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Petty corruption in local administrative organizations: A case study in Nakhon Ratchasima Province

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Abstract

Corruption is a major problem which impedes economic growth, weakens the rule of law and undermines the legitimacy of institutions. Local government corruption is a phenomenon right across the world. This research was systematically examined the issue about petty corruption empirically and how pervasive corruption can be persistent in local administrative organizations (LAO.) in Thailand. Despite the presence of anti-corruption measures and incentives, corruption has a strong tendency to persist. The mixed-methods research was employed. The qualitative data was gathered from 50 key informants, by documentary and in-depth interview. The questionnaire was constructed to collect the quantitative data from the sample of 400 people. The major findings were 1) petty corruption was accepted as the common way to use the service from LAO and found that they felt more convenient when they give bribe to officials. 2) It was also found that people concerned petty corruption could not impact the local development. 3) Three main reasons for corruption were low salary, low education and lack of transparency. This also analyze how non-corrupt behavior can survive over the long run. The analysis has been somewhat speculative and rudimentary, a detailed development is left for future research.

Keywords: Corruption, Petty corruption, Local administration organization