

Quality of Life of Students Enrolled for Professional Experience in Community Development in Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University During the 2019 Coronavirus Situation

DaychoKhaenamkhaew^{1*}

¹Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University, Thailand
*email: Daycho_kha@nstru.ac.th

ABSTRACT

This paper assesses the quality of life of students who were enrolled for professional experience in community development in Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University during the 2019 coronavirus situation. All aspects of the quantitative research were at a high level (Mean = 3.69; SD = 0.13). The category with the highest mean was “residence” (Mean = 4.16; SD = 0.06). Categories like “relationship in society” (Mean = 4.08; SD = 0.05), “clothes and garments” (Mean = 3.89; SD = 0.04), “health and medicine” (Mean = 3.70; SD = 0.11), and “food consumption” (Mean = 3.38; SD = 0.07) were at a high level. The category with the lowest mean was the “income” category (Mean = 3.01; SD = 0.01).

Keywords

Quality of life; students for a professional experience; community development; the new coronavirus

Introduction

Education is the cornerstone of all aspects of development, leading people from all walks of life toward knowledge and understanding. In principle, knowledge is applied to both short-and long-term means of livelihoods and national development. Therefore, institutions of higher education need to accelerate the development of the education system [1]. The systematization of formal education has brought about professional teaching and learning in the twenty-first century [2]. Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University, a southern higher education institution in Thailand, focuses on producing students according to academic and professional standards consistent with community changes and innovation for local development; thus, strengthening the community and developing knowledge based on the philosophy of sufficiency economy [3]. In particular, the course teaching, professional experience training, community development programs, and production are all designed to meet the needs of “community development students,” graduates, or social entrepreneurs. It is necessary to manage the teaching and learning process per the various situations in the community and to step into the working style of the “local community developers” who are working in their local communities [4].

The coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak emerged as an ongoing crisis toward the end of 2019. Its horrific manifestations at the community level significantly affect various dimensions of the quality of life of all individuals [5]. The outbreak has completely reshaped lives as governments and communities battle to limit the spread of the disease and ensure essential services to the most vulnerable groups [6]. The devastating consequences of this epidemic are felt on many levels, including economic, social, and political. Economic problems include unemployed citizens and new graduates unable to find work, resulting in social problems [7]. It is, therefore, important to consider the relevance of the quality of life of all individuals to the consequences of the 2019 coronavirus disease [8]. The uncertainty of the situation has created panic among people. The more people believe that the future looks dim, the more their panic is aggravated. Also, any danger or perceived danger about daily necessities, such as food, residential, clothing, and apparel, health and medicine, income, and social relations [9], worsens this panic situation. Therefore, it is important to have information on how the quality of life has been impacted by the recent pandemic and specifically how the quality of life of college students has been affected by this crisis [10].

This paper aims to study the quality of life of students who are being trained for professional experience in community development in Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University during the coronavirus pandemic. Results of this research can help improve the quality of life of students, academic practice, professional development, and community development to be in line with the current working situation in the community during the coronavirus pandemic.

Objective

This paper aims to study the quality of life of students who are enrolled for a course in professional experience in community development in Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University during the 2019 coronavirus disease situation.

Methodology

Details of the quantitative research to study the quality of life of students who were enrolled for the community development professional experience training in Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University during the coronavirus pandemic are as follows:

1. The population under study is the professional community development training students of Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University. Between January 21, 2021, and April 20, 2021, 80 people were randomly selected to participate in the study. A sample size of 66 people was collected from the random sample by using the Krejcie & Morgan method [11] to reach the required number [12].
2. The research instrument was a questionnaire that relied on books, articles, and research results to create the research questions. The questionnaire was divided into 2 parts. Part 1 focused on the general information of the respondents. Part 2 dealt with the quality of life of professional community development students of Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University during the 2019 coronavirus disease situation. The quality of life was measured based on the following categories: (1) food consumption (2) clothing and apparel (3) accommodation (4) health and medicine (5) income (6) social relationships. These categories were evaluated based on a five-level evaluation scale and the interpretation of mean scores [12]. Content and language checks were conducted, the questionnaire was adjusted according to the recommendations of 5 experts, and the validity of the questionnaire (IOC) was determined. The questionnaire had to obtain a validity value of 0.80. It was re-checked, and 30 try-out testings were performed to determine the confidence value. The coefficient value, based on the Alpha Cronbach Coefficient, was determined to be 0.72 [12], which was not lower than 0.70 [13]. The questionnaire was re-validated and completed online.
3. Information was collected by sending online questionnaires via Line, Facebook, and email (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDGBcO-mIXXHNPkku649n0FT2Sc4jjjq_kTDcgqxoTIzw/closedform). It took a total of two weeks to complete the data collection process. In total, 66 sets of data were received, which were checked for correctness and validity for further analysis.
4. Data Repetitive was analyzed with an Excel program using descriptive statistics to find the mean and presented by using an annotation table.

