



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Research on State Management in Vietnam from the Practice of Local People's Participation

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ABSTRACT

State management in modern society is tending to show more clearly the interaction between government agencies and people in the process of social management. The effectiveness of state management, in addition to handling records to meet people's requirements, is also reflected in the government's promotion of resources by attracting people's participation; people actively participate in state management activities of the government within the scope of the law. In this study, the author analyzes the effectiveness of state management of local governments in Vietnam from the perspective of people's participation: Direct participation; Indirect participation. The theoretical framework is built with a three-scale model, including State Management Effectiveness (QL), Direct Participation (TT), Indirect Participation (GT). The author conducted a survey of 300 people from 3 localities representing 3 regions of Vietnam, including Thai Nguyen province (North), Quang Nam province (Central), Long An province (South) to collect information to assess the practical participation of people in local state management activities. The survey results showed that there were limitations in the form of direct participation in local government management activities. From the conclusion of this study, the author discussed the policy issue of promoting the expansion of people's rights to participate in state management activities, improving the management efficiency of local government agencies.

INTRODUCTION

State management in Vietnam is decentralized between the central and local levels, between local government levels according to law; there is a combination of sectoral management and territorial management. The central level issues laws and sub-law documents to regulate issues under the state management tasks at the national level. The local level is responsible for organizing the implementation of laws and sub-law documents issued by central agencies to carry out state management in the local area.

The local government levels of Vietnam include: Provincial level (63 provincial governments), district level (705 district governments) and commune level (10.599 commune governments) [GSO, 2023]. At each local level, the government agencies include the People's Council (state power agency) and the People's Committee (state administrative agency), organized and operated in a democratic form with decentralization of authority, functions and tasks according to the law [VNA, 2015]. State

management practices in Vietnam show that democracy is demonstrated; people are allowed to participate in state management activities directly and indirectly according to the law [VNA, 2022].

However, many studies have assessed that the direct form is more limited, while the civil society context tends to be expanded and people want to participate more directly and substantially in state management activities. Therefore, research on people's participation in state management activities is very meaningful and necessary. That helps to identify more clearly the democratic nature in the organization and operation of state government; the advantages need to be promoted to adapt and be suitable with the development trend of civil society.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In terms of theory, many related studies have emphasized the significance of state management, which is the action measure of state agencies to establish and maintain social order and promote social development [Jones, G. et al., 2012]. According to Ngoc, D.B. (2013), state management is related to the implementation of social management tasks by government agencies with the nature of centralized power and the nature of coercive rule of law. The traditional view emphasizes that the effectiveness of state management is reflected in the handling of records to meet people's requirements, creating people's satisfaction and building the state's position in political, economic, social aspects... However, in the context of civil society tending to expand and people wanting to participate more directly and more substantially in state management activities, many researchers have mentioned the interaction of the government with the people. Cuong, N.V. (2015) believes that the effectiveness of state management is assessed in terms of the active participation of the people to contribute to the construction and development of the local economy, culture, society. Sharing this view, Trung, N.S. (2019) further affirms the action aspect of the government, which is the government agency mobilizing many local resources to develop and maintain security and social order in the area..

Inheriting the above research results, the author establishes a research viewpoint and affirms that the effectiveness of state management, in addition to resolving records to meet people's requests, is also reflected in the government's promotion of resources by attracting people's participation; people proactively participate in state management activities of the government within the scope of the law. Explaining this content, the author affirms that state management with the nature of centralized power is necessary to create social stability; at the same time, it is necessary to demonstrate self-management at the local level and allow the participation of many subjects such as social organizations, enterprises, and people to promote the development of local economic, cultural, and social activities. From here, the scale "State management effectiveness" (SME) is interpreted to include the main contents: People's requests are resolved promptly and in accordance with the law by the government (SME1); people are satisfied with the results of work settlement by government agencies (SME2); The government encourages people's participation in local state management activities (SME3); people actively participate in local state management activities (SME4).

