

Institutional Commitment of Students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus

Asst.Prof.Dr.Surapong Kongsat

A lecturer of Bachelor of Arts Program in English,
Faculty of Humanities, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya
Nakhonratchasima Campus.

Abstract

This research entitled “**Institutional Commitment of Students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus**” had its objectives to study the institutional commitment of students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus and to compare the institutional commitment of students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus classified by students’ educational background. Samples used in this research were 41 students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus who studied in the academic year 2016. Instruments used for data collection were 15- item of rating scale questionnaire and statistics used for data analysis were percentage, mean (X), standard deviation (S.D.) and t-test.

Results of the study revealed that:

The level of institutional commitment of students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus in aspect of reliability and acceptance of institutional value, willingness and work hard for the institution were overall at high level; whereas in aspect of need to maintain their membership it was at moderate level.

The level of institutional commitment of students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Nakhonratchasima Campus, among students who graduated from General Buddhist Scripture School and other schools,

was not different both in overall and each item with statistically significance at the .05 level.

1. Introduction

Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, the first Buddhist monk university of Thai clergy¹, is a high level of educational institution of Thai clergy that King Chulalongkorn established in 1889 with former name as “Mahahatvidyalaya”. This name was changed to “Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya” on September 13, 1896 by royal intention to make this place to be as a commemoration of his majesty’s honor. Hence, there was an attempt to implement specific law or act for establishing of a Buddhist monk university by spending long time up to 50 years. In 2007 the government, led by General Chawalit Yongjaiyuth, suggested Thai parliament to enact Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Act. His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej affixed the royal signature on September 21, 1997 and it was announced in the government gazette on October 1, 1997. This made the university have a law certified its status as an autonomous university and a juristic person, non-government agency and non-state enterprise, to provide an education on Buddhism from then on.

For continuing the royal wish of H.M. King Chulalongkorn in aspect of personnel development to have their knowledge for applying with daily life and to have competency on maintaining and dissemination of Buddhism, Phra Pimoldhamma (Choi Thanatatta Mahathera) the abbot of Wat Mahathat at that time called a meeting of 57 senior Buddhist monks in Mahanikaya Sect on January 9, 1947. The meeting assigned Mahachulalongkorn-rajavidyalaya to provide an education on Tripitaka and higher subjects in the university level. Faculty of Buddhism has been the first faculty at bachelor’s degree level; its first teaching was on July 18, 1947. After that, there were respective developments of educational management as follows: changing of evaluation system to credit system in 1957, students had to learn at least 126 credits and to

¹ Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Development plan of Mahachulalongkorn-rajavidyalaya University in the 11th phase of development plan for higher educational level B.E. 2555-2559 (2012-2016), Bangkok: Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Printing House, 2013.

conduct religious activities for 1 year before graduation; establishing the Faculty of Education in 1962; starting the Curriculum of Religious Studies Teacher Training for diploma level in 1963 and this curriculum was changed to College of Religious Studies Teacher in 1969 as well as increased credit up to 200 and in 1973 Faculty of Southeast Asia was changed to Faculty of Humanities and Social Studies. The educational management in the first 2 decades, there was not enough support from clergy and government that made many of problems in the university's status, especially lacking the budget but the education could be provided continually.

Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus² had its initial operation on May 20, 1987 by opening Faculty of Buddhism first. After 3 years Faculty of Humanities was opened in 1990 followed by Faculty of Education and Faculty of Social Studies in 1991 and 1994, respectively. Nakhonratchasima has been the first campus in Thailand for having completed 4 faculties as same as the main campus in Bangkok. Curriculum of Diploma in Teacher Profession was opened in 1997 and Curriculum of Diploma in Administration of Sangha Affairs was opened in 2004, while Master of Arts (Buddhist Studies) was opened in 2006.

Institutional commitment means expression on close relationship of persons who have feelings clung to their institutions and consisted of 3 characteristics i.e. strong reliability to accept institutional values and goals, willingness to work hard for institutional interest and strong desire to maintain their membership.

The researcher, therefore, aimed to study the institutional commitment of students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus with objectives as; to study and compare the institutional commitment of students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus. This would be a guideline for the Nakhonratchasima Campus to utilize for further educational management.

² Bureau of Academic Affairs, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhon Ratchasima Campus, Student Handbook for Enrolling in Bachelor's Degree, Nakhon Ratchasima: Joseph Print Nakhon Ratchasima, 2016.

