



THE CAREER EDUCATION APPROACH TO BASIC EDUCATION IN THAILAND – THANOM RAS BUMRUNG SCHOOL CASE STUDY

Sukanya Chaemchoy¹ and Chayapim Usaho²

¹*Naresuan University, Thailand.*

²*Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.*

The research objectives were to study 1) the current state of a successful case of basic education for career education, 2) the key success factors of basic education for career education, and 3) the collaborative network of basic education for career education. By using qualitative research method, sample was selected from schools that have a clarified and concrete management concept and practice of basic education for career education in the northern part of Thailand.

Keywords: Career education.

1. Introduction

Office of The Basic Education Commission (OBEC) is the major authority that is responsible for basic education administration concerning with the critical of student quality. Also, Basic Education Research Sub-Committee was founded in order to research and develop Basic Education System by making policy and concept. Research processes are opened for experts' views, both interview and group discussion. Then problem has been identified and analysed to find result in research concepts which focusing on the student quality. Student quality is divided into 5 major areas includes Student, Teacher and staff, Curriculum and Teaching Material, Local, and Management.

Basic Educational Research Sub- Committee has focused on the relationship between basic education and career education to develop curriculum and instructional media in order to provide skill training for student. The designed program was based on student interest and human resource requirements from the industrial sectors and stakeholders.

The current education has showed that students have lost their identity. They did not know what they were interested in and they had some difficulty in choosing their career. Their education should be able to build their knowledge and skills similarly to an approach in Germany (Amars Sila-on, 18 May 2009). Concept of classical education system aimed to build students capability to work in different level from primary, secondary, high school and undergraduated. It is different from the current education system which included 12 year in basic education and 4 year in higher level before they can get off to work.

People believe that student have to complete their university to be able to work (16 year of study) (Krissanapong Kirtikara, 2009). The latest figure showed that 70 percent of Mattayom 3 (Grade 9) continue their studies while another 30 percent left to labour market where proper skills are required. (Krissanapong Kirtikara, 2009). So the relationship between having jobs and working skill is clear. Basic education should provide some skill training. The additional research issue is the way for teacher to give advice on student profession. (Chaipruek Sareerak, 2009). Following research that support career

education is “Basic Education Concept for Career”. It was a guideline for school under OBEC. The purpose of that research was to (1) Comparison study Basic Education for Career Administration in Thailand and oversea. (2) Study current status and critical conditions to Basic Educational Administration for Career in selected school. (Interesting Case / Good Practice Case) under OBEC (3) Study concept in coordination among authorities to develop standard and quality for Basic Educational Administration for career and (4) to present the concept in Basic Educational Administration for career coincide with level, context, school characteristic, and future social and economic trends. Also analyse for suitabilities and prioritise the solution in order to support the decision making process of OBEC

One of Research process is Interesting Case/Good Practice Case selection. Case was selected from 24 schools under OBEC around the country. Thanom Ras Bumrung School from Educational Area 38 (TAK province) was selected out of 6 of schools from northern part of Thailand.

2. Research Objectives

The research objectives were to study 1) current state of a successful case of basic education for career education 2) key success factors of basic education for career education 3) collaborative network for basic education for career education 4) The concept in providing basic education for careers education related to social and economic trends.

3. Case Study Selection Criterion

This research used a qualitative research method. The sample was selected from interesting/good practices which have a good management concept for basic education approaches in career education from 24 schools under OBEC in 4 different regions (6 schools in each region).

Thanom Ras Bumrung School was selected from 6 cases in the northern part of Thailand in which the researcher focus on this topic. This school has a clear concept in basic education for career education. The main collaborative management support for career education is from Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna, Tak, Tak Polytechnic College, and local agencies. The collaborations are to basic education for career education in order to support students to have part time job and guide them to future career under the school context.

4. Data Source

Case study data resources were collected from:-

4.1 School Document included

- (1). Thanom Ras Bumrung School Curriculum B.E.2553 (2010)
- (2). Operational Plan B.E.2553
- (3). External Quality Assessment Report Basic Education Level
- (4). Quality Development Plan and Tak Pittayakom 2 School Project (Thanom Ras Bumrung School)
- (5). Student Income Project Student development Activity

4.2 Interview (Semi-structure interview)

- (1). School Director; concept in basic education for career education
- (2). Teachers and Student Income Project manager
- (3). Teachers from Pre Food Science Program (Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna, Tak) and Career Education (Tak Polytechnic College)
- (4). Students enrolled Pre Food Science Program and Student Income Project

4.3 Observation classroom and school environment related to basic education for career education.

5. Tools

This research aimed to study and analyse 5 major areas of basic education for career education included student quality includes Student, Teacher and staff, Curriculum and Teaching Material, Local, and Management. The variety of methodologies used range from interviewing, observation, and questionnaire. Filed data collection includes:-

- (1). Record form of school context observations
- (2). Record form of interviews
- (3). Record form of teaching and learning observations
- (4). Analytical form of school document and teaching materials

6. Conduct of Data Collection and Verification

Step 1 The coordination in data collection from Office of Education Area and school are as follow:-

- (1) Researcher coordinated with the Faculty of Education, Chulalongkorn University to request for data collection.
- (2) Researcher contacted school director to make an arrangement for field data collection
- (3) Researcher sent a formal letter to TRB director and Educational Area 37 director with appointment details.