To achieve effective state management, in addition to the natural management and operation by the rule of law from the government agencies, the active participation of the people is an important and meaningful criterion. Phuong, N.T. (2018) believes that the democratization of the decision-making process of government agencies with the broad participation of people and organizations clearly demonstrates the democratic nature and effectiveness of state management. People's participation is expressed in direct and indirect aspects. According to Hai, D.P. (2019), people have the right to directly discuss and decide on the self-management tasks of the community (direct participation); people contribute opinions, recommendations, and reflections to representative agencies and representative agencies send them to government agencies (executive agencies) for research and handling (indirect participation). This study discusses the effectiveness of state management in Vietnam from the perspective of people's participation, so in addition to referring to the above

research results, the author mainly relies on the provisions of current Vietnamese law to build a theoretical framework for research on people's participation in state management activities in the form of direct participation and indirect participation.

a) People directly participate in state management (PDP)

According to Phuong, N.T. (2018), people directly participate in state management, which is the right to decide on common affairs of the local community according to the law on the principle of the common interests of the state and the people. Trung, N.S. (2019), based on practical research from many countries, including the US, France, UK, Germany, etc., discussed the form of people directly participating in state management, which is the right to proactively propose initiatives, programs, and projects for economic, cultural, and social development; the government has the obligation to receive people's initiatives and research and implement them, and is also responsible for encouraging people to propose initiatives to maximize local resources.

In the practice of state management in Vietnam, the law stipulates that people have the right to directly discuss and decide on the self-management tasks of local communities [VNA, 2022]. Accordingly, people have the right to directly discuss and decide on village regulations, organize the self-management apparatus; and directly decide on the people's self-contribution funds. The meetings and decisions are carried out under the supervision of the government; if more than 50% of the total number of voters or voters representing households in the village or in the entire commune agree, the discussion content is decided and has enforceable value. In addition, people have the right to directly participate in giving opinions on programs and projects related to the economic, cultural and social development of the locality announced and implemented by the government. Programs and projects announced and implemented publicly by the government include: Socio-economic development plan of the commune; Plans for implementing programs and projects in the commune; projects for establishing new, merging, and dividing commune administrative units, adjusting commune administrative boundaries; planning and land use plans of the commune and some other contents related to the interests of the community.

From the theoretical and practical aspects above, the author interprets the scale "People directly participating in state management" (PDP) including the main contents: People have the right to decide on the common affairs of the local community (discussing and deciding on village conventions, organizing the population self-management apparatus; directly deciding on people's self-contribution funds) according to the law on the principle of the common interests of the state and the people (PDP1); people are allowed to directly participate in giving opinions on programs and projects related to local economic, cultural and social development (PDP2); people are encouraged/proactively propose initiatives, programs and projects for local economic, cultural and social development and the government accepts, researches and implements (PDP3).

b) People indirectly participate in state management (PIP)

According to Hai, D.P. (2019), with the form of indirect participation in state management activities, people are able to express their right to contribute opinions, recommendations, and reflections to representative agencies and representative agencies send them to government agencies (executive agencies) for research and handling (indirect participation form). In practice, state management in Vietnam, the law stipulates the right to make recommendations and reflections to government agencies exercising executive power through voter contact conferences (through elected representatives, representative agencies) [VNA, 2022].

The voter contact conference is held annually (held before and after the session of the People's Council - the local elected body) for elected representatives to listen to the people's opinions and reflections. At the conference, the people (voters) make recommendations and reflections; the elected representatives synthesize, research, and report to the People's Council; then, the people's

recommendations and reflections are sent to the People's Committee (the agency exercising executive power) for handling. The recommendations and reflections are answered at the next voter contact conference or in other appropriate forms; the process and results of handling the people's recommendations and reflections are carried out with the supervision mechanism of the local People's Inspection Board and other appropriate forms according to the law.

