Factors Affecting the Quality of Graduate Students in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University in Thailand

Supattana Hombubpha
Faculty of Education, Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University, Thailand
E-mail: bubpha_j@hotmail.com

Teeppipat Suntawan
Faculty of Education, Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University, Thailand
E-mail: teeppipat@hotmail.com

Abstract

This research aims were to (1) study the levels of factors affecting the quality of graduate students (2) to study the correlation between factors affecting the quality of graduate students (3) to create equation to predict factors affecting the quality of graduate students. The instruments conducted in this research were a questionnaire with multiple choices and a questionnaire with rating scale to analyze the data of percentage, average, Standard Deviation, Multiple Correlation Coefficient, and Multiple Regression Analysis. The results have discovered that (1) the levels of factors correlated with quality of the graduate study is in high level, the characteristics of graduate students are considered in high level, (2) the multiple correlation coefficient affects the quality of graduate students in many aspects such as student factor, instructor factor, classroom environment and atmosphere and extra activities creating more experience for the students are related to the quality of the graduate students. According to the analysis between correlation coefficient and predictive variables, four aspects have been considered with positive value of.01 statistically significant values (3) the creation of equation to predict the quality of the graduate students. According to Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis affecting the quality of graduate students, it has been discovered that there are two variables out of five variables used together to predict the quality of graduate students with.01 statistically significant value. The two variables are student fact and instructor factor with 31.20 percent of variance on the quality of graduate students.
Keywords: Quality of Graduate Students, Educational Management, Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University

Introduction

Human resource is significant and valuable. However, in order to become valuable, it is vital to develop the efficiency of the human resources in a variety of aspects which are body, intelligence, knowledge, thinking ability, capability, mortality, and culture. Developing human resources in education can promote intelligence and thinking ability. This can also better other aspects of education. Education is an essential tool for effective human resource development. Besides, it is also vital to develop morality and ethics together with academic development. Bachelor's degree education aims to promote and develop students in terms of knowledge and highly specialized capability specially to apply theory to practice. The initial development of academic and profession in Bachelor's degree in universities, institutions,

colleges, or other departments established by law considers Thai national policy and standard of education as well as consider the criteria and methods of ministerial regulations. Student-centered is one the most important teaching methods. It is vital that learning process should promote students to develop them naturally with all the potential they have. It is also essential to emphasize on knowledge morality and learning process corresponding to interests and proficiency of the learners. Students should be able to develop their thinking skills and learn how to apply and confront unexpected problems by using learning activities allowing students to learn from authentic experience. It is also significant to apply integrate and balance different aspects of knowledge as well as promote morality, norms and desired characteristics among students. Additionally, the atmosphere and surrounding should promote learning ability. A variety of subjects in both academic and professional should be provided in order to evenly develop people in the aspects of knowledge, thinking skills, ability, morality, and responsibility to the society. It should aims specifically for academic research and development in order to develop the body of knowledge and professional skills.

However, in order to focus on developing people in achieving learning based on higher education courses will depend on various factors. Wacharanyanukul (2006) studied the factors of decision making to study at the first year vocational certificate level of Sukhothai Commercial School students, Bangkok. Research result found that the aspect of factor that had the highest weight in decision making was the aspect of the image and the reputation of the school, the second was the education program, the third was the welfare and services of the school, and the last rank was building and location.Kuphimine (2007) studied factors motivated students to continue Bachelor's degree: the case study of Faculty of Business Administration of Rajamangala University of Technology. It was discovered that the courses suiting the needs of labor market was the primary factor. Subordinately, social acceptance and courses serving the needs of the students were considered. Wright & Bean (1974) studied the influence of economic and social status on academic performance in university level.

Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat is an institution for local development with the aims and responsibility to promote academic success based on local wisdom, Thai wisdom and international wisdom in order to create and develop the body of knowledge and create the graduates possessing knowledge, morality and awareness of local and national cultural value. The institution also aims to strengthen teaching profession by promoting cooperation between universities, local communities and other organization order to develop the local. Another purpose is to pursue guidelines to develop local technology and modern technology suiting the lifestyle and occupation of the locals. Importantly, it also aims to inherit and promote the Royal's project based on the participation of people in the local community and society which correspond to the policy and management of National Education Act B.E. 1999. For this reason, the researcher is interested in studying factors affecting the quality of graduates in Education Management, Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University and those factors can be used by other departments for student recruiting process in the future.

