

*Buchitchon & Tungsungnain, 2015*

*Volume 1 Issue 1, pp.467-475*

*Year of Publication: 2015*

*DOI- <https://dx.doi.org/10.20319/pijss.2015.s21.467475>*

*This paper can be cited as: Buchitchon, S., & Tungsungnain, U. (2015). The Relationship between Legal Knowledge and Attitude Toward Justice of the Participants in Community Knowledge Sharing Project, Sri Charoen Village, Nongkhai Province. PEOPLE: International Journal of Social Sciences, 1(1), 467-475.*

*This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.*

## **THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN LEGAL KNOWLEDGE AND ATTITUDE TOWARD JUSTICE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE SHARING PROJECT, SRI CHAROEN VILLAGE, NONGKHAI PROVINCE**

**Suntaree Buchitchon**

*Faculty of Integrated Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University Nong Khai Campus, Nong Khai, Thailand*

[suntareebu@kku.ac.th](mailto:suntareebu@kku.ac.th)

**Ussanee Tungsungnain**

*Faculty of Integrated Social Sciences, Khon Kaen University Nong Khai Campus, Nong Khai, Thailand*

[ussanee@kku.ac.th](mailto:ussanee@kku.ac.th)

---

### **Abstract**

*The research aims to study the correlation between legal knowledge and the attitude toward justice of the law. The sample of this research consists of 40 participants in Community Knowledge Sharing Project which was conducted in Sri Charoen Village, Nong Khai Province in 2015. The data of legal knowledge and attitude toward justice were collected before and after the knowledge sharing project. The statistics used to analyze the data were percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test and Pearson's correlation. The result shows that the level of knowledge and attitude before the knowledge sharing project were at low level and were increased to high level after the knowledge sharing project. Furthermore, the research shows*

*that there are correlation between legal knowledge and attitude toward justice of the law.*

## **Keywords**

Legal Knowledge, Justice, People Attitude

---

## **1. Introduction**

It is commonly known that the legitimacy of the law is an important principle that legislators have to take into account. The law can be viewed as legitimate and worthy of support when the regulation can maintain the stability and accountability of the law while providing legal boundaries with in a morally acceptable ground. (Horne, 2009) Justice is one of the moral principle that is expected from any legislation. (Rawls, 1999) However, the perspective toward the interpretation of justice can be subjective. The differences in such interpretation can also bring dilemmas as well as violence. (Haidt & Graham, 2007) In the world of the law, justice can be categorized into two main types: corrective justice who usually concerns with the remedy by the law and distributive justice who refers to the fairness in allocation of the goods and outcomes. (Lovis-McMahon, 2011)

This research aims to study the correlation between legal knowledge and the attitude toward justice of the law. The research started by telling the participants 4 legal situations which have come to the decision of the Supreme Court of Thailand. The situations were divided into four categories which are; criminal law, law on succession, civil and commercial law, and land law. The main focuses are to determine the legal knowledge of the participants as well as the attitude toward the justice of such law and situations. Afterward, the volunteers shared the legal knowledge focusing on the principles behind the legislation and the reason of the law. Then the participants listened to 4 legal situations again and answer the questions to determine their knowledge and attitude. The collected data showed interconnection between legal knowledge and attitude toward justice of the law.

## **2. Research Methodology**

The sample of this research consists of 40 participants in Community Knowledge Sharing Project which was conducted in Sri Charoen Village, Nong Khai Province, Thailand in 2015. The data of legal knowledge and attitude toward justice were collected before and after the