From the theoretical and practical aspects of state management mentioned above, the author interprets the scale "People indirectly participating in state management" (PIP), including the main contents: People are allowed to make recommendations and feedback to local authorities (through representative agencies) at the annual voter contact conference (PIP1); people are given answers to their recommendations and feedback through voter contact conferences or in other appropriate forms (PIP2); people are allowed to make recommendations and feedback and have their recommendations and feedback answered by the monitoring mechanism of the local People's Inspection Board and other appropriate forms according to the law (PIP3).

The direct and indirect participation of the people in state management activities as prescribed by law demonstrates the democratic nature of the organization and operation of the state. The proactive, active participation and responsible participation of the people are decisive factors for the effectiveness of state management. When the government attracts the participation of the people, state management activities at the local level will be effective; the interaction between the government and the people will increase and become more regular; the government will have favorable conditions to promote local resources; the people will have conditions to monitor more closely and directly the activities of government agencies. With that meaning, the research hypothesis is set out: *People's direct participation (H1) and indirect participation (H2) in a proactive and positive manner has a decisive meaning/impact on the effectiveness of state management.*

Through the research overview, the author has built a theoretical research framework with a model consisting of 3 scales: "State management effectiveness" (QL) - 01 dependent variable; and "People directly participating in state management" (TT), "People indirectly participating in state management (GT) - 02 independent variables. The above scales consist of 10 observed variables, designed by the author into 10 questions in the survey form and measured by a 5-level Likert scale: 1 - Strongly disagree; 2 - Disagree; 3 - No opinion; 4 - Agree; 5 - Strongly agree [Table 1, Figure 1].

Table 1. Theoretical framework

No	Scales	Code	5-level Likert scale				
			1	2	3	4	5
I	People directly participating in state management	PDP					
1	People have the right to decide on the common affairs of the local community (discussing and deciding on village conventions, organizing the population self-management apparatus; directly deciding on people's self-contribution funds) according to the law on the principle of the common interests of the state and the people.	PDP1					
2	People are allowed to directly participate in giving opinions on programs and projects related to local economic, cultural and social development.	PDP2					
3	People are encouraged/proactively propose initiatives, programs and projects for local economic, cultural and social development and the government accepts, researches and implements.	PDP3					
II	People indirectly participating in state management	PIP					

4	People are allowed to make recommendations and feedback to local authorities (through representative agencies) at the annual voter contact conference.	PIP1					
5	People are given answers to their recommendations and feedback through voter contact conferences or in other appropriate forms.	PIP2					
6	People are allowed to make recommendations and feedback and have their recommendations and feedback answered by the monitoring mechanism of the local People's Inspection Board and other appropriate forms according to the law.	PIP3					
III	State management effectiveness	SME					
7	People's requests are resolved promptly and in accordance with the law by the government.	SME1					
8	People are satisfied with the results of work settlement by government agencies.	SME2					
9	The government encourages people's participation in local state management activities.	SME3					
10	people actively participate in local state management activities	SME4					

Source: Synthesized through literature review

Research model

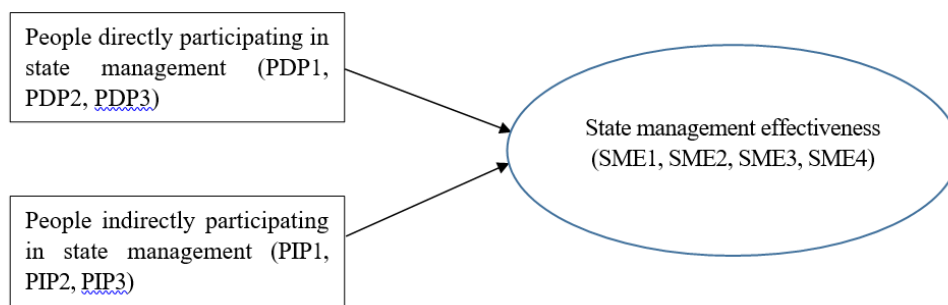


Figure 1: Research model

3. METHODOLOGY

- Qualitative method: Qualitative research is conducted to explore ideas and synthesize information to serve the construction of a theoretical framework. The author mainly collects and analyzes secondary data through an overview of published documents. Thereby, the theoretical framework is built with a three-scale model, including "State management effectiveness" (SME) - 01 dependent variable; and "People directly participating in state management" (PDP), "People indirectly participating in state management" (PIP) - 02 independent variables.