Methodology

This research aims to study factors affecting the quality of graduate students in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University and to examine the correlation of factors affecting the quality of graduate students in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University in order to create predictive equation of factors affecting the quality of graduate students in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University. The details are as follow; the population of this study consisted of 182 Master's degree students in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University, 2016 Academic year.The same group consisted of 73 students selected by applying Sample Random Sampling method on Master's degree students in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat

University, 2016 Academic year using Krejcie & Morgan Table. The instruments used in this study were questionnaire based on the questionnaire of Jitrattananan (2003) was created by the researcher to serve the objectives and scope of this study. The questionnaire was divided into three parts which are Part 1 Checklist about general information and economic status of the respondent's family Part 2 Rating Scale on Student Factor, Instructor Factor, Thesis Advise Factor, Environment and Atmosphere Factor, Activity and Experience Factor. There were five rating scale according to Likert's Scale. Part 3 Variables questionnaire on the characteristics of willing to learn, the ability to conduct a research, morality, vision and leadership. Rating scale with 5 levels was applied according to Likert's Scale. The creation and development of data collection instrument comprised of the following details 1) Establish the aims of the questionnaire 2) Study related literature review and other documents to determine the definition of each variable needed to measure 3) Evaluate the questionnaire by three experts examining content validity and consistency of the questions. Index of Consistency should be more than.50 (IOC>.50).

4) Try out the questionnaire with 30 students of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University in order to examine the quality of the instrument. The details are as follows; (4.1) Item analysis was conducted by applying Item Total Correlation calculated by Pearson Correlation Coefficient. Only item with statistical significance was selected. (4.2) Reliability was examined by applying Internal Consistency of Reliability calculated with Conbach's Alpha Coefficient Method with the value of 0.80,0.73,0.85,0.87,0.88,0.85 and 0.87. (4.2.1) The results were used to select the qualified questions.(4.2.2) The complete form of questionnaire was made to collect date with full-time student of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University. The data collection method are as follows; (1) Examine the number of first year students of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University. (2) Write a letter requesting for students participation to the Faculty of Education Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University. (3) Present the letter to the students of the Faculty of Education Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University. (4) Collect data with registrat office Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University. (5) Check the completeness of the questionnaire. (6) Code the questionnaire for analysis. (7) Analyze the data.

Results

The results have discovered that (1) the levels of factors correlated with quality of the graduate study is in high level, the characteristics of graduate students are considered in high level, (2) the multiple correlation coefficient affects the quality of graduate students in many aspects such as student factor, instructor factor, classroom environment and atmosphere and extra activities creating more experience for the students are related to the quality of the graduate students. According to the analysis between correlation coefficient and predictive variables, four aspects have been considered with positive value of.01 statistically significant values (3) the creation of equation to predict the quality of the graduate students. According to Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis affecting the quality of graduate students, it has been discovered that there are two variables out of five variables used together to predict the quality of graduate students with.01 statistically significant value. The two variables are student fact and instructor factor with 31.20 percent of variance on the quality of graduate students.

Table 1 levels of factors affecting the quality of graduate students

Factor	Average	S.D.	Interpretation
1. Student Factor	4.15	0.39	High
2. Instructor Factor	4.49	0.38	High
3. Thesis advisor	3.90	0.23	High
4. Atmosphere and Environment Factor	4.28	0.43	High
5. Activities promoting authentic experience Factor	4.37	0.50	High
Total Average	**4.24**	**0.27**	**High**

Levels of factors affecting the quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University are averagely in high level. When considering aspect, it has discovered that student factor was considered the most. The secondary factor was instructor factor. The characteristic of the graduates' quality is in high level and when considering in each aspect, the majority of the aspects are in high level.

Table 2 Multiple correlation factors and the quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University consisted of Student Factor

Variables	X_1	X_2	X_3	X_4	X_5	Y
Student Factor (X_1)	1.00					
Instructor Factor (X_2)	.422**	1.00				
Thesis advisor (X_3)	.179	.025	1.00			
Atmosphere and Environment Factor (X_4)	.347**	.378**	.088	1.00		
Activities promoting authentic experience Factor (X_5)	.303**	.789**	-.033	.302**	1.00	
quality of graduates in Educational Management (Y)	.446**	.494**	.102	.271**	.360**	1.00

** p ≤.01, p ≤ *.05

Multiple correlation factors and the quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University consisted of Student Factor, Instructor Factor, Atmosphere and Environment Factor, and Activities promoting authentic experience Factor. There was correlation of the quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University consisted of 4 aspects with.01 statistical significance.

