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**GRADUATE QUALIFICATIONS OF GRADUATE SCHOOL, SUAN
SUNANDHA RAJABHAT UNIVERSITY FOR NATIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK FOR HIGHER EDUCATION IN
THAILAND**

Abstract:

Graduate Qualifications of Graduate School, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University for National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education (TQF: HEd.) was survey research. The purposes of this research was to study the qualifications of graduate students for Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education which graduated in the academic year 2016. Population were 79 employers, questionnaire with 5 domains 5 rating scales and open end. Statistics were percentage, mean and standard deviation. This research found that the levels of employers satisfaction for graduate students in overall were highest. The sequences of 5 domains were intelligence skills, morale and ethics, knowledge, interpersonal skills and responsibility, numerical analysis skills communication and information technology skill with average 4.73, 4.67, 4.62, 4.56 and 4.52 respectively.

Keywords:

Graduate Qualifications, Qualifications Framework, Higher Education

JEL Classification: Y80

Introduction

In Thailand, pursuant to the Announcement of The Committee for Internal Quality Assurance in Higher Education (The Committee for Internal Quality Assurance in Higher Education, 2014) and the Announcement of the Ministry of Education subject to the National Qualifications Framework for Higher Education 2009 (TQF: HEd.) (Ministry of education, 2009), it prescribes higher educations to determine a guideline of program development, schooling, and organize quality of education pursuant to the Announcement of the Ministry of Education. All courses of institutes has applied TQF: HEd. and for the admission since 2010 onwards. The existing programs must be updated to be in accordance with this Announcement of the Ministry of Education within 2012 and the Board of Higher Education would supervise, monitor, and evaluate the educational management of all institutions to get quality of the national higher education standard framework. Such change resulted in people having an opportunity to thoroughly study in higher education and build confidence that the qualifications obtained by the graduates from the institutes have the equivalent and reliable quality and standard. It is well accepted by domestic and foreign higher education institutions and the higher education institutions organize education towards the same goal. They could increase confidence to society in terms of quality and standard of graduates qualifications after graduation. The Higher Education Commission has been assigned to apply the qualification standard framework developing the qualification standard of field/fields of each qualifications for the higher education institutions as a guideline to develop or improve details of programs and schooling to get the qualified graduates in programs/subjects of the same level which is the equivalent national and international standard.

Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University is the higher education institution that uses the internal and external quality assurance system which confirms to basis and practices of the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OEC). The inputs, processes, outputs, and results were completely evaluated. It included the assessment of graduates' quality under the national higher education qualification framework of the Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University for Master and Doctor Degrees. The Graduate School is the agency which organizes education equal to the faculty which supervises the graduate programs. Therefore, evaluating the quality of graduates under the higher education qualification framework is one of the plans that the Graduate School needs to undertake as a guideline for developing quality of students to get the desirable characteristics according to the higher education qualification framework and to achieve the operational objectives of educational quality assurance under the university's basis. Furthermore, the courses can apply acquired information to plan the course development of degrees for the best benefits for developing standard and quality of graduates and masters of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. In 2017, there were 9 courses surveyed from graduates in 2016: Master's degree; 1. Educational Administration, 2. Instructional Design, 3. Forensic Sciences, 4. Applied Thai Traditional Medicine, 5. Business Administration; Doctorate Degree, 1.

Linguistics 2. Development Management, 3. Philosophy and Ethics, and 4. Forensic Sciences.

Research Objectives

This research aimed to study the qualifications of graduate students for Thai Qualifications Framework for Higher Education which graduated in the academic year 2016

Research Methodology

Scope of Population

Studying quality of graduates under the higher education qualification framework in 2017 was a survey research. The sources were total 79 employers of masters and doctors of the Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University who graduated in 2016.

Tool used for studies

A tool used for data collection was: the questionnaire about "Satisfaction of employers against graduates of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University and qualifications of graduates required by the agency in 2017" with closed-end and open-ended questions. The questions comprised of total 3 parts. Part 1 was personal status of survey respondents. Part 2 was the assessment of the Graduate School's performance and qualifications of graduates required by the agency. It was a rating scale question with 5 levels. Part 3 was comments and suggestions. There were 3 open-ended questions. Part 2 of each program was different depending on desirable characteristics of graduates or the learning outcome of each program studied from Programme Specification.

The researcher tested quality of the tool by analyzing content validity of the questionnaire used for surveying opinions by 5 experts. They examined the consistency of the questionnaire and the result was calculated for consistency between the questions and objective or definition (IOC: Item Objective Congruence Index). The questions with average score of more than 0.50 were selected and there were total 9 copies because each program had different questions in Part 2

Research Results

The quality of graduates under the national higher education framework for a master's degree, the Graduate School, analyzed satisfaction of employers against graduates' performance who graduated the Graduate School. It consisted of 5 parts; 1) morality and ethics, 2) knowledge 3) intellectual skill, 4) interpersonal skill and responsibilities, and 5) numerical analysis, communication and the use of information technology in accordance with the characteristics of graduates in each course using mean and standard deviation appeared as follows:

Table 1: Mean and standard deviation of employers' satisfaction level against the performance of graduates.