- Quantitative method: Quantitative research was conducted to test the scale, model and research hypothesis. The author collected and analyzed primary data through direct surveys of 300 people from 3 localities representing 3 regions of Vietnam, including Thai Nguyen province (North), Quang Nam province (Central), Long An province (South) to collect information to assess the practical participation of people in local state management activities.

From the theoretical framework, the 03-scale model with a total of 10 observed variables, the author designed a survey with 10 questions, which are 10 observed variables. The observed variables are measured using a 5-level Likert scale [Table 1]. The minimum sample size required for regression analysis for this study is $N = 10 * 5 = 50$ [Hai, D.H., 2019]. In fact, the author conducted a sample size

of $N = 300 > 50$, showing high reliability when conducting survey research. The survey results collected 300/300 valid questionnaires, achieving a response rate of 100%. With the collected data, the author conducted scale testing, regression analysis to test the relationship between the scales and drew research conclusions.

4. FINDINGS

From the collected survey data, Cronbach' Alpha test was conducted to identify the reliability of the scales and observed variables in the research model. According to Hai, D.H. (2019), the scales are reliable when meeting the standard condition Cronbach'alpha > 0.6 ; the observed variables are reliable when meeting the standard condition Corrected Item-Total Correlation > 0.3 . The test results show that all 3 scales and 10 observed variables in the research model are reliable enough to conduct further analysis [Table 2].

Table 2. Statistical results and testing results of the scales

Scales	Observed variables	N	Min	Max	Mean	Std. Deviation	Cronbach' Alpha	Corrected Item-Total Correlation
1. People directly participating in state management (PDP)	PDP1	300	2	5	3.88	.523	.632	PDP1 = .471
	PDP2	300	2	5	3.97	.621		PDP2 = .445
	PDP3	300	2	5	3.83	.615		PDP3 = .428
2. People indirectly participating in state management (PIP)	PIP1	300	2	5	4.12	.602	.642	PIP1 = .511
	PIP2	300	3	5	4.23	.594		PIP2 = .521
	PIP3	300	2	5	3.16	.581		PIP3 = .498
3. State management effectiveness (SME)	SME1	300	2	5	4.09	.621	.654	SME1 = .505
	SME2	300	2	5	4.01	.617		SME2 = .511
	SME3	300	2	5	3.98	.594		SME3 = .523
	SME4	300	2	5	3.91	.588		SME4 = .498
Valid N (listwise)		300						

Source: Authors' survey results

Observations on the scales "People directly participating in state management" (PDP), "People indirectly participating in state management" (PIP), "State management effectiveness" (SME) are all evaluated at an average level of Mean > 3.83 , statistically significant according to the determined Likert scale (1-5). However, the observed variables of the scale "People directly participating in state management" (PDP) are evaluated at a lower level than "People indirectly participating in state management" (PIP): Mean (PDP1) = 3.88, Mean (PDP2) = 3.97, Mean (PDP3) = 3.83, showing that people are less directly involved in state management activities at the local level. In which, the lowest is Mean (PDP3) = 3.83, affirming that: People are less encouraged/proactive in proposing initiatives, programs, projects for local economic, cultural, social development and the government accepts, researches and implements. Thus, in the practice of state management in Vietnam, people have limited rights to directly participate in the activities of local governments; mainly participating indirectly, through elected representatives at voter contact conferences.

Data in Table 2 with the standard scale test value (Cronbach'alpha > 0.6) and the standard observed variable test value (Corrected Item-Total Correlation > 0.3), can test the research model in the following analyses. The author conducts regression analysis to examine the relationship between the independent variables "People directly participating in state management" (PDP), "People indirectly participating in state management" (PIP) with the dependent variable "State management effectiveness" (SME).

