

ABSTRACT

Title of Research Paper : Relationship of Democratic Knowledge, attitude and Behavior of University Students in Thailand
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The purpose of the study was twofold : 1) to find out the level of democratic knowledge, attitude and behavior of university students in Thailand, and 2) to identify the relationship of the three.

In this survey research the data were collected by distributing questionnaires to 210 undergraduate students at Ramkhamkaeng University during May 20-25, 2001.

The findings were briefly stated below :

1. The students' knowledge of democracy was found to be at a high level their democratic attitude was found to be positive and their democratic behavior was found to be at a moderate level.

2. The knowledge about democracy was significantly related to their democratic attitude.

3. However, the knowledge about democracy had no significant relationship with their democratic behavior when the following were considered : Knowing one's role and responsibility, holding onto-the public's interest, respecting others' rights, accepting others' opinions, and participation in polities.

4. The students' democratic attitude was found to have a significant relationship with their democratic behavior when respecting others' rights and accepting others' opinions were considered. In contrast, no significant relationship was found

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between the democratic behavior and the democratic attitude when knowing one's role and responsibility, holding onto the public's interest and participation in politics were considered.

Recommendations

1. The university administrators should promote democracy by changing the students' way of thinking about the equal right between men and women, and the clique and patronage systems, all of which should not exist in the democratic society. This may be done by educating the students more about lecturer.

2. Some measures should be imposed to boost the students to play their role as students by motivating them to study as required, by providing them with options to upgrade their knowledge in the subjects in which they do not understand or are not keen, and by building their confidence in applying democracy in their daily lives at present.

3. There are large number of students at Ramkhamhaeng University, so it is unlikely for the students in a large-classroom to ask the lecturer when they have some questions. Therefore, A place and a schedule should be set for students to have an opportunity to ask questions to the between.

4. Some measures should be set to attract students to take part in activities of different clubs and faculties so that they can express their care for the public's interest. This is in line with the political reform in a democratic way, i.e., to promote public participation.

5. There should be campaigns for students to follow political news, to encourage them to exchange their political opinions, or to dare to express their view on politics.

6. The study reveals that the students have quite a good knowledge of and attitude toward politics. Thus, the university administrators should make the students see the importance of casting their votes on campus, the event closest to them. This will pave a way for the students to realize the significance of their rights and duties.