



Backgrounds and Working Conditions of Rajapark Institute Students in the Academic Year 2016

Saksit Khattiyasuwan ^{[a]*}

^[a]*Lecturer in Master of Education Program, Educational Administration,
Graduate School, Rajapark Institute, Thailand*
** Author for correspondence; email: khatti19@gmail.com*



[Abstract]

The objectives of this research were to study the backgrounds and working conditions of Rajapark Institute students in the academic years 2016. 213 students (178 bachelor degree and 35 master degree students) for the study were selected by means of stratified random sampling technique. Questionnaires were used to collect the samples' data. Descriptive statistics and χ^2 were used for the data analysis. The results of the study are as follows:

Backgrounds of Rajapark Institute students

53.37% of the bachelor degree students were male with the age of 32 years old on average. 70.79 % of them were singles. 22.47 % of overall students had studied mechanics. 36.52 % of them graduated from secondary schools. 53.37% of the master degree students were female with the age of 38 years old on average. 57.14 % of them were singles. 34.29 % of overall students had studied business. 34.92 % of them graduated from Rajabhat Universities. Most of the respondents had studied in the fields relevant to the ones they studied in Rajapark Institute.

Working conditions of Ratjapark Institute students

Present and future jobs. All bachelor degree students have jobs. 46.63 % of overall students are employees. The jobs that more respondents expected to do in the future after their graduation are entrepreneurs, managers, foremen, engineers, government officers and teachers respectively. The jobs that less respondents expected to do after their graduation were employees, mechanics, vendors, priests and accountants respectively. All master degree students have jobs. 51.43 % of them are teachers. The jobs that more respondents expected to do after their graduation are managers and entrepreneurs respectively. The jobs that less respondents expected to do after their graduation are teachers, vendors and employees respectively.

Present and future income.

59.55 % of the bachelor degree students responding questionnaires have monthly average income of 15,000-25,000 baht. 60.00 % of the master degree students have monthly average income of 15,000-25,000 baht. Most of the them expect to have more income after their graduation.

Students' satisfaction of their present jobs.

52.23 % of the bachelor degree students and 54.29 % of the master degree students were satisfied with their present jobs at low level. The differences of their satisfaction were not statistically significant at .05.

Students' reasons to study and work unanimously,

The reasons of both the bachelor degree and master degree students to study and work unanimously were alleviation of their families' financial burden, chances of further study together with working, they had their own income, they found their channels to get appropriate jobs, they had more chances to meet lots of various people and things so

that they would be able to improve themselves and their jobs. The differences of their reasons were not statistically significant at .05 .

Keywords: Backgrounds and Working Conditions

Introduction

Since the global society in the twenty first century has been changing dramatically and becomes very highly competitive, it has affected every region including Thailand. Therefore, Thailand has to accelerate human resource improvement so that Thai people will be more competent, stronger more competitive and can catch up with the changing world. Thai people of the next generation have to adjust themselves to be more adaptive to efficiently survive in the changing situation. Education must be the most important factor for preparing our new generations. (Maymint. 2009: online) So, the new generations of the twenty first century has focused on education. They try to continuously strive for higher education that might affect working conditions and labor market in the country. It possibly causes unemployment since the unemployment rate has been rising steadily. The National Economic and Social Development Board found that the unemployment rate in the first quarter of the year 2016 was 370,000 or 0.97 % more than 0.94 % of the unemployment rate in the first quarter of the year 2015 (Moneyhub.2016:online)

Thai people have high values in higher education because they think they can easily find better jobs, have better income, better life and more stability. It may cause increasing the number of institutions so fast . The more institutes increase, the more students' graduates. It inevitably increases the number of graduates so fast that may affect the unemployment nationwide. The popularity of tertiary education has increased and may be related to the rapidly changing socio-economic situation. Thai society have high values to accept people with higher education. It encourages people to raise up their education. Higher education institutions have to respond to Thai society by opening up a lot of higher education institutions

They also let students choose from a wide range of both regular and special programs. A lot of various employed and unemployed students have attended the programs so that they may create lots of educational quality problems (Kowit Puongnarm .2008: online).