Table 3. Multivariate regression results

Coefficients ^a							
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.	VIF
		B	Std. Error	Beta			
1	(Constant)	.721	.402		2.969	.000	
	People directly participating in state management (PDP)	.424	.322	.453	3.382	.000	1.806
	People indirectly participating in state management (PIP)	.576	.274	.488	6.918	.000	1.806
a. Dependent Variable: State management effectiveness (SME) R Square = .638; Durbin-Watson = 2.004							

Source: Authors' survey results

Data in Table 3 shows:

+ R Square = .638, confirming that the scales "People directly participating in state management" (PDP), "People indirectly participating in state management" (PIP) explain 63.8% of the variation in the scale "State management effectiveness" (SME);

+ VIF = 1.806 ($1 < VIF < 2$), showing that the regression model does not have multicollinearity; Durbin-Watson = 2.004 ($1 < d < 3$), showing that the regression model does not have autocorrelation, confirming that the scales "People directly participating in state management" (PDP), "People indirectly participating in state management" (PIP) are independent and both have an impact on the scale "State management effectiveness" (SME).

+ The regression coefficients of the two independent variables "People directly participating in state management" (PDP), "People indirectly participating in state management" (PIP) are both statistically significant with Sig. = 0.000 (Sig. < 0.05) and have positive values: B(PDP) = 0.424, B(PIP) = 0.576, confirming the positive relationship between the two independent variables "People directly participating in state management" (PDP), "People indirectly participating in state management" (PIP) and 01 dependent variable "State management effectiveness" (SME); hypotheses H1 and H2 are accepted.

Based on the generalized regression model $Y = B_0 + B_1 \cdot X_1 + B_2 \cdot X_2 + \dots + B_i \cdot X_i$ [Hai, D.H., 2009], the multivariate regression model of this study can be determined as: $SME = 0.721 + 0.424 \cdot PDP + 0.576 \cdot PIP$.

In the above regression model, the regression coefficient shows the correlation level of the independent variables and the dependent variable in increasing order: "People directly participating in state management" (PDP), "People indirectly participating in state management" (PIP).

5. CONCLUSION

Research results with statistical data [Table 2], regression analysis [Table 3] have shown that state management activities in Vietnam are carried out with a democratic nature; people participate in state management activities in both direct and indirect forms, but limited to the level of direct participation. According to the law, people have the right to decide on local issues within a narrow scope, mainly the right to decide on common affairs of the local community (discussing and deciding on village conventions, organizing the population self-management apparatus; directly deciding on people's self-contribution funds) according to the law and according to the principle of the common interests of the state and the people. The self-development of programs, projects and proposals for the government to study and implement has not been clearly demonstrated.

From the above research conclusions, the author discusses the policy issue of promoting the expansion of people's rights to participate in state management activities, improving the management efficiency of local government agencies. This is the content related to promoting people's mastery, which is interpreted as: (1) Developing and implementing policies to encourage people to participate in state management by proposing to the government initiatives, programs, and local development projects; (2) Developing and implementing a mechanism of responsibility for local governments in receiving and researching and implementing initiatives, programs, and local development projects proposed by people. This content is proposed because in reality there are many issues directly related to people's rights and interests and need to be discussed and decided directly by people. For example, production and business activities associated with community connection, indigenous culture (community tourism, traditional handicraft products, etc.).

The development and implementation of policies to promote the expansion of people's rights to participate in state management activities aims to promote local democracy. People are promoted to be masters; local governments have favorable conditions to mobilize many resources from the people to develop the economy, culture and society in the territory. On the other hand, when people are encouraged to participate in state management, they will pay more attention to the management activities of the government and actively and proactively contribute to local development; the interaction between people and the government will be carried out more frequently, contributing to building a government close to the people, serving the people.

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