

Abstract

The research of organizing continuing education in higher education institution is a research and development in mixed method aiming to 1) synthesize the format of organizing continuing education in higher education institution 2) survey the conditions and needs of adult outside the higher education system for continuing education 3) propose appropriate solutions for organizing continuing education in higher education institution. The research tools are questionnaire, interview, group discussion and data collection. The quantitative and qualitative data analyses are conducted on organizing adult education and the continuing education in higher education institution in Thailand and abroad. The samples are divided into 2 groups. The first group consists of 10 participants specifically selected by qualification criteria labeled as “Known group”. The second group selected using simple random sampling method consisted of 450 adults in the network of non-formal education and informal education from all over the country. They are selected from various regions and occupational groups. These groups are used for analysis aiming to set the guideline for organizing continuing education in higher education institution.

The results show that

1. Organizing for continuing education in higher education institution in Thailand consists of 3 main parts that are 1) The factors that contributing, supporting, giving opportunity, or being a mutual part or being any conditions leading to organization of the continuing education in higher education institution in Thailand to be operated and further developed. 2) Process of organizing education is composed of the development of academic service systems and learning support materials: setting and selecting the target group, organizing learning and learning evaluation. 3) Outputs of organizing education are graduates from various courses and training: research and development according to strategic plan and collaboration with external organizations and management systems. For continuing education in abroad higher education institution, they are operated following their own educational organization of each country, corresponding to the target group, policy, curriculum, instructor's character, teaching and learning organization and teaching-support materials.

2. The conditions and need for organizing continuing education for adults outside the education system. From questionnaire survey of the people in non-formal education in each regional and occupational groups, it is found that there are an interest and

demand for organizing continuing education program for general public people, the details are 1) an interest to join the continuing education program arranged for the outsiders by the university 2) the objective/goal of learning for profession 3) the cost for continuing education per one course is under 1000 baht 4) the requirement of course graduation with certificates 5) the content of profession is the most interesting followed by language, communication and sociability, health and sports, respectively 6) days and time requested for organizing classes on weekends, followed by official time 7) most interested in learning within 1-2 weeks, followed by less than 1 week 8) the most convenient location for organizing learning is in a community area, followed by the university and via internet 9) the most interested teaching method is a study trip, by apprentice, by group learning, by seminar/lecture, by self-study using Internet, respectively 10) demand on learning hour is 3 hours 11) learning resources and learning networks being the most interested is to study in their community education institution, followed by study with the lecturer at the university and by computer databases and the internet, by establishments in the community, by the university library, by the scholar in the community and others, respectively 12) the most interested qualifications and characteristics of instructor is to understand and accept others, followed by being knowledge able and having good skills 13) process of teaching activities which in most demand is student thinking participations 14) teaching media and equipment which is the most selected is practical learning 15) the most measurement and evaluation requirement is measurement of knowledge and understanding 16) the most support and facilitation is scholarship support or partial financial accommodation.

From the interview, it is found that it is operated with the framework of organizing education but did not cover and correspond with the target group, policy, course and instructor's character, teaching and learning organization, and teaching-support materials, especially the system guideline.

3. The appropriate guideline for overall organizing continuing education in higher education institution should be operated systematically and in line with the group target, policy, courses, instructor's character, teaching and learning organization, teaching-support material and the others related to each particular institution that link with inside and outside network, in line with life styles and conform with social, economic and political contexts.