

Factors Affecting Student Motivation to Participate in Activities

Tanaban Waruntham¹ and Anantachai Aeka²

^{1,2}Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, Bangkok, Thailand

Email: tanaban.wa@ssru.ac.th¹, anantachai.ae@ssru.ac.th²

Abstract

This research investigates the factors influencing student motivation to participate in activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. The study aimed to evaluate the motivation levels and identify strategies to enhance student participation in activities that meet their needs. A sample of 200 students was randomly selected, and data were gathered through questionnaires, which were then analyzed using percentages, means, and standard deviations. The findings indicate that the most significant factor motivating students was the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and experience, especially through teamwork and relationship-building ($X = 4.40$). Leadership skills and assertiveness also played a substantial role in motivating students, with responsibilities in teamwork being particularly influential ($X = 4.35$). Physical health and public attitudes were also crucial, with improved attitudes and contributions to society identified as motivating factors ($X = 4.32$). Overall, the motivation level for student activities was high ($X = 4.24$), with leadership and assertiveness being the most highly rated factors. Recommendations for improvement include diversifying activities, promoting knowledge-building opportunities, enhancing communication, fostering interdepartmental relationships, and ensuring safety and creativity in activity design. Engaging both faculty and students in collaborative efforts is key to creating a supportive learning environment.

Keywords: Factors, Student, Motivation, Participate, Activities

1. Introduction

One of the key missions of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University is to produce quality graduates who contribute to society. The Student Affairs Division of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is responsible for organizing and promoting student activities that enhance their knowledge, skills, potential, and competencies. These activities aim to support students' education, leadership, confidence, physical health, and public awareness, contributing to the overall development of their personality, physical well-being, mental capabilities, and intellect. This aligns with the university's unique mission of developing graduates who possess practical skills, academic knowledge, communication abilities, critical thinking, and social consciousness—qualities essential for navigating the challenges of the twenty-first century and the digital age.

Therefore, the researcher intends to study the factors influencing student motivation to participate in activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. The student development activities at this faculty play a vital role in enhancing students' personalities—physically, mentally, and intellectually—preparing them

for future careers and societal contributions. This study will explore the factors motivating students to engage in these activities, provide recommendations for improving activity planning, and propose strategies to increase student participation in a way that meets their needs and benefits society.

1.1 Research Objective

1. To examine the factors influencing student motivation to participate in activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.
2. To identify guidelines for promoting student activities that align with the needs and preferences of students at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.

2. Research Methodology

Population and Sample Group

The population for the study on factors affecting student motivation to participate in activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, consisted of students from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.

The sample group for the study included 200 students from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.

Research Method

The study on factors affecting student motivation to participate in activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, was quantitative research. Data were collected using a questionnaire consisting of three parts:

Part 1 – General information: gender, year, and program.

Part 2 – Factors affecting student motivation to participate in activities and guidelines for promoting student activity in response to students' needs. The questions used a 5-point Likert scale as follows:

- 5 = Strongly agree
- 4 = Agree
- 3 = Neutral
- 2 = Disagree
- 1 = Strongly disagree

Part 3 – Issues, obstacles, and suggestions from students of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.

Location

Data were gathered at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.

Duration

Data were collected from October 2022 to July 2023.

Data Analysis

The data were analyzed using percentages (%), mean (\bar{x}), and standard deviation (S.D.) according to the following 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 results of the study on factors affecting student motivation to participate in activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University were as follows:

Table 1: The student motivation to participate in activities

The student motivation to participate in activities	Level of student motivation to participate in activities		
	Mean (\bar{x})	Standard Deviation (S.D.)	Result
Enhancing Knowledge and Experience			
1. Participation in activities enhances knowledge.	4.32	0.70	highest level
2. Developing problem-solving skills.	4.34	0.72	highest level
3. Increasing employment opportunities after graduation.	4.20	0.83	high level
4. Gaining knowledge and personal development.	4.34	0.78	highest level
5. Learning new things.	4.39	0.69	highest level
6. Developing teamwork, networking, and building positive relationships.	4.40	0.71	highest level
7. Improving self-potential and discipline.	4.33	0.78	highest level
8. Boosting academic achievements.	3.94	1.05	high level
Total Enhancement of Knowledge and Experience			
Leadership and Confidence	4.28	0.78	<i>highest level</i>

