

Collaboration between Local Governments in Thailand: Lessons from the United Kingdom



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1. Why it is important to do this comparative study



Why Thailand?

In Thailand, there are a number of small local governments which lack capacity to deal with financial constraint and wicked issues. Collaboration has been introduced as a potential mechanism to increase the capacities of local government in providing efficient services in Thailand for decades. However, there has been little progress in implementing collaborative working and there are challenges that local governments face when using collaboration in Thailand.



Why UK?

The UK has much longer experience in implementing a collaborative working approach in local authorities. Hence, studying UK experiences of collaboration between local governments can benefit the implementation of this policy in Thailand.

2. Research Approach

- Exploratory study
- Inductive approach
- Interpretivist epistemology



3. Questions and methods

Questions	Methods	4 Cases
1) Why has collaboration between local governments happened in the UK and Thailand?	Documentary analysis Semi-structured interview	
2) What forms of collaboration have been used in the UK and Thailand?	Documentary analysis Semi-structured interview	
3) What factors promote and inhibit collaborative working between local governments in the UK and Thailand?	Documentary analysis Semi-structured interview	

5. The implication of the research

- **Helps** policy-makers in Thailand to develop efficient models of collaboration for encouraging local governments to use collaborative approach
- **Benefits** policy in practice since the findings of this research, for instance, the factors that promote and inhibit collaborative working, may help practitioners to implement collaborative mechanisms in more effective ways

6. References

- Bailey, D. and Koney, K. M. (2000) **Strategic Alliances Among Health and Human Services Organizations: From Affiliations to Consolidations**. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Lober, D.J. (1997) Explaining the Formation of Business-Environmentalist Collaborations: Collaborative Windows and the Paper Task Force. **Policy Sciences**, 30: 1-24
- Sullivan, H. and Skelcher, C. (2002) **Working Across Boundaries: Collaboration in Public Services**. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

4. Analytical Framework

Combining the Lober's (1997) **collaboration forming model** with the **typology of interagency relationships** which is built on Bailey and Koney (2000) and Sullivan and Skelcher.(2002) enables researcher to explain the formation of collaboration and the specific types of collaboration which have been implemented in response to the specific collaborative window.