2. Objectives of the Research

1. To study the institutional commitment of students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus.
2. To compare the institutional commitment of students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus classified by students' educational background.

3. Significances of the Research

1. Knowing the institutional commitment of students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus, both of overall and comparison of educational backgrounds.
2. Being a guideline for the Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus to utilize for quality of education.

4. Scopes of the Research

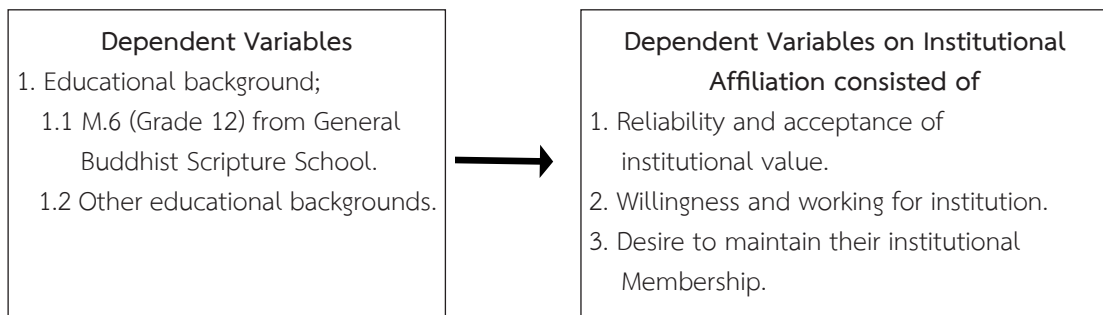
1. Population and Sample
 - 1.1 Population – Populations used in this research were 48 students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus who studied in the academic year 2016.
 - 1.2 Sample – Samples used in this research were 41 students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus who studied in the academic year 2016 obtained by Krejcie and Morgan's table³ for determining sample size.
2. Variables of the study
 - 2.1 Independent Variables – Educational background e.g. M.6 (Grade 12) from General Buddhist Scripture School and other educational backgrounds.

³ Source: Purachai Piumsomboon. *Social Science Research Methodology: Synthesis and Integration*. 1986 adapted from Krejcie, R.V., and Morgan D.W. "Determining Sample Size for Research Activities.", *Psychological Measurement* (1970): 607-610, cited in Suchitra Punyaratabandhu, *Public Administration Research Methodology*. 1991: 176-177., http://www.edu.ru.th/images/edu_files/Krejcie_Morgan.pdf, retrieved on September 4, 2016.

2.2 Dependent Variables – Institutional commitment of students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus consisted of:

- 1) Reliability and acceptance of institutional value.
- 2) Willingness and working for institution.
- 3) Desire to maintain their institutional membership.

5. Conceptual Framework



6. Research Hypothesis

Students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus with differences of educational background had their different institutional commitment.

7. Definitions of Specific Terms

1. Institutional commitment means expression on close relationship of persons who have feelings clung to their institutions and consisted of 3 characteristics i.e. strong reliability to accept institutional values and goals, willingness to work hard for institutional interest and strong desire to maintain their membership that could be divided into 3 aspects:

- 1.1 Reliability and acceptance of institutional value.
- 1.2 Willingness and working for institution.
- 1.3 Desire to maintain their institutional membership.

2. Students of the Faculty of Humanities mean students who were studying in programs related to Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus.

3. Educational Background means the educational background, of students of the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus, used for enroll in bachelor's degree that was consisted of;

3.1 M.6 (Grade 12) from General Buddhist Scripture School.

3.2 Other educational backgrounds.

8. Research Methodology

1. Population and Sample

1.1 Population – Populations used in this research were 48 students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus.

1.2 Sample - Samples used in this research were 41 students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus who studied in the academic year 2010 obtained by Krejcie and Morgan's table for determining sample size.

2. Data Collection Instrument

Instrument used for collecting data in this research was 1 set of questionnaire developed by the researcher divided into 2 parts as:

Part 1 – Status of the respondent was a 2-item checklist developed by the researcher.

Part 2 – Level of behavior on institutional commitment of students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus, in 3 aspects of 5 point rating scale questionnaire that was weighed score in 5 levels as:

Level 5 means having the highest level of institutional commitment.

Level 4 means having high level of institutional commitment.

Level 3 means having moderate level of institutional commitment.

Level 2 means having less level of institutional commitment.

