

ABSTRACT

The study aimed to investigate the ability to adjust in a foreign environment and to compare the success of self-adjustment between batch 1 and batch 2 students in the One District One Scholarship (ODOS) Project while they were studying in France during the 2007-2008 academic year.

The samples in this study consisted of 100 students who were from the ODOS project year 2004 (batch 1) and year 2006 (batch 2). Both batches also came from various regions of Thailand like the north, the northeast, the central, the east and the south. The data was collected by a questionnaire aimed at self-adjustment in foreign culture, academic environment and ended with open-ended questions for the participants' suggestions on The ODOS Project. Descriptive statistics were used to analyze and discuss the results.

The findings revealed that the majority of students, both batches, had the ability to adjust themselves highly in terms of certain foreign cultural aspects such as food, weather, and conversational language outside the class, French greeting, and French lifestyle. In addition, for foreign academic environment, the results indicated that the majority of both batches were also able to adjust themselves highly in certain aspects like interactions with classmates excluding Thais, and utilizing tools and facilities for academic purpose. However, in some areas like conversational language outside the class, technical terms or language used in class, interactions with lecturer(s) and advisor(s), and teaching method, it appeared that there was a significant difference in adjustment between the two groups of respondents. That is to say, batch 1 students could adjust themselves better to these topics than batch 2 students could. The main reason that batch 1 could adjust themselves better to a foreign culture and academic environment without taking a 3-month language course before going to France was that batch 1 students were more mutual and had been staying in France longer than batch 2 students had. Therefore, they have attained more knowledge and experience.

The result from the research will be a guideline for future students of the ODOS Project in terms of how to prepare themselves before going abroad and how to solve any problems that occur.