Working and studying in both bachelor and master degrees is another issue that affects both students and society. Students need to find out if they are ready to graduate or work first or work together with the class. All options are good and bad .However, they have to make up their mind. Some students study full time but some study together with work. The proportion of them varies by institution. Students in Rajapark Institute are mixed. Most of them study in special program since they have to study together with work. Rajapark Institute also lacks data and information about backgrounds and working conditions of students which has limited the institute's planning as well as development of management teaching and learning processes together with overall educational quality. Therefore, this study will provide very helpful feedback and information for planning and development of management, teaching, learning and working conditions relevant to higher education and job employment. In addition, this research provides data and information to students on the appropriateness and consistency of selecting fields of study, problems and solutions in higher education. Furthermore, it likely helps students improve themselves and their jobs. It also enables Rajapark Institute and other higher education institutions to plan students affair management and leads in line with the need of clients and the labor market.

Objectives

1. To study the backgrounds of Ratjapark Institute students in the academic years 2016
2. To study the working conditions of Ratjapark Institute students in the academic years 2016

Scope of the Research

1. Population and sample

The population of this study were 1,990 bachelor and 210 master degree students studying in Rajapark Institute during the academic year 2016. 333 bachelor degree students and 138 master degree students were selected as the samples of the study by means of stratified random sampling technique.

2. Content

Target group students' backgrounds were gender, age, marital status, educational foundation and previous institutes. Students' working conditions were state of their working such as current jobs, current income, future jobs, future income, students' satisfaction of current jobs and reasons for study together with working.

Conceptual Framework

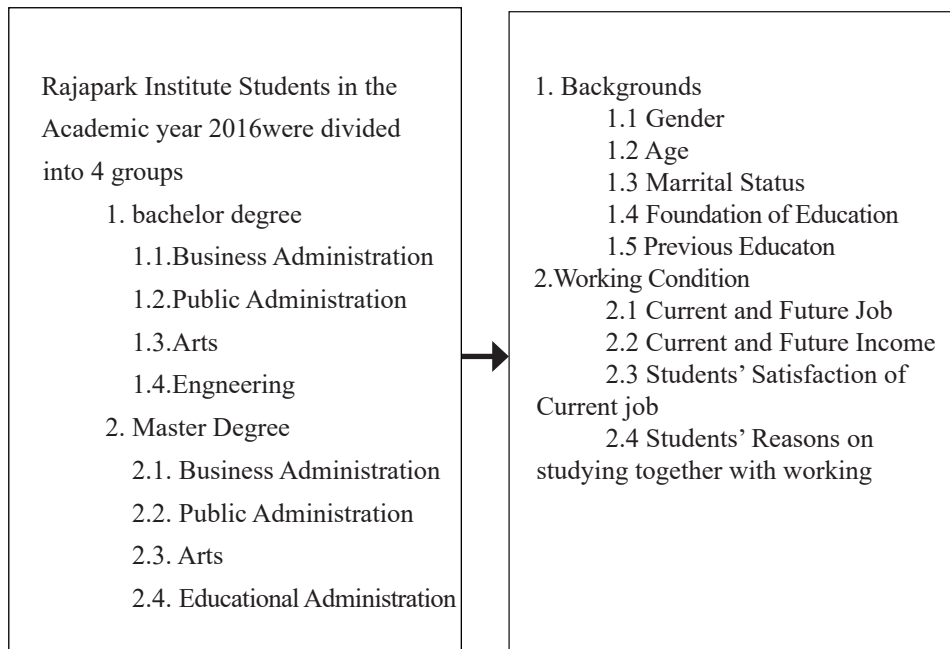


Figure1 Research Framework

Research Hypothesis

1. Students with different levels of education have different satisfaction of present jobs

2. Students with different levels of education have different reasons on studying together with working

Research Methodology

This study was a survey research with the population of 1,990 bachelor degree and 210 master degree students studying in Rajapark institute during the academic year 2016. 333 bachelor degree students and 138 master degree students were selected as the samples of the study by means of stratified random sampling technique. Questionnaires were used to collect the samples' data. There was a total 213 questionnaires retrieved (45.22% of the samples), 178 from bachelor degree students and 35 from master degree students. The questionnaire consisted of one part the background information including gender, age, marital status, foundation of education and previous institutions and also the other part regarding students' working condition including current and future job, current and future income, students' satisfaction of current job and students' reasons on studying together with working. The instrument used in this research was developed by the researcher. A panel of five experts was invited to screen the instrument for its content validity and revision of the questionnaire for completeness. The pilot study was performed on 30 students which were different from the main study to find out the feasibility of the data collection. The researcher with program instructors' assistance distributed the questionnaires to each student. Then, the program instructors collect them and returned the questionnaires back to the researcher. Descriptive statistics were used for the analysis of students' backgrounds. Frequencies, percentages, mode and χ^2 test were analyzed to present the students' working conditions.