Level 1 means having the least level of institutional commitment

The questionnaire had 15 items divided into each aspect as follows:

1. Reliability and acceptance of institutional value with 4 items.
2. Willingness and working for institution with 5 items.
3. Desire to maintain their institutional membership with 6 items.

For making of instruments used in this research, the researcher conducted these following procedures:

1. Studying the principles, concepts and theories from texts, documents and researches related to the institutional commitment of students and then analyzing contents to find some guidelines for making such questionnaire.

2. Arranging the studied data and making questionnaire for each item to cover the institutional commitment of students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus in 3 aspects; reliability and acceptance of institutional value, willingness and working for institution and desire to maintain their institutional membership.

3. Presenting the the questionnaire to curriculum instructors for checking language, literary style and content. Later, correcting such questionnaire for further usage.

3. Data Collection

For data collection in this study, the researcher collected data and information by himself in October 2016 (Academic year 2016 during June 2016 to May 2017).

4. Data Analysis

The researcher analyzed data by using computerized application and statistics used for analyzing were as follows:

1. Analyzing data on respondents' status by frequency and percentage.
2. Analyzing level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus in 3 aspects by mean (\bar{X}) and Standard Deviation (S.D.) for each item, aspect and overall. Interpretation criteria on mean of the level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus were as follows:

4.51 – 5.00 means having the highest level of institutional commitment.

3.51 – 4.50 means having high level of institutional commitment.

2.51 – 3.50 means having moderate level of institutional commitment.

1.51 – 2.50 means having less level of institutional commitment.

1.00 – 1.50 means having the least level of institutional commitment.

3. Comparing level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus, classified by their educational backgrounds, by t-test.

9. Research Results

1. Sample Status

1.1 Most of samples were the second-year students (43.9%), while the next was the first-year (31.7) and the third-year students (24.4%).

1.2 The samples enrolled in the university by using their education background of M.6 (Grade 12) from Senior High School (41.5%), the next was M.6 (Grade 12) from General Buddhist Scripture School (31.7), others (14.6%) and Informal Education Center (12.2), respectively.

2. The level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus

2.1 The level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus was overall at moderate level. For consideration in each aspect, it was found that 2 aspects were at high level and 1 aspect at moderate level. Ranking from the highest to the lowest mean found that the students' institutional commitment in aspect of reliability and acceptance of institutional value was in the highest mean, while the next was in aspect of willingness and working for institution and desire to maintain their institutional membership, respectively.

2.2 The level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus in aspect of reliability and acceptance of institutional value was overall at high level. For consideration

in each item, it was found that all items were at high level. Ranking from the highest to the lowest mean found that the highest mean was in the item of collaborative acceptance of institutional value and goals, whereas the lowest mean was in the item of full support for institution.

2.3 The level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus in aspect of willingness and working for institution was overall at high level. For a consideration in each item, it was found that all items were at moderate level. Ranking from the highest to the lowest mean found that the highest mean was in the item of willingness to work hard for institution's development and progress, whereas the lowest mean was in the item of taking care of and following works for friends when they were busy or sick.

2.4 The level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus in aspect of desire to maintain their institutional membership was overall at moderate level. For a consideration in each item, it was found that all items were at moderate level. Ranking from the highest to the lowest mean found that the highest mean was in the item of building collaborative understanding among members, whereas the lowest mean was in the item of regular coordination with other members.

3. Comparison of the level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus classified by educational background

3.1 The level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus among students graduated from General Buddhist Scripture School and those from other schools was not different with statistically significance at the .05 level. For a consideration in each item, it was found that all items were not different with statistically significance at the .05 level as well.

3.2 The level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus among students graduated from General Buddhist Scripture School and those from other schools in aspect of reliability and acceptance of institutional value was not different

in overall with statistically significant at the .05 level. For consideration in each item, it was found that all items were not different with statistically significant at the 0.05 level as well.

3.3 The level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus between students graduated from General Buddhist Scripture School and those from other schools in aspect of willingness and working for institution was not different in overall with statistically significance at the .05 level. For a consideration in each item, it was found that all items were not different with statistically significance at the .05 level as well.

3.4 The level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus among students graduated from General Buddhist Scripture School and those from other schools in aspect of desire to maintain their institutional membership was not different in overall with statistically significance at the .05 level. For a consideration in each item, it was found that all items were not different with statistically significance at the 0.05 level as well.