1. Developing potential and competencies.			
2. Fostering participation and unity.	4.28	0.75	highest level
3. Building leadership and self-confidence.	4.30	0.78	highest level
4. Taking responsibility in teamwork.	4.28	0.77	highest level
Total Leadership and Confidence			
Physical Health and Public Consciousness	4.35	0.75	highest level
1. Improving physical health and fostering a positive attitude.	4.30	0.76	<i>highest level</i>
2. Contributing to society.			
3. Increasing self-worth.	4.12	0.85	high level
4. Taking on roles, responsibilities, and opportunities for leadership and planning.	4.29	0.76	highest level
5. Earning high financial compensation.	4.20	0.81	high level
6. Learning team and societal regulations and disciplines.	4.24	0.82	highest level
7. Participating in activities with compensation or volunteer hours.	4.01	0.99	high level
8. Overcoming obstacles and challenges.	4.22	0.78	highest level
9. Developing a positive attitude.	4.06	1.00	high level
10. Impact on student loans through volunteer hours.	3.88	1.05	high level
Total Physical Health and Public Consciousness			
Motivation to Participate in Activities	4.32	0.73	highest level
1. Enhancement of knowledge and experience.	4.13	1.01	high level
2. Leadership and confidence.	4.15	0.88	<i>high level</i>
3. Physical health and public consciousness.			
Total Motivation to Participate in Activities			
Enhancing Knowledge and Experience	4.28	0.78	highest level
9. Participation in activities enhances knowledge.	4.30	0.76	highest level
10. Developing problem-solving skills.	4.15	0.88	high level
11. Increasing employment opportunities after graduation.	4.24	0.81	highest level

4. Discussion

The overall student motivation to participate in activities was found to be at the highest level ($\bar{x} = 4.24$, S.D. = 0.81). When analyzed by item, leadership and confidence were at the highest level ($\bar{x} = 4.30$, S.D. = 0.76), followed by enhancing knowledge and experience ($\bar{x} = 4.28$, S.D. = 0.78), and physical health and public consciousness, which were at a high level ($\bar{x} = 4.15$, S.D. = 0.88).

These findings align with the research of Amnuay Changto (2021), which examined the factors affecting student participation in activities at Rajamangala University of Technology Suvarnabhumi, Suphanburi Center, revealing that students demonstrated a high level of motivation to participate. Additionally, the results are consistent with the study by Sangsai & Bunbut (2019) on student participation at the International College, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, which found that student activities effectively responded to students' needs, benefiting them in enhancing knowledge, skills, potential, and competencies.

5. Conclusion

The findings of the study on factors affecting student motivation to participate in activities at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University revealed three main factors influencing student participation:

Enhancing Knowledge and Experience:

- Developing teamwork, networking, and good relationships was rated the highest ($\bar{x} = 4.40$, S.D. = 0.71).
- Learning new things was also rated highly ($\bar{x} = 4.39$, S.D. = 0.69).
- Gaining knowledge and self-development, as well as self-problem-solving, were rated at the highest level ($\bar{x} = 4.34$, S.D. = 0.78), in that order.

Leadership and Confidence:

- Responsibility for teamwork was the highest-rated item ($\bar{x} = 4.35$, S.D. = 0.75).
- Building participation and unity was also highly rated ($\bar{x} = 4.30$, S.D. = 0.78).
- Building leadership and confidence, and developing potential and competency were equally high ($\bar{x} = 4.28$, S.D. = 0.77).

Physical Health and Public Consciousness:

- Building a good attitude was rated highest ($\bar{x} = 4.32$, S.D. = 0.73).
- Helping society followed closely ($\bar{x} = 4.29$, S.D. = 0.76).
- Taking roles, responsibilities, and opportunities to be a representative and participate in planning were rated highly ($\bar{x} = 4.24$, S.D. = 0.82).

Overall, student motivation to participate in activities was at the highest level ($\bar{x} = 4.24$, S.D. = 0.81). When considering each factor individually, Leadership and Confidence were the highest-rated ($\bar{x} = 4.30$, S.D. = 0.76), followed by Enhancing Knowledge and Experience ($\bar{x} = 4.28$, S.D. = 0.78). Physical Health and Public Consciousness were rated at a high level ($\bar{x} = 4.15$, S.D. = 0.88).

Acknowledgment

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the reviewers for their insightful comments and suggestions, which greatly contributed to the improvement of our study. Additionally, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Suan

Sunandha Rajabhat University for their unwavering support throughout the course of this research.

References

Amnuay Changto. (2021). *Factors Affecting Student Activity Participation at Rajamangala University of Technology Suvarnabhumi, Suphanburi Center*. Research Promotion Fund Fiscal Year 2021. Suphanburi: Suphanburi Resource Management Division, Rajamangala University of Technology Suvarnabhumi.

Nantaphon Phanthudet. (2017). *A Study of Factors Affecting Student Participation in Activities at North Bangkok University*. Thesis for the Master of Public Administration in Public and Private Sector Management Program, North Bangkok University.

Sangsai, M., & Bunbut, T. (2019, November). *Participation in Student Activities of Students at International College, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University*. In International Academic Conference on Educational and Social Innovations (pp. 132-136).

Suthin Chanabun. (2017). *Statistics and Data Analysis in Basic Health Research*. Khon Kaen: Khon Kaen Provincial Public Health Office.

Thairoongrojana, S., & Ruangsang, N. (2021). *Student Perception Regarding the Utilization of Media Literacy to Prevent Online Threats, Thailand*. Online Submission, 5, 1302-1312.