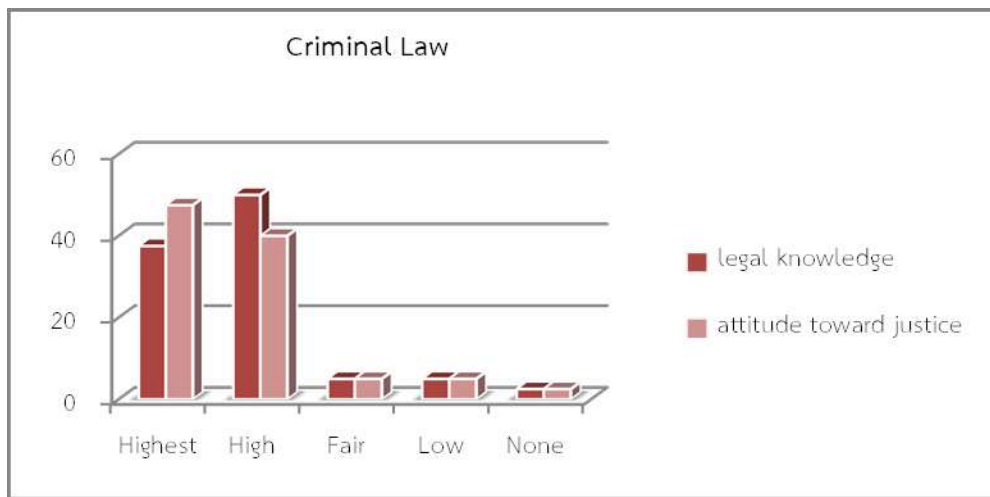
knowledge sharing project. The statistics used to analyze the data were percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test and Pearson's correlation.

### 3. Results and Discussions

#### 3.1 The Knowledge and Attitude before Knowledge Sharing Project

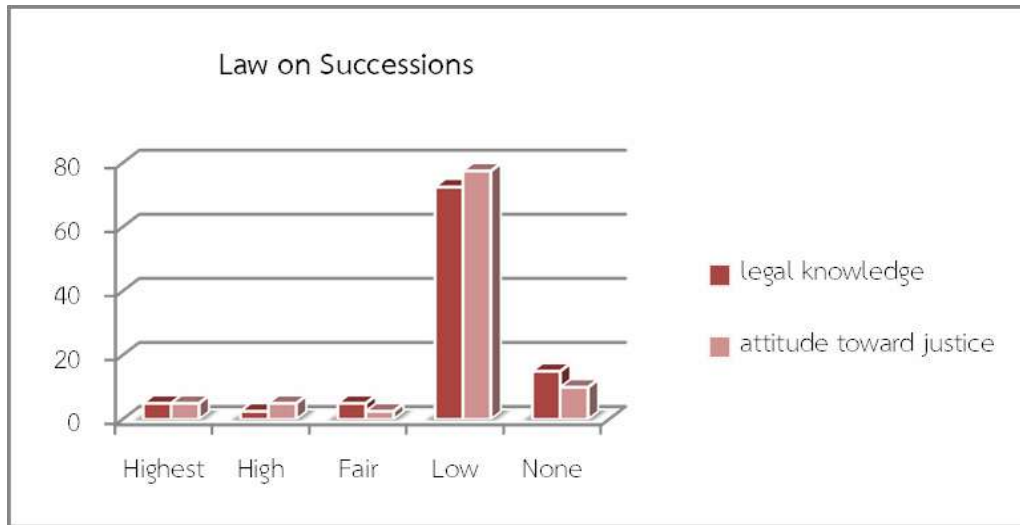
The research result shows the level of knowledge and attitude before the knowledge sharing project were at low level. The results can be described as follows;

In the first situation related with criminal law: 50 percent of participants have knowledge in criminal law at high level while 47.5 percent of participants feel that the justice of the law is at the highest level.