10. Research Results

From results on the level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus, there were some issues to be discussed as follows:

1. The level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus

1.1 The level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus in aspect of reliability and acceptance of institutional value, willingness and working for institution was at high level that was conformed to a research of Winna Kaewngam⁴ (cited in

⁴ Siriwan Sereeiratt, Somchai Hirankitti and Thanawat Tangsinsapsiri, *Management and Organization Behavior*, Bangkok: Teera Film and Sytext, 2007.

Siriwan Sereerit, Somchai Hirankitti and Thanawat Tangsinsapsiri, 2007) entitled “Relationship between Point of Views on Job and Organizational Commitment of Teachers in Municipal Schools, Samut Sakhon Province” and revealed that the organizational commitment of teachers in municipal schools, Samut Sakhon Province was at high level both in overall and by aspects. High level of overall students’ institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus in aspect of reliability and acceptance of institutional value and willingness and working for institution might come from the students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus had their ideologies and believed firmly in the university’s administration and instruction that can transfer knowledge efficiently and provided them with maximized benefits as they required. Therefore, it was found that the level of students’ institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus had their reliability and acceptance of institutional value and willingness and working for institution at high level in overall.

1.2 The level of students’ institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus in overall and in aspect of desire to maintain their institutional membership that was conformed to a research of Pramote Jitpairoj⁵ (cited in Thunyaluk Bunjongkaew, 2005) entitled “Institutional Commitment of Educational Personnel in Education Service Area Offices in Ministry of Education Inspection Zone 7” and revealed that personnel in an education service area offices had their reliability and acceptance of institutional value at moderate level. Moderate level of the students’ institutional commitment in Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus in aspect of desire to maintain their institutional membership might come from those in Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus had their thoughts that when they studied in their selected

⁵ Thunyaluk Bunjongkaew, Organizational Commitment: A Case Study of Bangkok Area 7 Revenue Office, Master of Arts Thesis in Political Science, Ramkhamhaeng University, 2005.

university, they had already been members with love and commitment. Although they were graduated from the university and ended their memberships, but in their hearts they still had membership forever because to the university is a source bestowed knowledge on them. Therefore, it was found that the level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus had their desires to maintain their institutional membership at moderate level.

2. The level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus classified by educational background

The level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus among students graduated from General Buddhist Scripture School and those from other schools was not different in overall, by aspects and by items with statistically significance at the .05 level. This was not conforming to specified hypothesis that students, in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus, with different educational background had differences of their institutional commitment. This was conformed to a research of Pramote Jitpairoj who made a research entitled "Institutional Commitment of Educational Personnel in Education Service Area Offices in Ministry of Education Inspection Zone 7" and revealed that the commitment of personnel from 3 former agencies; provincial educational office, provincial primary educational office and provincial general educational office; was not different with statistically significant level. The reason was the level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus among students graduated from General Buddhist Scripture School and those from other schools was not different in overall, by aspects and by items with statistically significance at the .05 level. This might come from students had their goals to search for knowledge and believed firmly that the university can provide them with knowledge and instructional processes that they can transfer to other people efficiently, therefore they place an importance and commitment on such institution.

Hence, it was found that the level of students' institutional commitment in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus among students graduated from General Buddhist Scripture School and those from other schools was not different in overall, by aspects and by items with statistically significance at the .05 level.

11. Suggestions

From results on the institutional commitment of students in the Faculty of Humanities of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus, the researcher had some suggestions as follows:

1. General Suggestions

1.1 Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus should develop the students in Faculty of Humanities for having their institutional commitment in aspect of reliability and acceptance of institutional value on the item of full support for institution. The institution will obtain more efficient personnel to participate in a development of instructional potential for reliability and acceptance of students to enroll in the institution.

1.2 Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus should develop the students in Faculty of Humanities for having their institutional commitment in aspect of willingness and working for institution on the item of take caring and following works for friends when they were busy or sick, this will show team's unity.

1.3 Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus should develop the students in Faculty of Humanities for having their institutional commitment in aspect of desire to maintain their institutional membership on the item of regular coordination with other members; this will create good relationship for each other.

2. Suggestions for Further Research

2.1 The institutional commitment of students in Faculty of Humanities, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus should be studied

in the form of a qualitative research to obtain in-depth data and information that can be useful for developing the institution commitment of students.

2.2 Guidelines for creating of students' institutional commitment should be studied for being guidelines of the administration of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University Nakhonratchasima Campus.

2.3 The institutional commitment of students should be studied from all students to know their real institution commitment.

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