Student Participation in Public Mind Activities

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Abstract

The research on student participation in public mind activities: a case study of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHS), Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University (SSRU) aimed to study the level of student participation in public mind activities at FHS, SSRU, as well as to examine the issues surrounding student participation in these activities. The sample group for this study consisted of 280 students from FHS, SSRU. Data were collected using a questionnaire, and the statistical methods for data analysis included percentage (%), mean ($\bar{x}$), and standard deviation (S.D.). The findings revealed that the majority of students were female (221, 78.90%) and male (59, 21.1%). The most common majors were Social Management Development (46 students, 16.4%), Geography and Geo-informatics (45 students, 16.1%), and Chinese (44 students, 15.7%). In terms of year of study, the largest group was fourth-year students (89, 31.8%), followed by freshmen (75, 26.8%) and second-year students (60, 21.4%). Overall, student participation in public mind activities at FHS, SSRU was at a high level. When considering each item, the highest average scores were found in activities related to observation ($\bar{x} = 3.79$, S.D. = 0.910), operation ($\bar{x} = 3.78$, S.D. = 0.889), and decision-making ($\bar{x} = 3.77$, S.D. = 0.969), in that order.

Keywords: Student, Participation, Public, Mind, Activity

1. Introduction

Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University has established key missions, including: providing quality graduates, offering academic services and technological instruction to the community and society, preserving and developing as a cultural learning center, and promoting Thainess, research, innovation, and knowledge. To achieve these goals, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences focuses on organizing activities and projects for student development to enhance both their competencies and outstanding qualities. These characteristics align with the university's vision of producing graduates who embody the values of being a Practitioner, Academician, Communicator, Thinker, and Public Mind, preparing them to meet the social demands of the 21st century and the digital technology era.

As a result, the researcher aims to investigate student participation in public mind activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. This study will explore how such activities foster the development of well-rounded graduates who are committed to public benefit and able to apply their knowledge effectively for the betterment of society and the nation. The research will also identify factors affecting student participation and provide insights for designing activities that promote engagement, address students' needs, and enhance the Faculty's efforts to improve and respond to societal demands.

1.1 Research Objective

1. To examine the level of student participation in public mind activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.

2. To investigate the factors influencing student participation in public mind activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.

2. Methodology

Population and Sample Group

The population for the study on student participation in public mind activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, consisted of the students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The sample group for the study, selected through purposive sampling, included 280 students from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Research Method
The study on student participation in public mind activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, was a quantitative research. Data were collected using a questionnaire consisting of three parts:

Part 1 – General information: gender, program, and year of study.
Part 2 – Level of student participation in public mind activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, using a 5-point Likert scale, with the following ratings:
5 – Highest level of participation
4 – High level of participation
3 – Moderate level of participation
2 – Low level of participation
1 – Lowest level of participation
Part 3 – Suggestions.

Location
The data was collected at Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.

Duration
The data collection period was from October 2023 to August 2024.

Data Analysis

The statistical methods for data analysis included percentage (%), mean ($\bar{x}$), and standard deviation (S.D.), using the following Best Criteria:

4.21 – 5.00: Highest level

3.41 – 4.20: High level

2.61 – 3.40: Moderate level

1.81 – 2.60: Low level

1.00 – 1.80: Lowest level

3. Results

The findings from the study on student participation in public mind activities: A case study of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, are as follows:

Table 1: Level of student participation in public mind activities: case of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University

Student participation in public mind activities: case of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University	Level of student participation		
	Mean $(\bar{x})$	Standard Deviation (S.D.)	Result
Student Participation			
• Serving as a leader in public mind activities.	3.61	0.933	high level
• Contributing to the planning of public mind activities.	3.61	1.010	high level
• Participating in the design of activity formats, locations, objectives, duration, budgets, and guidelines.	3.67	0.935	high level
• Involvement in planning participants and task assignments.	3.67	0.984	high level
• Assisting in providing facilities and resources.	3.72	0.966	high level
• Engaging effectively in the execution of activities.	3.78	0.889	high level
• Taking part in monitoring and observation processes.	3.79	0.910	high level
• Participating in decision-making and problem-solving.	3.77	0.969	high level
• Contributing to activity inspection and evaluation.	3.75	0.933	high level
• Proposing plans for improvement.	3.68	0.953	high level
Opinions on Issues Affecting Student Participation			
• Conflicts between activity schedules and their	3.62	0.965	high level

	$\bar{x}$	S.D.	
personal timetables.			
• Incompatibility with their part-time job commitments.	3.52	1.110	high level
• Peer influence on their decisions to participate.	3.66	0.893	high level
• Limited attraction, variety, and diversity in activity formats.	3.86	0.887	high level

4. Discussion

The overall level of student participation in public mind activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University was rated as high. When examining specific activities, the highest-rated areas were observation ($\bar{x}$ = 3.79, S.D. = 0.910), followed by operation ($\bar{x}$ = 3.78, S.D. = 0.889) and decision-making ($\bar{x}$ = 3.77, S.D. = 0.969), respectively.

These findings align with the research conducted by Kontorn Chamniprasart (1999), which examined student participation in activities at Suranaree University of Technology. That study revealed that students derived high levels of benefits from participating in university activities, such as recreation, experiential learning, social engagement, and personal and social development. Additionally, the findings correspond to the research by Buaroi & Wongleedee (2024) on the satisfaction levels of students taking the SSRU-TEPRATSAMIMAI English test. Their study highlighted that the use of social media platforms, particularly the LINE application, significantly enhanced student satisfaction by enabling quick and effective communication and fostering collaboration among student groups.

5. Conclusion

The findings revealed that the majority of students were female (221 students, 78.90%), with male students accounting for 59 individuals (21.10%). The top three academic programs represented were Social Management Development (46 students, 16.40%), Geography and Geo-informatics (45 students, 16.10%), and Chinese (44 students, 15.70%), respectively. In terms of academic year distribution, fourth-year students comprised the largest group (89 students, 31.80%), followed by freshmen (75 students, 26.80%) and second-year students (60 students, 21.40%).

Overall, student participation in public mind activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, was rated at a high level. Among specific activities, the highest-rated were observation ($\bar{x}$ = 3.79, S.D. = 0.910), followed by operation ($\bar{x}$ = 3.78, S.D. = 0.889) and decision-making ($\bar{x}$ = 3.77, S.D. = 0.969), respectively.

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