Results

Students' Backgrounds

1. Bachelor degree students

There were 178 overall bachelor degree informant students. 53.37% of them were male with the age of 32 years old on average. 70.79 % were singles. 22.47 % had studied mechanics. 36.52 % graduated from secondary schools. There were 117 bachelor degree informant students in business administration program. 53.85% of them were female with the age of 30 years old on average. 77.79% were singles. 23.93 % had studied science. 40.17% graduated from secondary schools. There were 18 bachelor degree informant students in public administration program. 77.78% of them were female with the age of 37 years old on average. 65.56% were singles. 44.44 % had studied arts. 33.33 % graduated from technical colleges.. There were 23 bachelor degree informant students in arts program. 69.56% of them were female with the age of 26 years old on average. 86.96% were singles. 65.23 % had studied arts. 60.87 % graduated from secondary schools.. There were 20 bachelor degree informant students engineering program. 100 % of them were male with the age of 35 years old on average. 60.00% were singles. 85.00 % had studied arts. 85.00 % graduated from secondary schools. There were 23 bachelor degree informant students in arts program. 69.56% of them were female with the age of 26 years old on average. 86.96% were singles. 85.00 % had studied machancs. 55.00 % graduated from technical colleges.

2. Master degree students

There were 35 overall master degree informant students. 57.14% of them were female with the age of 38 years old on average. 57.14 % were singles. 34.29 % had studied business. 34.2 % graduated from Rajaphat University. There were 9 master degree informant students in business. 55.56% of them were female with the age of 39 years old on average. 55.55 % were singles. 75.00 % had studied business. 50.00 % graduated from Rajaphat University. There were 4 master degree informant students in public administration. 75.00% of them were female with the age of 30 years old on average. 75.00 % were singles. 75.00 % had

studied business.50.00 % graduated from Rajapark Institute. There were 5 master degree informant students in arts. 60.00% of them were female with the age of 47 years old on average. 60.00 % were singles. 60.00 % had studied engineering.35. 25 % graduated from Rajaphat Institute. There were 17 master degree informant students in educational administration. 52.94% of them were female with the age of 34 years old on average. 62.94 % were singles. 52.94 % had studied education.35. 25 % graduated from Rajaphat Institute

Students' Working Conditions

1. Bachelor degree students

There were 178 overall bachelor degree informant students. 100 % of them have jobs. 46.63 % of overall students are employees. More informant students expected to be entrepreneurs, managers, foremen, engineers, government officers and teachers respectively after their graduation. The jobs that Less informant students expected to be employees mechanics, venders, priests and accountants respectively after their graduation . 59.55 % of them have monthly average income of 15,000-25,000 baht. Most of them expect to have more income after their graduation. 52.23 % of them were satisfied with their present jobs at low level. Their reasons to study and work unanimously were alleviation of their families' financial burden, chances of further study together with working, they had their own income, they found their channels to get appropriate jobs, they had more chances to meet lots of various people and things so that they would be able to improve themselves and their jobs.

2. Master degree students

There were 35 overall master degree informant students. 100 % of them have jobs. 51.43 % of them are teachers. More informant students expected to be managers and entrepreneurs respectively after their graduation. Less informant students expected to be teachers, venders and employees respectively after their graduation. 60.00 % of the master degree students have monthly average income of 15,000-25,000 baht.

Most of them expect to have more income after their graduation. 54.29 % of the master degree students were satisfied with their present jobs at low level. The reasons of the master degree students to study and work unanimously were alleviation of their families' financial burden, chances of further study together with working, they had their own income, they found their channels to get appropriate jobs, they had more chances to meet lots of various people and things so that they would be able to improve themselves and their jobs.

Comparison of Students' satisfaction and reasons to study and work unanimously

The bachelor and master degree students' satisfaction of their present jobs were not significantly different at .05 The bachelor and master degree students' reasons to study and work unanimously were not significantly different at .05 ether.

Discussion

Students' Backgrounds

1. Bachelor degree students

53.37% of overall bachelor degree informant students were male with the rest of 46.63 % were female. It revealed that the amounts as well as chances of both genders studying in higher education are nearly equal. (Palichat Khunaplueem.2009: online) The average age of the overall students of 32 years old (26-37 years old of each program) together with 70.79 % were singles(55.56-86.96 % of each program) .It reflected that most of the students are in working age so that they may need studying together with working to support their lives.(Panthip.2013: online) The biggest group of students from overall (22.47 %), business administration program (23.93 %), public administration program (44.44 %),arts program (65.23 %), and engineering program (85.00 %) had pre-university education in had pre-university education in mechanics. science, arts, arts and mechanics respectively. It showed that most of students had pre-university education consistent with bachelor degree fields of study.