Results

The quality of life of students enrolled for the professional experience in community development program in Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University during the coronavirus crisis can be summarized as follows:

1. "Food consumption" was at a high level (Mean = 3.38; SD = 0.07) and had the highest mean. "Full meals consisting of 3 meals each day" was at the highest level (Mean = 3.56; SD = 1.02), followed by "purchasing and supplying food at all times" (Mean = 3.38; SD = 1.00). The aspect with the lowest mean was "choose to buy food and cook by yourself" (Mean = 3.30; SD = 1.12).
2. "Clothes and garments" was at a high level (Mean = 3.89; SD = 0.04) and had the highest mean. "Always use clothing or clothing that is clean" was at a high level (Mean = 4.03; SD = 0.76), followed by "clothing and clothing that are suitable to occasion wear" was at a high level (Mean = 3.88; SD = 0.83), and the aspect with the lowest mean was "acquired clothing or apparel" (Mean = 3.77; SD = 0.78).
3. The "residence" category was at a high level (Mean = 4.16; SD = 0.06). The aspect with the highest mean was "maintaining cleanliness in the house" (Mean = 4.26; SD = 0.81), followed by "proportionate housing and a suitable size" (Mean = 4.14; SD = 0.91). The aspect with the lowest mean was "the residence has a very high level of safety" (Mean = 4.08; SD = 0.90).
4. "Health and medicine" was at the high level (Mean = 3.70; SD = 0.11). The aspect with the highest mean was "received knowledge about healthcare" (Mean = 3.95; SD = 0.85), followed by "receiving care and treatment if ill" (Mean = 3.74; SD = 0.90). The aspect with the lowest mean was "has exercised or played sports as desired," which was at a moderate level (Mean = 3.41; SD = 1.05).

5. The “income” category was at a high level (Mean = 3.01; SD = 0.01). The aspect with the highest mean was “high level of wages and income to support themselves and their families” (Mean = 3.06; SD = 1.14), followed by “high levels of wages and sufficient income to work” (Mean = 3.00; SD = 1.11). The aspect with the lowest mean was “savings,” which was at a moderate level (Mean = 2.95; SD = 1.13).
6. “Relationship in society” was at the high level (Mean = 4.08; SD = 0.05). The aspect with the highest mean was “the assignment was accomplished according to the goals” (Mean = 4.14; SD = 0.82), followed by “living with neighbors, community, or society without conflict” (Mean = 4.06; SD = 0.84). The aspect with the lowest mean was “working with colleagues” (Mean = 4.03; SD = 0.91).
7. Overall, all aspects were at a high level (Mean = 3.69; SD = 0.13). The category with the highest mean was “residences” (Mean = 4.16; SD = 0.06), followed by “social relations” (Mean = 4.08; SD = 0.05). The category with the lowest mean was “income” (Mean = 3.01; SD = 0.01).

Discussions

All aspects of the research study on the quality of life of students enrolled for professional experience in community development in Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University during the coronavirus pandemic were at a high level (Mean = 3.69; SD = 0.13). This was inconsistent with the Algahtani, F.D. et al. [5], study which found that the COVID-19 outbreak is an ongoing crisis and has implications for everyone's quality of life. The results of this study, however, indicate that the COVID-19 outbreak does not severely affect the quality of life of students because they are knowledgeable and prepared to prevent any unwanted consequences. Preventive measures taken by these students include eating freshly cooked food, cleaning the house frequently, taking care of clean clothes and clothing, and, if sick, seeing a doctor and not socializing. This was consistent with the Algazally, M.E. et al. [14], study which found that progress in the management of the major coronaviruses related diseases in humans. All of these efforts help prevent COVID-19

Conclusion

Research on the quality of life of students who were enrolled for professional experience in community development in Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University during the COVID19 situation showed that all aspects were at a high level (Mean = 3.69; SD = 0.13). Details include “residence” (Mean = 4.16; SD = 0.06), “relationship in society” (Mean = 4.08; SD = 0.05), “clothes and garments” (Mean = 3.89; SD = 0.04), “health and medicine” (Mean = 3.70; SD = 0.11), “food consumption” (Mean = 3.38; SD = 0.07), and “income” (Mean = 3.01; SD = 0.01), which were all at a high level.

