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**FACTORS AFFECTING THE DURATION TIME OF STUDY AND  
SUCCESS IN GRADUATION OF THE POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS:  
A CASE OF THE POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS IN THE LINGUISTICS  
PROGRAM, SUAN SUNANDHA RAJABHAT UNIVERSITY.**

**Abstract:**

The primary objective of this study was to examine the factors affecting the duration time of study of the postgraduate students in the Linguistics program of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. The population of this research were the second to the fourth batches of students in the program. The respondents were 18 students. A quantitative research approach was employed in this study. The data collection was conducted between February and September 2017. A questionnaire was used as a data collection tool. The collected data were then analyzed with descriptive statistics including percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test, and F-test with a .05 level of statistical significance. The research findings revealed that factors influencing the duration time of study and success in graduation of the students were overall rated at the highest level. These factors, sorted in a descending order, included the thesis advisors (being rated at the highest level), the program content and teaching and learning activities (being rated at the highest level); and characteristics of the students (being rated at a high level). Moreover, the students' demographic data including students' gender, status, and average income per month were also found to affect their duration time of study and the success in graduation. Specifically, students aged between 20-40 years old were likely to be graduated with a shorter period of time, as compared to those aged between 41-60 years. Additionally, students who worked in universities in the Rajabhat system were likely to be graduated with a shorter period of time than those who worked in schools.

**Keywords:**

Factors Affecting the Duration Time of Study, Graduation, Postgraduate Students

**JEL Classification:** Y80

## 1. Background and Significance of the Study

Education at the higher level, especially at the university level is necessary for the society. It is a way to equip students with wisdom and idea to develop the country. Education at the university level also aims to develop students in terms of morality, ethics, and knowledge of arts and culture so that they can live with other people in the society peacefully and happily. The utilization of research in the curriculum of teachers. Teachers and Researchers the process the research conducted in this class has designed procedures to research comparable to the curriculum that the learner is important that teachers can make their jobs easier. In addition, each worker. The process of learning if the teacher has taught the recorder will provide teachers with information for a reflection. Clearly match the actual conditions of operation. And teachers should have published the results of their own research. (Sucheeram Mahimuang, 2012)

Education is therefore important for the country both in terms of academic development and personal life of students. With this reason, it becomes the main duty of every university which the universities have to pay special attention. The universities should aim to develop and provide teaching and learning activities that can make the students to have proper knowledge so that they can use it in their career life. It should aim to develop the students' analytical skills and encourage the students realize the significance of research work by not only applying knowledge gained from the research works of others in their career or in solving problems, but also conducting their own research work to contribute to existing knowledge.

The Linguistic programs of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University began to provide education at the master's degree and PhD levels since 2006. It aims to produce postgraduate students who are expected to have a moderate level of language skills and knowledge. Teaching and learning process of both master's degree and PhD programs require students to conduct their own research which seem difficult for some students. According to the registration information, some students have to extend their study because they cannot complete their research own on time which affect their graduation. Therefore, the researcher, as an academic staff of these programs, were interested to conduct a study on factors affecting the duration of study and the success on study of the students in these programs. It was expected that the results of this study could provide information on how to solve the problem related to duration of study.

### Research Objectives

The primary objective of this study was to examine the factors affecting the duration time of study of the postgraduate students who studies in the Linguistics programs of

Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, both at the master's degree and PhD degree levels.

## **Scope of the Research**

### *Scope on population*

This study aimed to study only in a group of the postgraduate students of the Linguistics program of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.

### *Scope of variables*

Two main groups of variables were studied in this research:

- 1) Independent variables including the students' demographic background including gender, age, marital status, their organization, and average income per month
- 2) Dependent variable were factors affecting the duration of study and their success in the study which could be divided into three main aspects: students themselves, the program content and teaching and learning activities, and the thesis advisors.

## **Research Methodology**

This study utilized a quantitative research methodology because it sought to examine the relationship between certain factors and the duration time students of the university used for their study and success of their postgraduate study

### *Population and sample*

The population of this research were the postgraduate students in the Linguistics Program who, at the time of conducting this research, were the second- to the fourth-year students. As the population size was very small, all of these population were selected as the respondents. As a result, 18 students were selected.

### *Data collection method*

This study used a questionnaire as a main data collection instrument. The questionnaire contained two main parts as follows:

Part I contained questions on the demographic information of the students including their gender, age, marital status, organization, and average income per month. These questions were in form of check-list questions. There were five questions in total.

Part II contained questions about factors affecting the students' duration of study and their success in the study. There were 12 questions in total.

The questionnaire was tested for its content validity and reliability from three experts. They were also tested with some respondents to ensure that they could truly measure what it aimed to measure.

The data collection was conducted between February and September 2017

### *Data analysis*

The collected data were then analyzed with descriptive statistics including percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test, and F-test with a .05 level of statistical significance.

## **Research Results**

Based on the data analysis, the study showed that according to the students, they had an overall opinion on the significance of the factors affecting the duration of their study and the success of their postgraduate study at the highest level. When considering each aspect, it was found that the most important aspect was the thesis advisors, followed by the program content and teaching and learning activities, and the student themselves respectively. Each of these factors was rated at the highest level. The details were shown on Table 1.

Table 1: Mean scores and standard deviation of the students on their opinion on the factors affecting the duration of study and success of the study.

<b>Factors</b>	<i>Level of opinion</i>		
	$\bar{x}$	<b>S.D.</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
1. The students themselves	4.25	.502	The highest
2. The program contents and teaching and learning activities	4.50	.503	The highest
3. The thesis advisors	4.75	.495	The highest
Overall	4.50	.500	The highest

Table 2 showed the data on the analysis of the relationship between the students' demographic background and their opinion on the factors affecting the duration of study and the success on study.

Table 2: Statistical Analysis on the relationship of the students' demographic background and each factor

The students' demographic background	The students' themselves		The program content and teaching and learning activities		The thesis advisors		Overall
	Statistic value	sig	statistic value	sig	statistic value	sig	
Gender	t=.014	.889	t=.181	.414	t=.817	.414	t=.757 .450
Age	F=.599	.616	F=2.644*	.049	F=.580 .629		F=.851 .407
Marital status	F=.311	.677	F=.440	.645	F=1.615 .200		F=.959 .384
Organization	F=.526	.665	F=3.632*	.013	F=2.635*	.050	F=1.304 .275
Average income per month	F=.405	.750	F=.574	.663	F=.467	.705	F=.162 .922

\* With a .05 level of statistical significance

The results of the study showed that students with different gender, marital status and average income per month were likely to have no difference in their opinion regarding the duration of their study and the success of graduation. This is consistent to the study of Kaewsomboon, et al. (2014) which also found that students with different gender did not have different opinion on the factors affecting the duration of their study.

Moreover, the study also revealed that students with different age had different opinion on the factors affecting the duration of the study and the success on graduation. It can be concluded that studying requires good physical health. The older the more inefficient physical health becomes because older age can cause many problems and obstacle for studying.

Additionally, students who came from different organizations were likely to have different opinion on the effect of the program content and teaching and learning activities, and the thesis advisors.

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