According to the correlation between predictive variables, it has been discovered that there was correlation between the variables with.01 value of statistical significance. It is ranged respectively as Student Factor (X_1) Instructor Factor (X_2) Activities promoting authentic experience (X_5) and Atmosphere and environment factor (X_4) and the correlation was ranged between 0.025 to 0.789.

Table 3 Creation of predictive equation on the quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University

Steps of Predictive Variables	R	R^2	R^2change	F
Student Factor	.494	.244	.234	26.079**
Instructor Factor	.559	.312	.295	18.140**

** p ≤.01, p ≤ *.05

According to Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis of the quality of graduates, it has been found that there are two variables of five variable used to predict the quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University with.01 statistical significance of student and instructor factors. Both factors can explain the variance of the quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University at 31.20 percent.

Table 4 Multiple Regression Analysis of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University

Steps of Predictive Variables	b	S.E.$_b$	β	t
Student Factor	.419	.115	.372	3.633**
Instructor Factor	.318	.113	.289	2.821**
a = 1.060 S.E. = 0.532				

** p $\leq$.01, p $\leq$ *.05

Multiple Regression Analysis in the form of standard score (β), it has been discovered that predictive variable with the highest β was student factor (β =0.372) and instructor factor (β =0.289) respectively. This means that student factor is listed in the highest priority in the prediction of quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University as in the following raw score of predictive equation; $\hat{Y} = 1.060 +.419(X_1) +.318(X_2)$ According to the above equation in the form of raw score, if the score of every predictive variable changes from raw score to standard score, the equation can be written as; $\hat{Z} = .372(Z_1) +.289(Z_2)$

Conclusion

According to the results, it can be concluded as follow, the Multiple Regression of the quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University comprised of Student Factor, Instructor Factor, Atmosphere and Environment Factor, Activities promoting authentic fact. The correlation of the quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University was discovered in 4 aspects with.01 statistical significance.

Additionally, according to the analysis of predictive variable and criterion variable, it was discovered that the predictive variables have positive correlation with criterion variable at.01 level of statically significant value. It is ranged respectively as Student Factor (X_1) Instructor Factor (X_2) Activities promoting authentic experience (X_5) and Atmosphere and environment factor (X_4) and the correlation was ranged between 0.025 to 0.789

The creation of equation to predict the quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University was conducted by using Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis of the factors affecting the quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University with the statistical significant level of.01 in two factors which are student factor and instructor factor. Both factors can explain the variance of the quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University at 31.30 percent. When Multiple Regression Analysis in the form of standard score (β), it has been discovered that predictive variable with the highest β was student factor (β =0.372) and instructor factor (β =0.289) respectively. This means that student factor is listed in the highest priority in the prediction of quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University as in the following raw score of predictive equation; $\hat{Y} = 1.060 +.419(X_1) +.318(X_2)$ According to the above equation in the form of raw score, if the score

of every predictive variable changes from raw score to standard score, the equation can be written as; $\hat{Z} = .372(Z_1) + .289(Z_2)$

Discussion

The issues discussed in this research are as follow;

1. The results from the level of factors correlating with the quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University were mainly in high level in every aspect. This is because the aspects of students, instructors, atmosphere and environment as well as activities promoting authentic experiences are the key factors affecting the quality of graduates. The results corresponded with the research of Saekawan (2001) who evaluated educational management in graduate level in Educational management of Kamphaeng Phet Rajabhat University. The result showed the suitability of basic factors in the aspects of students, instructors, thesis advisors, personnel of the graduate school, curriculum, budget, material and building, research resources, and planning. These aspects were rated in high level of Rodarrin (2006) studied factors affecting decision making to study further in vocational education: a case study of Kong Thabbok Upatham Changkol Kho So Tho Bo School. It was discovered that opinions related to decision making comprising of three aspects. Education fee factor and location factor were subordinate factors to consider. Students with different background, different average grade, different type of previous school, influential people affecting the choice to continue study, occupation of the parents, and income of the parents did not have different decision making on continue further education in vocational level.

Additionally, it also corresponded with the research of Saumthonglang (2005) studying the factors affecting the decision to continue Master's degree. It was discovered that there were four factors involved which are image of the institution, expenses of the education, location and public relations. The correlation between marking mix and the decision to study Master's degree of Rajabhat institution in Bangkok and Metropolitan area has 0.05 value of statistical significance. Also, external factors correlated to the decision making to study Master's degree of Rajabhat institution. The factor comprised of social factor, cultural factor, psychological factor, and economical factor with statistical insignificance of 0.05. When considering each aspect, the correlation between economical aspect and the decision to study Master's degree of Rajabhat institution in Bangkok and Metropolitan area has 0.05 value of statistical significance.

