in the standard 10 to standard 12 and graduate students during academic year 1995-1996.

1.6.4 Looking to the Thai culture and administrative pattern, the present investigator want to make use of newly constructon tool to measure the political socialization and attitude towards the effectiveness of the government of Thai youths.

1.6.5 The term academic performance used in the present study is restricted only to the level of achievement of student in the cognitive areas of various school subjects. It is further delimited to achievement of students in compulsory subjects which are cover by school and college examination.
1.7 Brief Information about Politics in Thailand

The development of a democratic political system in Thailand has come a long way and it still has a long way to go. It has been over six decades of political change since the revolution of 1932, but for Thai democracy to become fully developed, it will take some more time for complete maturation, Thailand has moved from a monarchical state prior to 1932 to a bureaucratic state of the 1930 through 1970 and following that to the period of halfway democracy in early 1980's. After the bureaucratic state, what one sees is a plutocratic state in which the businessmen have dominated the political scene, rather than a democratic state. What one would hope to see is evolution towards a democracy functioning out of interest for the people in general, rather than for a few wealthy and powerful individuals.

On examining the structures of the Thai democratic system, the area which needs serious attention can be identified as the need to allow a genuine local self-government system to operate, in order for the people to rehearse their self-government performance on the stage of local government. In the process, they could learn the art of government and administration, but more importantly, they could become increasingly politically conscious and responsible for their own affairs, lending to an increased confidence and a sense of political efficacy. This can be done, for instance, by raising the status of village councils. i.e. They are aptly qualified to serve as the units in which a local self-government at the grassroots can start.

But political or administrative decentralization alone will not be sufficient. What is also needed is economic decentralization.
Economic activities and business dynamism will have to expand into the provincial and rural areas. This would bring about a better income and living standard for the people by deconcentrating the dynamism and vibrance of these activities found in Bangkok's metropolis and expanding it to the provinces, districts, and villages. Indeed, one might argue that Bangkok Metropolis is both a newly industrialized and a democratized unit unto itself. Bangkok could meet all the requirements of a Newly Industrialized Country (NIC). In terms of democracy, Bangkokians obviously vote according to the party system and it is a place where the two-party system seems to be working. If these features, economically and politically can be expanded to areas outside Bangkok blanketing the whole nation, the process of democratization and industrialization will gradually take hold of the entire nation.

If the above is the case, the level of political consciousness of the people will be elevated, leading to the formation of strong political groups. With effective pressure groups or interest groups, the great bulk of the masses would become democratically functional. They would know the art of self-government and they would form pressure groups with strong bargaining power. Thus, the substructure and part of the intermediate structure would be completed in the structural jigsaw puzzle.

With the emergence of these two phenomena, the mass media would have to keep abreast of developments by upgrading its quality in order to meet the demands of a new market. It would have to improve its operational methods, the content of the news and features presented to the public, etc. Given the level of political consciousness and
sophistication among the people, the media would only be able to neglect the new reality at its own peril.

Then would come an equally, if not more, important element which would serve both the superstructure and the intermediate structure, that is, the political parties. The political parties would have to be streamlined, by building up a strong organization with a strong ideological commitment. The screening process for members would have to be such that only people with suitable qualifications and moral standing would be given membership. Improvement in its operation and professionalism would be required. The general election campaigns would need to be professional, devoid of unfair mudslinging and demagoguery. In that scenario, vote buying and rigging must be reduced to a minimum.

If all this were to take place, a concomitant result would follow in the quality of members of the House of Representatives, the Cabinet and the public bureaucracy. Improvement of the overall system should logically come as a matter of course.

If such is the scenario, the system and its actors will naturally gain legitimacy. Acceptance of a civilian rule would become widespread which would serve the guarantee that the system would be left to proceed along its natural course.

Democracy is not a good system, as someone once said, but it is a system which works. In other words, it is a system with the least evil. Democracy in Thailand is now both a goal and an ideal. The Thai have no other alternative but to strive forward in order to make the system work. It is the only path for them to tread.
REFERENCE

CHAPTER 1


# CHAPTER 2 THEORETICAL ORIENTATION AND REVIEW OF THE PAST STUDY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1 Political Socialization</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.1 Political Interest</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.2 Political Efficacy</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.3 Political Trust</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2 Research Work Relevant to Political Socialization</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>