

STUDENTS' SATISFACTION ON LEARNING CONTENTS, PROCESS AND EFFECTS OF ED6043 EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH COURSE AT GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION, ASSUMPTION UNIVERSITY: A CLASSROOM RESEARCH STUDY

Yan Ye¹

Abstract: This study was a classroom research project, which investigated of the teaching effects of ED6043 Educational Research course on student learning for the purpose of improving instruction.

The research aimed to identify the students' perception towards the learning contents of ED6043 course firstly; then to determine their satisfaction towards the teaching and learning process of ED6043 course, and lastly to measure to what extent that ED6043 course helps students to do their thesis or independent study in the real practices.

The research used descriptive statistics, including frequency, percentage, means and standard division to do with the data. 66 students who finished studying ED6043 course completed the survey and the results revealed that:

1. More than half (61%) of the students didn't know anything about the educational research.

2. "Research planning: find a research problem, write research questions, and objectives" and "Review of Fundamental Statistics" were regarded as the hardest contents of ED 6043 course.

3. The most helpful contents of ED 6043 course were: How to Prepare for the proposal /final defense, and how to write chapter 1; meanwhile, though "Research planning: find a research problem, write research questions, and objectives" and "Review of Fundamental Statistics" were regarded as the hardest contents of ED 6043 course, they are also greatly helpful contents in the students' perceptions.

4. Students eager to learn "Review of Fundamental Statistics" more.

5. The means of students' satisfaction towards the course was 4.1864, which showed most students were quite satisfied with the present teaching and learning of the course.

6. Students agreed that this course to some extent helped them quite much to do their own thesis, independent study and future research.

Findings were reviewed and recommendations practical recommendations concentrated on how to arrange the learning contents and process more effectively and improving the learning effectiveness through more peer learning and case studies.

Keywords: Students' Satisfaction, Learning Contents, Process and Effects, ED6043 Educational Research Course, Classroom Research

Introduction

Teaching has gone a long way from the traditional lecturer-listener system. Today, teachers, especially at university level, are not just lecturers, but guides; students are not just listeners but co-explorers of knowledge. Education has become more interactive and experiential for both parties. Thus, teaching skills have also evolved, with more techniques available for teachers to use.

The wide variety of education-centered skills may seem overwhelming for a teacher. Fortunately, there is one method that helps a teacher see the aspects of his or her teaching that need improvement, which is classroom research.

Through classroom research, research itself will be more helpful when a teacher is trying to know about the needs of the students. Teachers who do their own research on the topics they teach, instead of depending on textbooks or traditional ways of teaching, can provide the students with a much better understanding of those topics for. As a result, the lecturers themselves can be more effective in sharing the knowledge with students and the quality of teaching and learning process and learning effect will be better ensured during the course.

Working at the first and biggest international university herein Assumption university, academic and development and performance are always the university focus and expectations. Quality Assurance for Higher Education in Thailand required that universities have to put every effort to encourage the research or creative work publication and conducting. Meanwhile, the fulltime lecturers and researcher are encouraged to not only conduct researches and studies but also to utilize the results or findings of the researches and creative work in their teaching. (QA: KPI 4, 2011) Thus, this researcher was initiated with the idea of conducting a classroom research to investigate of the learning effects of ED6043 Educational Research course for the purpose of improving the instruction and the quality of the course.

Research Questions:

1. What were the students' perceptions towards the learning contents of ED6043 course?

2. What were the students' satisfactions towards the teaching and learning process of ED6043 course?

3. To what extent that ED6043 course helped students to do their thesis or independent study in the

¹ Ph.D. Lecturer of Graduate School of Education, Assumption University, Thailand