2. The creation of predictive equation on the factors affecting the quality of graduates in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University. There are two variables in the equation which are student variable and instructor variable. Other variables which are thesis advisor variable, atmosphere and environment variable, and activities promoting authentic experience variable will not be used in the equation. This is because instructor variable, thesis advisor variable, atmosphere and environment variable, and activities promoting authentic experience variable highly related to student variable. Therefore, it gives the power to student variable the most. This also corresponded to the research of Meejang (2001) Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis. Partial F of other predictive variables will have been calculated.

According to the results, it demonstrates that instructor and environment as well as atmosphere in the classroom can be cooperatively used to predict the quality of Master's degree students in Educational Management. The results also corresponded with the results of other American researchers from American Researcher Association. Key characteristics of the graduates are included 1) Emotion-Drive: People who are successful in conducting research have strong emotion drive such as being curious and enjoying working, researching, and creating new innovation. The happiness is triggered from the inside. 2) Knowledge:

People who are successful in conducting research can choose their research results better and quicker than other people. They have the knowledge and skill to use research plan, scientific method and logical skills to solve problems with different research methods. They can also finalize their thoughts and have great judgement to critic and predict. They have well-organized working system. They are also good at categorizing and writing research reports 3) Decision: People who are successful in conducting research are patient and open-minded to listen to other people's opinion. They are also humble, careful, and polite to people in general. They do not use emotion to make decision but carefully solving problem by logic.

In conclusion, it illustrates that the factor of student strongly affects the quality of graduates because students are the ones studying and conducting the thesis until they graduate. It is essential for them to have knowledge and ability to conduct the research as well as possess scientific attitude. These characteristics facilitate the ability to choose and develop research instrument for data collection and enhance the ability to conduct research. They should also have to ability of statistical analysis and the judgment to choose research methodology. They have to be bold to make a decision, patient, and ready to listen to other's opinion with humble, careful, and polite manner. They do not use emotion to make decision but carefully solving problem by logic. They should also be punctual and know how to solve unexpected situation. They should also be willing to learn and search for knowledge. For this reason, the quality of Master's degree students depends on the students' themselves.

Suggestion

Suggestion to Apply the Results

1. Student factor mainly affects the quality of Master's degree students. Therefore, it is essential to support the students to learn by themselves, have more responsibility, establish goals in their lives so that they can be more proactive, willing to pursue more knowledge to reach their goals. This can promote the ability to pursue for knowledge or search for knowledge by them and develop new skills to look for knowledge by using modern technology. This can further develop the Master's degree students in the future

2. According to Stepwise Multiple Regression Analysis of factors affecting the quality of Master's degree students, it has been discovered that student and instructor factor can be used cooperatively to predict the quality of graduate students. Therefore, lecturers should be more proactive in teaching, prepare and well manage their lessons in order to stimulate the students to learn actively. The lecturers should also love their body of knowledge and create impression and faith in the lecturers towards the students.

Suggestion for Further Research

1. Characteristics of thesis advisor in the perception of the student should be examined in order to establish a guideline to develop quality of the instructors leading to better quality of graduate students.

2. Elements influencing academic performance of Master's degree students in Educational Management of Nakhon Sawan Rajabhat University should be investigated.

References

Jitrattananan, R. 2003. **A study of the relationship between some factors and motivation in King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang**. Thesis of Master of Education Program in Educational Administration, Rajabhat Institute Kamphaeng Phet.

Kuphimai, S. 2007. **Motivating Factors to Continue Further Education among Bachelor's Degree Students of Faculty of Business Administration Rajamangala University of Technology Thanyaburi.** Bangkok: National Research Council of Thailand.

Meejang, S. 2001. **Assessment of educational programs.** Phitsanulok: Naresuan University.

Rodarrin, K. 2003. **Factors Affecting the Decision to Continue Study Vocational Degree: A Cast Study of Kong Thabbok Upatham Changkol Kho So Tho Bo School**. Thesis of Master of Education Program in Educational Administration, Suan Dusit Rajabhat University.

Saumthonglang, R. 2005. **Factors related to the arrangement of master's degree programs.** Master of Business Administration Thesis, Rajabhat University.

Wright, R. & Bean, A. 1974. "The Influence of Socioeconomic Status on the Predictability of College Performance**." Journal of Educational Measurement** 11 (4): 277-284.