(Mthai. 2013:online) Moreover, the biggest group of students from overall (36.52%), business administration program(40.17%) and arts program (60.87%) graduated their pre-university education from secondary schools whereas the biggest group of students from public administration program (33.33%) and engineering program (55.00%) graduated their pre-university education from technical colleges.

2.Master degree informant students

57.14% of overall master degree informant students were female with the rest of 42.86 % were male. It revealed that the amounts as well as chances of both genders studying in graduate level are nearly equal. (Palichat Khunapluem.2009: online) The average age of the overall students of 38 years old (30-47 years old from each program) together with most of them(57.14%) were singles(52.94-75.00% from each program) .It reflected that most of the students are still in working age so that they may need studying together with working to support their lives and families. (Panthip.2013: online) The biggest group of students from overall (34.29 %), business administration program (88.89 %), public administration program (75.00 %), arts program (60.00 %), and educational administration program (52.94 %) had pre-graduate school education in business, business, business, engineering and education respectively. It showed that most of students had pre-graduate school education consistent with master degree fields of study.(Mthai. 2013:online) Most of the students from overall (100.00%),arts program(100.00%)and educational administration program graduated their pre-graduate school education from Ratchaphat Universities whereas those from business administration program(55.56%) and public administration program (50.00%) graduated from private institutions. However, some students had chosen their fields of study inconsistent with their pre-graduate school education. It might have been related to their competency or educational foundation since most of them were from Ratchaphat Universities and private institutions with unsatisfactory educational achievement. (Matichon Matikhru.2013: online; ASTV. 2012 :online)

Students' Working Conditions

1. Jobs and income

1.1. Bachelor degree students

All bachelor degree informant students have jobs. The biggest group of students from overall (46.63%), business administration program (51.28%), public administration program 50.00 %), arts program (43.48 %), and engineering program (50.00 %) are employees, employees, government officers, entrepreneurs and mechanics respectively. It showed that they have been studying together with working to support their lives. They may not want to leave their jobs, income and opportunities so that they will be able to have better jobs and lives after their graduation. Moreover, it is found that the jobs that more bachelor degree informant students expected to do in the future after their graduation are entrepreneurs, managers, foremen, engineers, government officers and teachers respectively whereas the jobs that less students expected to do after their graduation are employees, mechanics, vendors, priests and accountants respectively. It is also found that 52.23 % of the bachelor degree informant students were satisfied with their present jobs at low level. That may be why they expected of changing their jobs and lives by means of their study in higher education. (Glitawat Borwornniraman. 2013: online) Most of the bachelor degree informant students from overall (59.55 %) ,business administration program (64.10%), arts program (73.91 %)and engineering program (50.00) have monthly average income of 15,000-25,000 baht whereas those from public administration program 50.00 %) have less than 15,000 . It is also found that they expected of changing their jobs so that they can have more income. The most expected income they want after their graduation is 25,001-35,000. That reflected that they have not enough income to cover their expense. This problem will be worse because of higher cost of living.

1.2. Master degree informant students

All master degree informant students have jobs. The biggest group of students from overall (51.43%), business administration program (33.33%), public administration program 75.00 %), arts program (80.00

%) , and educational administration program (100.00 %) are teachers, entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs, venders and teachers respectively. It showed that they have been studying together with working to support their lives and families. They may not want to leave their jobs, income and opportunities so that they will be able to have better jobs, lives and families after their graduation. Moreover, it is found that the jobs that more master degree informant students expected to do in the future after their graduation are managers and entrepreneurs respectively whereas the jobs that less students expected to do after their graduation are teachers, venders and employees respectively. It is also found that 54.29 % of the master degree informant students were satisfied with their present jobs at low level. That may be why they expected of changing their jobs and lives by means of their graduate school level in (Glitawat Borwornniraman. 2013: online) Most of the master degree informant students from overall (60.00 %), business administration program (44.44%), public administration program (100.00 %)and educational administration program (76.47%) have monthly average income of 15,000-25,000 baht whereas those from arts program (60.00 %) have 25,001-35,000 bath. It is also found that they expected of changing their jobs so that they can have more income. The most expected income they want after their graduation is 25,001-35,000. This problem will be worse because of higher cost of living. (Bangkokpoll Research Center. 2012: online; Sakst Khattiyasuwan. 2013:50=51)