Limitations and Future Studies

Due to the COVID-19 situation, data collection could not be fielded. Data was instead collected via Google Form. Future study proposals should be studied, analyzed, and compared with other universities, both in the country and outside the country. Conducting more in-depth research on the topic will lead to the improvement of the quality of life of students.

Acknowledgement

This study is part of the Community Development Professional Experience Training, I would like to thank all the students for providing information, I would like to thank the organization and the community for supporting the place to work and I would like to thank Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University for generous knowledge in academic.

References

- [1] Suthiwattana, P. et al. (2019). A Study of the development level of learning in accordance with the National Higher Education Standards Framework (TQF) by using teaching styles in subjects that

- emphasize lectures of undergraduate students RambhaiBarniRajabhat University. *Humanities and Social Sciences Journal, UbonRatchathaniRajabhatUniversity*, 10(2), 295-304. Retrieved from <https://so01.tci-thaijo.org/index.php/humanjubru/article/view/195829/157307>.
- [2] Semler, L.E. (2016). Prosperous teaching and the thing of darkness: Raising a Tempest in the classroom. *Cogent Arts & Humanities*, 3(1), 1235862. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2016.1235862>.
- [3] Nakhon Si Thammarat Rajabhat University. (2015). *Philosophy Vision and Mission*. Retrieved from <https://www.nstru.ac.th/en/page/history>.
- [4] Department Executive director of Community Development. (2017). *Bachelor of Arts Program in The Community Development at 2017*. Nakhon Si Thammarat: Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- [5] Algahtani, F.D. et al. (2021). Assessment of the Quality of Life during COVID-19 Pandemic: A Cross-Sectional Survey from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(3), 847. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18030847>.
- [6] Guida, C. & Carpentieri, G. (2021). Quality of life in the urban environment and primary health services for the elderly during the Covid-19 pandemic: An application to the city of Milan (Italy). *Cities*, 110(3), 1-15. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2020.103038>.
- [7] Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation. (2020). *University to District Building a tap root for the country*. Retrieved from <https://www.mhesi.go.th/index.php/flagship-project/2690-u2tambon.html>.
- [8] Melo, M.E. et al. (2020). Reported quality of life in countries with cases of COVID19: a systematic review. *Expert Review of Respiratory Medicine*, 15(2), 213–220. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1080/17476348.2021.1826315>.
- [9] Jiniato, R.S. (2021). Social Panic Regarding Covid-19. *Annals of the Romanian Society for Cell Biology*, 25(4), 6935–6942. Retrieved from <http://annalsofrscb.ro/index.php/journal/article/view/3304>.
- [10] Panayiotoua, G. et al. (2021). Coping with the invisible enemy: The role of emotion regulation and awareness in quality of life during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science*, 19(1), 17-27. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcbs.2020.11.002>.
- [11] Krejcie, R.V., & D.W. Morgan. (1970). Determining Sample Size for Research Activities. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*. 30(3), 607–610. Retrieved from https://home.kku.ac.th/sompong/guest_speaker/KrejcieandMorgan_article.pdf.
- [12] Boonmak, S., et al. (2017). *Research Methodology in Social Sciences*. Songkhla: Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Thaksin University.
- [13] Patthaphong, D. (2015). *Academic papers of research science and applied statistics*. Retrieved from <http://it.nation.ac.th/faculty/danai/download/statistics%20talks7.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0MHhon>.
- [14] Algazally, M.E. et al. (2021). CoronaVirus: SARS, MERS and SARS-CoV-2 a Real Three Threats of 21st Century. *Annals of the Romanian Society for Cell Biology*, 5(4), 295-312. Retrieved from <http://annalsofrscb.ro/index.php/journal/article/view/2465>.