Curriculum	Issue	Morality and Ethics		Knowledge		Intellectual Skill		Interpersonal Skill and Responsibility		Numerical Analysis Skill, Communication		Total Mean of Characteristics		Result
		\bar{x}	S.D.	\bar{x}	S.D.	\bar{x}	S.D.	\bar{x}	S.D.	\bar{x}	S.D.	\bar{x}	S.D.	
1. Educational Administration (M.E.)		4.47	.196	4.43	.086	4.52	.084	4.48	.084	4.50	.176	4.48	.123	Much satisfied
2. Business Administration (M.B.A.)		4.86	.134	3.92	.144	4.94	.125	4.39	.318	4.56	.125	4.58	.380	Most satisfied
3. Forensic Sciences (M.Sc.)		4.58	.215	4.38	.315	4.67	.236	4.50	.408	4.56	.347	4.54	.292	Most satisfied
4. Instructional Design (M.E.)		4.50	.141	4.45	.252	4.33	.115	4.60	.346	4.13	.115	4.36	.253	Much satisfied
5. Applied Thai Traditional Medicine (M.Sc.)		4.93	.115	4.93	.115	4.70	.115	4.60	.163	4.84	.089	4.80	.167	Most satisfied
6. Linguistics (Ph.D.)		5.00	.000	5.00	.000	5.00	.000	5.00	.000	4.60	.548	4.86	.351	Most satisfied
7. Development Management (Ph.D.)		4.90	.131	5.00	.000	4.92	.167	4.90	.131	5.00	.000	4.93	.118	Most satisfied
8. Philosophy and Ethics (Ph.D.)		4.33	.516	5.00	.000	5.00	.000	4.25	.500	4.00	.000	4.44	.507	Much satisfied
9. Forensic Science (Ph.D.)		4.50	.000	4.50	.000	4.50	.000	4.29	.267	4.50	.000	4.44	.166	Much satisfied
Total		4.67	.161	4.62	.101	4.73	.094	4.56	.246	4.52	.156	4.60	.262	Most satisfied

From the table, the mean of graduates' characteristics of masters of 5 parts was 4.60 points, which was the most satisfaction. It consisted of 1) Moral and ethics was 4.67 points, 2) Knowledge was 4.62 points, 3) Intellectual skill was 4.73 points, 4)

Interpersonal skill and responsibility were 4.56 points, 5) Numerical analysis skill, communication, and information technology were 4.52 points, 6) Others were 4.51 points.

Discussion

1. Overall satisfaction of employers regarding morality and ethics was the most level. Linguistics (Ph.D.) had the highest mean followed by Applied Thai Traditional Medicine (MSc.), Development Administration (Ph.D.), and Business Administration (BBA) respectively. (Phasuk, 2016)

2. Overall satisfaction of employers regarding knowledge was the most level. When considering each clause, it was found that every clause was much. Studies and research and research which were consistent with the research conducted by Rajada ThiSopha et al. (2007) studied employers' satisfaction against graduates of King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok regarding academic ability of operations. Data was analyzed by frequency distribution, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and difference comparison by T-Test, F-Test, one-way ANOVA and tested assumption for research with statistical significance at the .05 by the statistical package. The research showed that for academic ability of operations, employers' satisfaction was the most level and their satisfaction was different with statistical significance at .05.

3. Overall satisfaction of employers regarding intellectual skill was the most level. When considering each clause, it was found that every clause was much and it was in accordance with the National Higher Education Framework in 2009, which specified that problem-solving skill could find facts, understanding and evaluation of information, new ideas and evidences from various sources. The acquired information was used to solve problems and other tasks by themselves. They could study complex problems and proposed solutions in a creative way by taking into account theoretical knowledge and practical experiences.

4. Overall satisfaction of employers regarding interpersonal skill and responsibilities was much. When considering each clause, it was found that every clause was much and it was in accordance with the quality of graduates under the learning result standard framework of educational management prescribed in Chapter 6 subject to Educational Quality Assurance (Panich, 2009: online). It specified that the learning result standard of a Bachelor's Degree on interpersonal skill and responsibilities would contribute to solve problems in the group creatively as a leader or a member of the group with creative thought and appropriate problem analysis.

5. Overall satisfaction of employers regarding numerical analysis skill, communication, and information technology was much. When considering each clause, it was found

that every clause was much and it was in accordance with the studies of Wichan Panich (2009: online). It specified relevant statistical and mathematical techniques and applied them creatively to interpret and suggest solutions. They could communicate effectively in terms of speaking and writing, selecting and using the appropriate pattern of presentation for different problems and audiences. They used appropriate information technology and communication techniques for data collection, interpreted and communicated information and ideas.

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