1.3. Comparison of students' satisfaction and reasons for studying with working

1.3.1. Students' satisfaction of present jobs

Most of the bachelor degree informant students (52.23 %) and master degree informant students (54.29 %) were both satisfied with their present jobs at low level which were not statistically significant at .05 . That is why they need more improvement of their jobs by means of education. (Glitawat Borwornniraman. 2013: online; Surachet Noo Aium.2011: online; Papungkorn Wongchtawan.2006: online)

1.3.2. Students'reasons for studying with working

The reasons of both undergraduates and the master degree students to study and work unanimously were alleviation of their families' financial burden, chances of further study together with working, they had their own income, they found their channels to get appropriate jobs, they had more chances to meet lots of various people and things so that they would be able to improve themselves and their jobs. The differences of their reasons were not statistically significant at .05. Those reasons are important channels to get rid of weaknesses of either study or work. (Glitawat Borwornniraman. 2013: Online; Napatsaran. 2015: online; Smarts me. 2016: online)

Recommendations

1. Educational institutions will be able to use the information to set up policies and planning for student admission.

2. Educational institutions, organizations will be able to use the information to set up policies and planning to expand opportunity for provision of higher education.

3. Educational institutions, organizations will be able to use the information for solutions and improvement of higher education.

4. Human resource organizations will be able to use the information for solutions and improvement of human rights and employment.

5. Educational institutions, organizations will be able to use the information to do more studies on higher education and employment.

References:

ASTV Manager Online.(2012). OHEC Stamped Bachelor degree students graduated from Off-Campus Education Centers are not qualified. Industry Federation informed how to screen qualified graduates to work. Retrieved September 20,2013. From <http://www.manager.co.t/Home/ViewNews.aspx?NewsID=9550000141958>

Kowit Puongnarm.(2008).Information System for Participatory Learning.

Retrieved September 20, 2017, from www.tlg.rmutk.ac.th/?wpfb_dl=13

Kritawat Wongchitawan.(2009). Where to Study for a Master Degree. Retrieved August 1, 2013. From <http://www.oknation.net/blog/kritwat/2009/06/15/entry-3>.

_____.(2013). Conclusion of people who study and work unanimously. They do for what and whom Retrieved September 20, 2017, from <http://okanation.nationtv.tv/blog/kritawat/2013/09/08entry->

Matichon Matikhru.(2016). Ten Years of Rajaphat University Weaknesses. Retrieved August 21, 2013. from http://www.matichon.co.th/news_detail.php?newsid=1365

Maymint.(2009). How to Survive in Twenty First Century. Retrieved October 20, 2013. From Maymint.blogspot.com/2009/07/21.html

Moneyhub. (2017).Is bachelor degree enough for working ? Retrieved October 28, 2014. From <https://moneyhub.in.th/article/bachelor-degree/>

_____. (2017). The Unemployment Situation of Thai People Today 2016. Retrieved October 2, 2016. From <https://moneyhub.in.th/article/labour-market-situation-2016./>

Naparatsaran P. (2015). Working-Whilst-Studying. Retrieved October 28, 2013. From <http://www.hotcourse.in.th/study-in-usa/student-life/working-whilst-studying/>

Nationtv. (2008). Study or Work First. Retrieved October 28, 2016. From Nationtv.tv/blog/zebra/20/2008/07/09/entry-1

Palichat Khunaplum.(2010). A Study on Factors Affecting Decision Making on Further Study in Master Degree Level. Case Study of Students in the Faculty of Business Administration Sriprathum University Cholburi Campus Sriprathum Cholburi Academic Journal. 9,2 (September-December):35-43.

Pantip. (n.d.).It'd better work for a while after graduation then further study for a master degree. Retrieved May 28, 2013. From [http://pantip.com/topic/30577801.\(2556\)](http://pantip.com/topic/30577801.(2556)).

_____It's easier to study at Rajapark Institute. Retrieved June 23, 2013. From Pantip.com/topic/31084948.

Papungkorn Wongchitawan.(2006). Expectation and Future of Students. Retrieved August 10, 2016 from [http://www. Go to know.org/posts/34847](http://www.Go to know.org/posts/34847)

Phrasamu Surachet Noo Ium.(2011). Education and Human Developent. Retrieved March 10, 2016 From [stjohnbatch 753. Blogspot.com/2011/21/blog](http://stjohnbatch 753.Blogspot.com/2011/21/blog).

Royal Academmy.(2546). Royal Academy Dictionary. B.E. 2546. Bangkok : Nanme Books Publisher.

Smartsme.(2016).Five Strong Points of Working-Whilst-Studying. Retrieved May 28, 2016. From <http://www.smartsme.co.th/content/33568>.