

The purposes of this research were 1) to examine the development of democracy (Thai democracy with a constitutional monarchy) through exploring the democratic knowledge , attitudes towards democracy and the democratic faith of first year students of the Government University , 2) to compare the democratic consciousness of students in terms of the democratic knowledge , attitude towards democracy and the democratic faith , 3) to find out variables for predicting students' democratic consciousness , 4) to develop the democratic consciousness of the students by using democratic training and 5) to evaluate the result of democratic training in short and long term periods.

The sample consisted of 1399 first year students in a Government University in Bangkok for the survey period and 82 for the experimental period in Srinakharinwirot University. Three General Education classes were randomly selected in the second semester , 2003. Three classes were randomly assigned names , as experimental group ($N_E = 30$) , control I group ($N_{C1} = 29$) and control II group ($N_{C2} = 23$). The experimental period was exposed to a training program for developing democratic consciousness and the control I group was exposed to a training program for public speaking , while the control II group exposed to neither. The experiment took 3 days , 8 hours per day.

The instruments of measurement were the democratic knowledge test , attitudes towards democracy questionnaire , the democratic faith questionnaire , the democratic consciousness questionnaire , training program for developing the democratic consciousness and training program for public speaking. The experimental , control I , and control II students were tested three times , pretest (before training) , posttest I (immediately after the end of training) and posttest II (one month after training).

The statistics used in this research were t – test (dependent and independent) , Multiple regression , one way ANOVA , Scheffe test and Coefficient correlation. The data were analyzed by using computer package (SPSS Version 11.0) program for social sciences – SPSS for windows Version 11.0

The results of this study were as follows :

The results of survey were item 1 – 3

1. The democratic knowledge , attitude towards democracy and the democratic consciousness of students were at the average level , while the democratic faith were at the low level.

2. The students with high and low democratic knowledge were not different in the democratic consciousness. But the students with high attitude towards democracy and high democratic faith had more democratic consciousness than the low attitude towards democracy and the low democratic faith at the .01 level of significance.

3. The variables that significantly predicted democratic consciousness were democratic faith and attitude towards democracy. These predictors accounted for 35% at the standard error of 18.57 and multiple correlation was .60

The results of experiment were item 4 - 5

4. After training , the experimental students got the score of democratic consciousness higher than the control II students at the .01 level of significance , however , the experimental and control I students was not different.

One month after training , the experimental and the control I students got the score of democratic consciousness higher than the control II students at the .01 level of significance, however, the experimental and the control I students still were not different.

5. After democracy training , the experimental students got the score of democratic consciousness (posttest) higher than before training (Pretest) at the .01 level of significance , and the results were retained after one month.

After training in public speaking , the pretest and the posttest scores of control I students were not different, and the results still were retained after one month.

In control II students who did not got any training , the pretest and posttest scores were not different , but one month later the scores had decreased at the .01 level of significance.

So, we could conclude that the activities in the training program increased democratic consciousness scores efficiently and the results still were retained after a one-month follow up period.