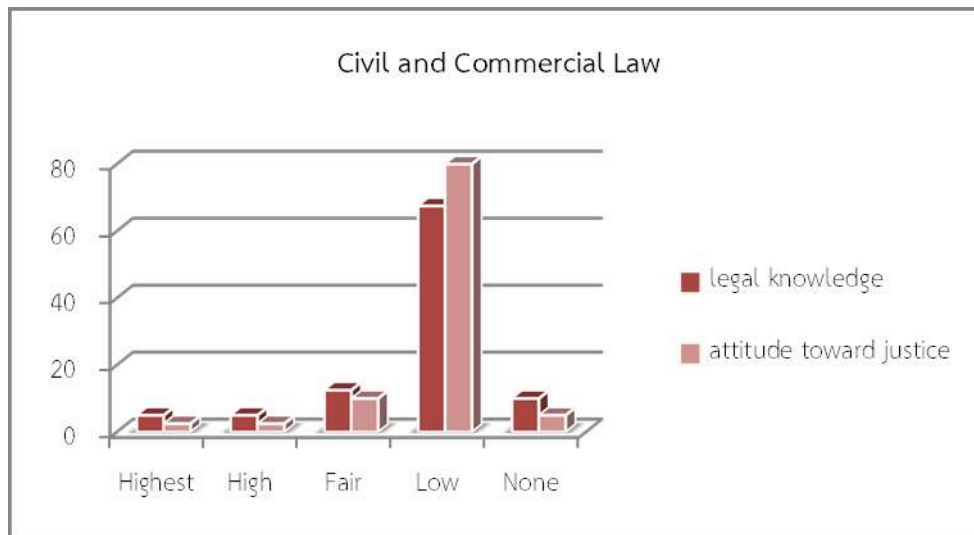
**Figure 1:** Level of legal knowledge and attitude in criminal law before knowledge sharing

In the second situation related with succession law: 72.5 percent of participants have knowledge of the law at low level while 77.5 percent of participants feel that the justice of the law is at low level as well.



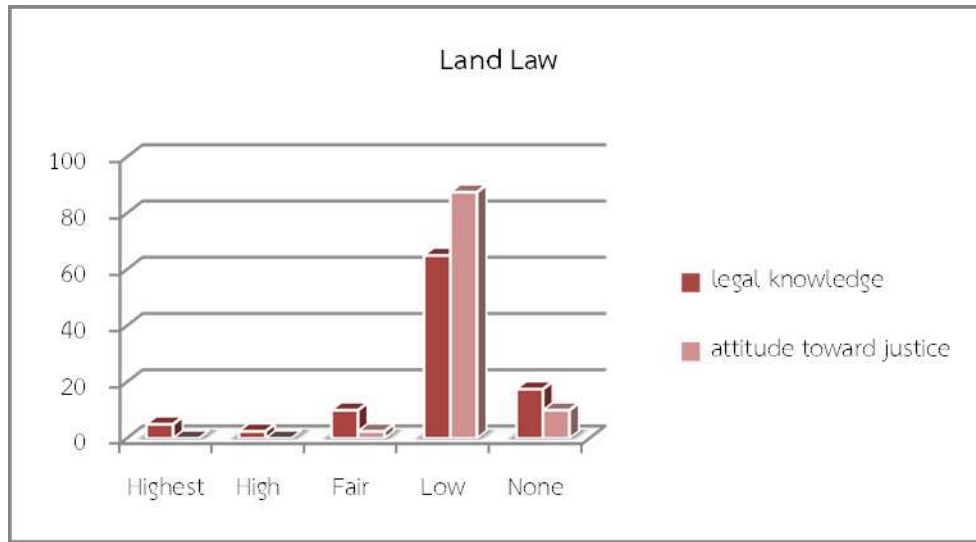
**Figure 2:** Level of legal knowledge and attitude in succession law before knowledge sharing

In the third situation related with civil and commercial law: 67.5 percent of participants have knowledge in civil and commercial law at low level while 80 percent of participants feel that the justice of the law is at low level as well.



**Figure 3:** Level of legal knowledge and attitude in civil and commercial law before knowledge sharing

In the fourth situation related with land law: 65 percent of participants have knowledge in land law at low level while 87.5 percent of participants feel that the justice of the law is at low level.