Step 2 Field Data collection, Interviews, observations, and questionnaires have been use to collect data on appointment to school director. Basic information was collected from observation, interview, and document review were community context, school context, teacher, student, school operation plan, external quality assessment report, curriculum and the observation in teaching and learning management process.

Step 3 second rounds of data collection and present to stakeholder for adjustment have been done after researcher have basic information in order to generate report of interesting case. It has been found that some data is unclear or missing. The data also needs to be verified for consistency with the first collection.

7. Data Analysis

Researcher conducted data analysis from documents, content, and interviews of school director, teachers, students, and stakeholders. Their objectives are as follow:-

- (1) Current state of a successful case of basic education for career education,
- (2) Key success factors of basic education for career education
- (3) Collaborative network related to standard and quality development for basic education for career education

8. Research Result

8.1.Conclusion

8.1.1. The Success of Career Approach

- (1). School had clear concept in basic education for career education by providing career education program in addition. The coordination with higher educational organization that have a higher capability in career education management such as Rajamangala University of Technology

Lanna, Tak has been arranged with MOU in food science program and coordination with Tak Polytechnic College to support lecturer for specific class.

- (2). Students were able to have an income during their studies. The evidence has shown that students more than half were from poor mountain tribe families since parents could not provide sufficient funding to their children. It is a great opportunity to work for extra funds. Students gained their social skill by living together in school, taking care of each other (especially their juniors), and to facilitate their juniors to take care of themselves. They learn how to cook, cleaning, organize their activities, self discipline, and responsibility.

8.1.2. Success Conditions and Factors

In this school context, there are some influences to teaching and learning management. Survivability from low number of student and future trends. This is because there are some famous schools around resulting in the recruitment of students from mountain tribes. 2) Economic factor that students are from poor families, so they need funding during their education result in the drive for Thanom Ras Bumrung School to prioritise the basic education for career education. It also has been found that successful conditions and factors are:-

Success Factors are (1) Executive vision in providing education related to student context (2) Teachers contribution for better quality of students (3) Collaborative network from external organization such as Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna, Tak, Tak Polytechnic College and other high schools in province etc.

Success conditions are (1) School Policy making related to student and school context. (2) Relationships with other educational organizations and (3) knowledge transfer from teachers to students

8.1.3. Educational Collaboration Network of Thanom Ras Bumung school are as follow-

- (1). Collaborative Network in career education aid are Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna, Tak, Tak Polytechnic College etc.
- (2). Collaborative Network in educational management for general subject: Phadungpanya school, Tak Pittayakom school
- (3). Advice on problem solving from Phadungpanya school director and school committee

9. Suggestion

9.1 Ministry of Education and OBEC should make a policy to direct organization bodies to collaborate in teaching and learning, for example, Office of Higher Education Commission and Office of Vocational Education Commission. It is also sharing their resources in student training and development for their appropriate and essential working skills.

The study has founded that, the concept of providing education from MOU in collaboration with education management for the food science plan with Rajamangala University of Technology Lanna, Tak is clear and effective of basic education for career education. Students were able to learn working skill from experts. The university has its expertise in specific skill and their personnel and material are ready for instruction. Students learn better than normal high school and can directly apply their knowledge in practice. Career educational curriculum can be integrated into general subject curriculum as additional subjects. There was no redundancy and credit can be transferred to higher education in that college. Otherwise it can be use directly in their career if they do not enter to higher education. This concept is suitable for school context which students are poor and have limited opportunity in education. They had a

lack of interest in general academics but they were much happier learning career skills than general subjects.

It is beneficial for students. However, there is some constraint in this management where the number of student is so small. It is difficult to evaluate for its efficiency. The instructor from Lanna has to contribute to 7 students and Thanom Ras Bumrung School can not find more students. In the end, those students may not continue their study in the university as MOU. In economical aspect, this program may be cancelled in one year even though it is a good program.

Moreover, the collaboration with Tak Polytechnic College, teachers from Tka Polytechnic College will teach for additional subject of professional and technology in school without MOU. It is considered from both of their readiness. Lecturer will teach those subjects in school with full teaching material support.

In practical, this concept showed the collaboration between 2 high authorities, Office of Higher Education Commission and Office of Vocational Education Commission, both are organization bodies under Ministry of Education.

When the operational unit worked follow on the concept of career education toward realistic application for future career. There are some constraints that make the useful food science program to be cancelled. The higher authority should take responsibility to assist by generating such policy and budgeting or coordinating to sustain this activity in order to focus on student quality.

9.2. School should systematically implement basic education for career education and open opportunity to every student to develop professional skill.

The research has show that more than 50 percent of students were from mountain tribes. School has to provide food and accommodation for them. Students were responsibility to prepare their food under provision. The school has initiated agricultural program in order to reduce the food purchase. The program was added into agriculture subject result in student could produce food product for self reliance such as vegetable farm, fish pond, chicken farm. The excess product can be sold in the market and return income for them during their study. Other program, such as handicraft, has been provided to other group to suit their interest. A variety of program could be done to open opportunities for student to develop certain skills.

9.3 School should provide basic education for career education related to local community and student basic. Students can gain their skills and applied them for their future carrer in the community.

The research showed that over a half of students have different lifestyles from students in school area. School should access their status and requirement included proper career education program for them and community. The art and cultural factors have to be taken in to consideration of basic education for career education for the best benefit of student sustainably.

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