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KEY WORD: TRENDS / GENERAL EDUCATION / HIGHER EDUCATION / DELPHI TECHNIQUE / NEXT DECADE

PANADDA JIARAKUL : TRENDS OF GENERAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM IN THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION UNDER THE MINISTRY OF UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS IN THE NEXT DECADE. THESIS

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The objective of this research was to study the trends of General Education Curriculum in the institutions of higher education under the MUA (Ministry of University Affairs) in the next decade (B.E. 1998-2007) in terms of curriculum philosophy, curriculum purposes, curriculum structure and contents, teaching and learning arrangement, measurement and evaluation, curriculum management and problems of curriculum organization. This study was the future research utilizing Delphi technique. Samples were the expertises on General Education Curriculum in the institutions of higher education under the MUA, numbering 28 persons. Research tools were semi-structured interview form, and questionnaire form. Data were analyzed by using median and interquartile range.

The results of research could be summarized as follows: General Education Curriculum in the institutions of higher education under the MUA in the next decade will emphasize on understanding and living together in Thai and global societies, adjustment, analysis and solving of problems intellectually and ethically as well as providing knowledge and experiences necessitate for living. The same are for the application and for the well-round. This intends to encourage the graduates to be competent in the communication, to have basic experiences in universal fields, to be familiar with analysis and tacking of problems morally and ethically, to be able to comprehend various types of relationship in Thai and global societies, and to be competent in searching for knowledge, to possess human relationship and responsibility. The curriculum structure still contains at least 30 credits which comprise core courses and required courses. Likewise it still provide the study in the subjects of Social Science, Humanities, Science and Mathematics and Languages. The subject arrangement will feature knowledge integration emphasize on the contents which are relevant to daily life, humanity, comprehension of science and technology and their impacts, the use of languages in communication and research. The arrangement of teaching and learning will give more emphasize on the graduates, and electronic media will be used in larger scale. Current articles and various types of activity will be more used stressing on actual practice. Measurement and evaluation of learning is to cope with the purposes of the study by using evaluation test forms. The curriculum management will be done by the University Central Board equipped with the central unit which will be a liaison group to arrange the teaching and learning with each faculty. The institutions of higher education will support in media field, technical development and teaching methods, and co-curricular activities. The instructors will possess good concept and comprehension in relation to the general education, knowledge and expertise in the contents provided as well as experiences and qualifications in conformity with the subjects taught. The problems of curriculum organization will be the inadequacy of the instructors, particularly in integration subjects, the instructors' non-progressive in technical knowledge, the lack of understanding in teaching the general education, the problem of the attitude of professional field towards the general education, the problem of the MUA policy on the management of curriculum and that of sorting out the curriculum contents.

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