**Figure 4:** Level of legal knowledge and attitude in land law before knowledge sharing

#### 4.2 The Knowledge and Attitude after Knowledge Sharing Project

After the volunteers shared legal knowledge and discussed the principles behind the law, the knowledge and attitude of the participants have critically increased ( $p < 0.05$ ).

**Table 1:** T-test analysis of legal knowledge: pre and post knowledge sharing

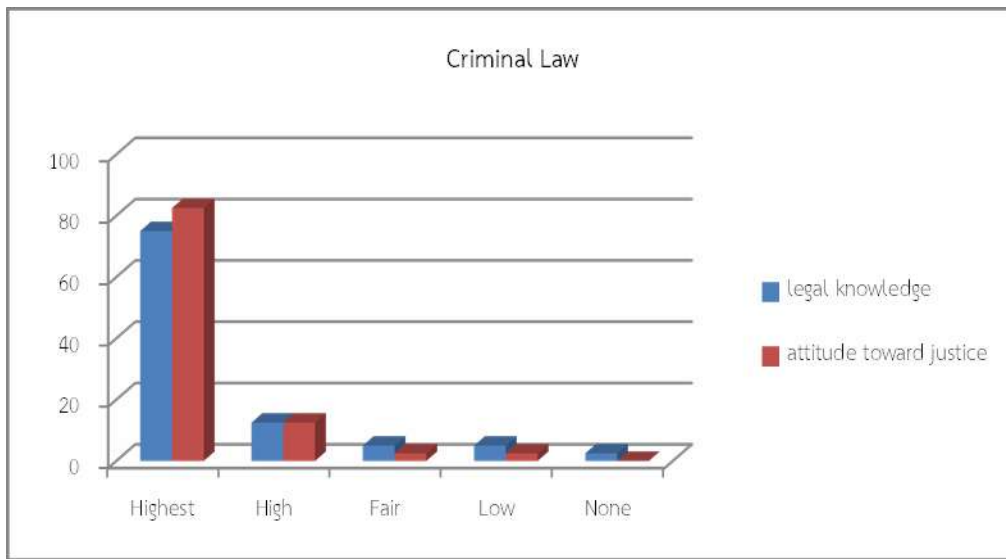
Samples	N	df	full score	Pre		Post		t
					S.D		S.D	
	3	3	200	86.67	3.79	176.67	9.07	14.27
* $< 0.05$ (Critical Value $0.05 = 2.13$ )								

**Table 2:** T-test analysis of attitude toward justice: pre and post knowledge sharing

Sample	N	df	Full score	Pre		Post		t
					S.D		S.D	
	3	3	200	83.67	5.77	172	11.36	12
* $< 0.05$ (Critical Value $0.05 = 2.13$ )								

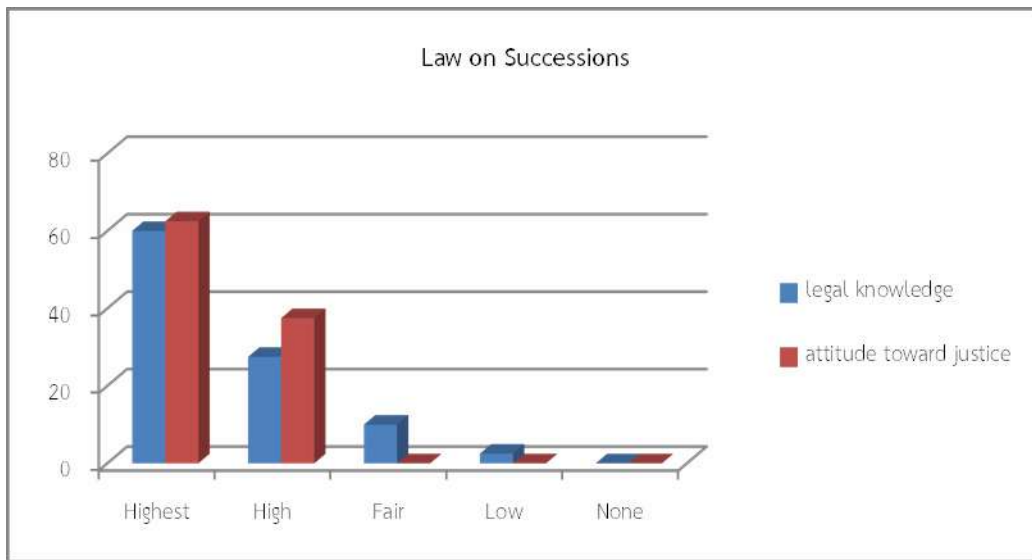
The result showed that the level of knowledge and attitude after the knowledge sharing project were increased dramatically.

