A DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENT LEADERSHIP CHARACTERISTIC PRACTICE MODEL AT NORMAL UNIVERSITIES IN HEBEI PROVINCE, CHINA

Yanan Yang\textsuperscript{1}

Nathara Mhunpiew\textsuperscript{2}

Abstract: Student leadership development provides students with opportunities to demonstrate and cultivate their leadership characteristics. In this research, the main purpose was to create a model for the development of student leadership characteristic practice at Normal Universities in Hebei Province of China. It applied both qualitative and quantitative methods. The researcher applied the content analysis about desirable student leadership characteristics in higher education. Skills, knowledge and attitude were crucial components of student leadership development, and the accomplished results of content analysis were validated by twenty-one experts. The researcher utilized survey questionnaires for data collection of 377 students, 243 teachers and 37 top-level administrators. The results of questionnaires, combined with interview data collection of 52 market employers of internship together as a reference revealed the areas that need urgent improvements. Student leadership theories and initial findings of first and second objective derived a preliminary model, after the experts’ validation and discussion; the researcher modified the nascent model until it became the final model. In the following step, the period of implementation included three months, which comprised student leadership conferences, local community service outreach, empowering leaders’ camp, co-curricular activities, and evaluation and feedback of student leadership characteristic practice, these called intervention program was developed based on the model. The results of differences between pre-test and post-test, which contained a total of 50 participants, proved that the model was undoubtedly effective with long-term significance. Eventually, the final model and the leadership training offered a potential programmatic option to help develop students as outstanding leaders.

Keywords: Student Leadership, Leadership Characteristic, Leadership Characteristic Practice, Normal Universities in China.

Introduction

Student leadership development is necessary in today’s society. Each university should provide opportunities that enrich and support personal growth and academic development which fulfills in a lifelong commitment to effective leadership. University has great effects on students. It is the main factor in the formation of student leadership development. College students were not only the main force in the development and progress of modern society, but also a team with unlimited potential. In the current environment, if the universities could develop student leaders who were good at strong ability and excellent quality, they could be significant for the whole society.

Despite of a late start about Chinese Students leadership in higher education, it was a fact that had been taken seriously in recent years. Although there were several ready-made western student leadership models and practices in overseas universities, undoubtedly, developing or implementing a specific leadership model as well as students’ characteristics as potential leaders in Hebei Normal Universities was an arduous task as a pathway to fulfill the direction and needs of Chinese higher education being suitable for China’s national conditions. Li (2011) indicated Chinese students had good qualities, such as active thinking, well-motivated, epistemic and potentially lucrative.

\textsuperscript{1}Ph.D. Candidate in Educational Leadership, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Assumption University, Thailand
xiaoyarain@hotmail.com

\textsuperscript{2}Ph.D. Faculty member in Educational Leadership Program, Graduate School of Human Sciences, Assumption University, Thailand
drwipa@gmail.com