In the first situation related with criminal law: 75 percent of participants have knowledge in criminal law at the highest level while 82.5 percent of participants have the highest attitude toward the justice of the law.



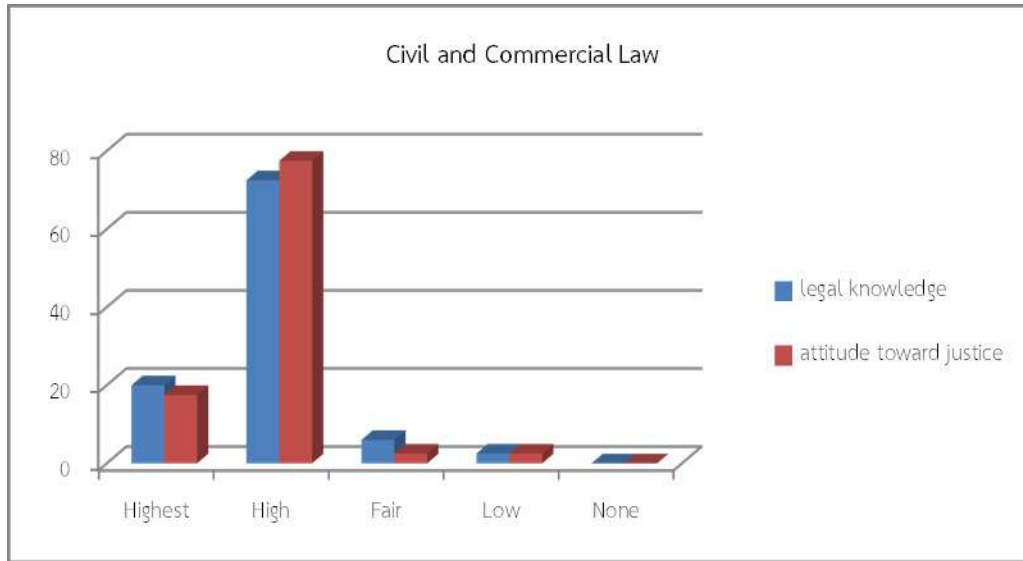
**Figure 5:** Level of legal knowledge and attitude in criminal law after knowledge sharing

In the second situation related with succession law: 60 percent of participants have knowledge at the highest level while 62.5 percent of participants feel that the justice of the law is at the highest level as well.



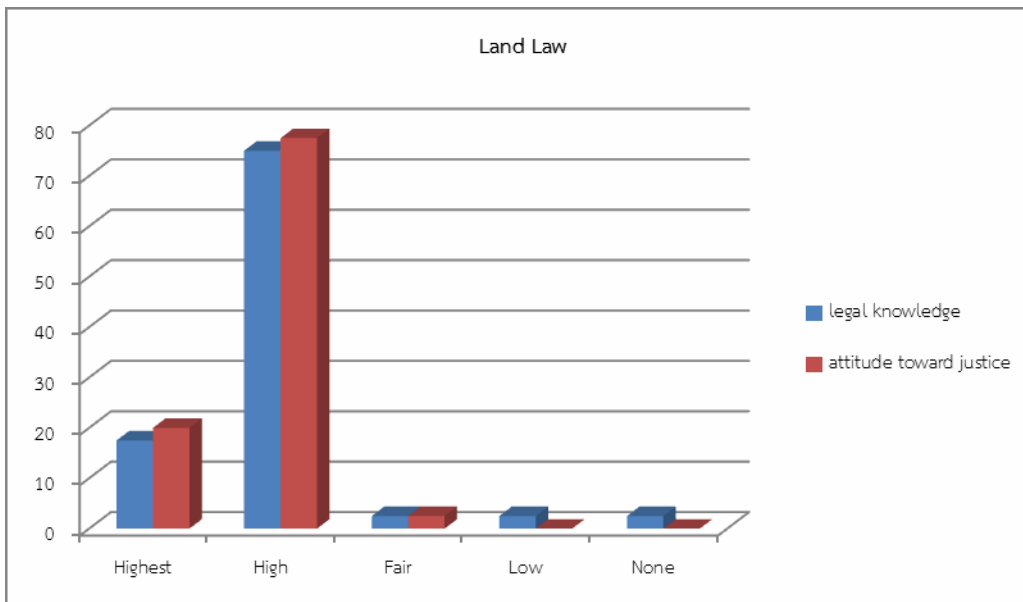
**Figure 6:** Level of legal knowledge and attitude in succession law after knowledge sharing

In the third situation related with civil and commercial law: 72.5 percent of participants have knowledge of the law at high level while 77.5 percent of participants feel that the justice of the law is at high level as well.



**Figure 7:** *Level of legal knowledge and attitude in civil and commercial law after knowledge sharing*

In the fourth situation related with land law: 75 percent of participants have knowledge of the law at high level while 77.5 percent of participants feel that the justice of the law is at high level as well.



**Figure 8:** *Level of legal knowledge and attitude in land law after knowledge sharing*

Furthermore, the data shows that there were correlation between legal knowledge and attitude toward justice of the law. The Pearson's correlation shows positive linear relationship in

both pre and post knowledge sharing where  $r = 0.99$  and  $r = 0.98$  respectively.

## **5. Conclusion**

In this research, the legitimacy of the law is being tested through the attitude of people in Sri Charoen Village, Nong Khai province. The aims are to study the correlation between legal knowledge and the attitude toward justice of the law. The research started by telling the participants 4 legal situations which have come to the decision of the Supreme Court of Thailand to determine their legal knowledge as well as their attitude toward the justice of such law and situations.

The data shows that before the participants attended the knowledge sharing project, they had little knowledge in legal principles ( $\bar{X} = 86.67$ ) thus the attitude toward the justice of the law were at low level ( $\bar{X} = 83.67$ ) as well. However, after the knowledge sharing project, participants had more knowledge in legal principles ( $\bar{X} = 176.67$ ) and saw that the law is just and willing to abide by the law as the attitude toward the justice of the law is better ( $\bar{X} = 172$ ). It can be concluded that the project were successful in sharing legal knowledge with participants from Sri Charoen Village, Nong Khai province, Thailand. Furthermore, there are correlation between legal knowledge and attitude toward justice of the law. Thus, for the law to be legitimate, it is important to communicate and educate people in the society about the legal principles and reasons behind the law in order to get full support for any law enacted.

## **References**

- Forster, J., Heidi, G., Chen Idson, L. & Higgin, E. (2001) Success/failure feedback, expectancies, and approach/avoidance motivation: How regulatory focus moderates classic relations. *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 37, 253-260.
- Haidt, J. & Graham, J. (2007) when morality opposes justice: Conservatives have moral intuitions that liberals may not recognize. *Social Justice Research*, 20(1), 98-116.
- Horne, C. (2009). A social norms approach to legitimacy *American Behavioral Scientist*, 53(3)



Lovis-McMahon, D. (2011). Substantive justice how the substantive law shapes perceived fairness. (Master of Arts Thesis) Arizona State University, 2-4.

Rawls, J. (1999). A theory of justice (2nd. Ed.) Cambridge: Harvard University Press.