

Public Secondary School Administration on Supporting Teaching Chinese as a Second language (TCSL) Program in Thailand

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Abstract

The main purpose of this research was to study and analyze the public secondary school administration on supporting Teaching Chinese as a Second Language (TCSL) programs in Thailand and to obtain the suitable strategy to improve the quality of TCSL program. The study was conducted by using a mixed method design including quantitative and qualitative research, statistical analysis, questionnaires and interviews which were the main methods to collect data. The TCSL program's present condition questionnaire were used by Chinese language teachers, while interviews were used by school administrators. The findings of the study were (1) there was a lack of consciousness of the significance of TCSL program for school administrators. (2) there existed many defects and insufficiencies with school administration including leadership, Chinese language teachers' administration, financial administration, and curriculum administration (3) there were urgent needs to improve the performance of the TCSL programs in terms of the school administration.

Keywords: public secondary school administration, support teaching Chinese as a second language program, Thailand public secondary school education



Introduction

Thailand has a close relationship with China in history because of the close geographic location. At first, Informal Chinese language education has been slowly emerged from the beginning of Chinese migrated to Thailand. However, Chinese education at that time was not yet formalized due to the lack of official recognition and systematic education (Xinsheng, 2005).

Then, Chinese language education has been receiving more and more attention with the increase in the number of immigrants living in southern China, the improvement of their standard of living and social status, and the continuous improvement of Thailand economy and the more open and civilized society. It was worth noting that Chinese descent was the main group of Chinese language education, just few local Thais; Family education was the main method, the traditional abacus calculation skills and daily Chinese communication were the main contents. Hence, the general level of Chinese language education was relatively lower than today because of the limited scope and backward teaching methods (Liwei, 2014).

Objective

The researcher comes up with five objectives under the current situation and research questions of school administration on supporting the TCSL program in public secondary school of Thailand, these will be achieved by the practical and scientific research with the methods of quantitative and qualitative research. These five objectives

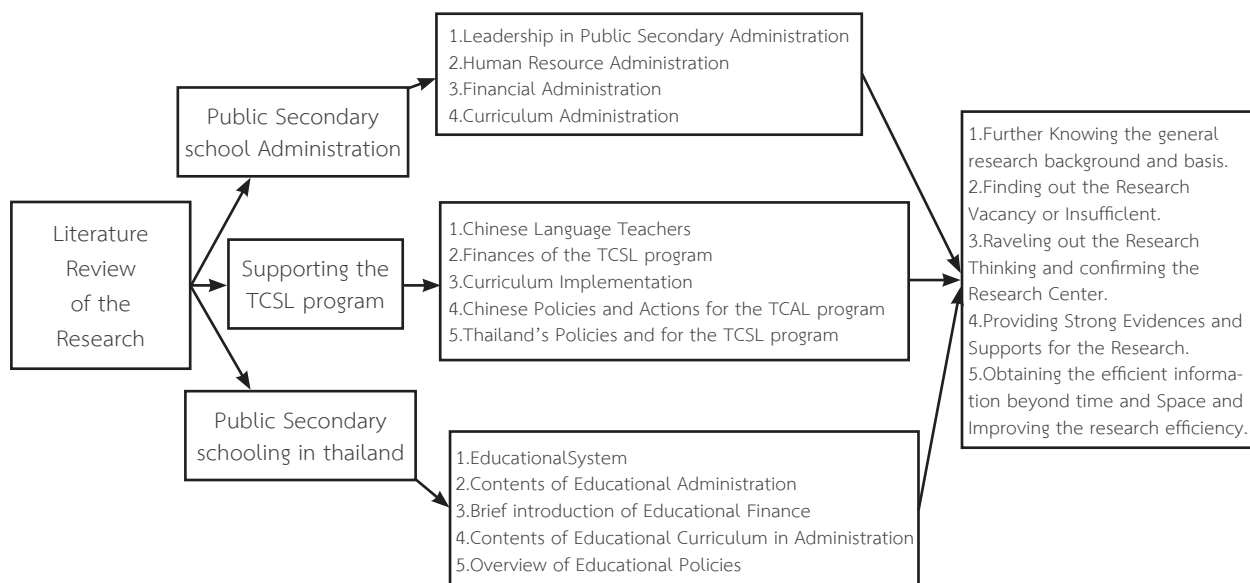
provide the research direction, definite research focus, and help arrange and assess the work of each stage on the research process.

1. To identify the current situation of the TCSL program.
2. To investigate the main problems on the school administration of the TCSL program.
3. To find out and analyze factors of effecting the quality of the TCSL program in the terms of school administration.
4. To determine efficient administrative methods to develop the TCSL program.
5. To acquire suggestions in evaluating the effectiveness of school administration on the TCSL program.

Literature review

This part presents the review of related researches on the area of public secondary school administration, supporting Teaching Chinese as a Second Language (TCSL) program, and Thailand public secondary schooling.

Through the whole literature review, the researchers obtain a great number of the information about the public secondary school administration, the supporting situation of the TCSL program and the public secondary schooling in Thailand. This is a special way to know the huger research background on the previous studies, evidences and experiences, it is providing a general research thought and helping clear the research purpose. Hence, research literature is an important part of the process of study, and most details are shown below

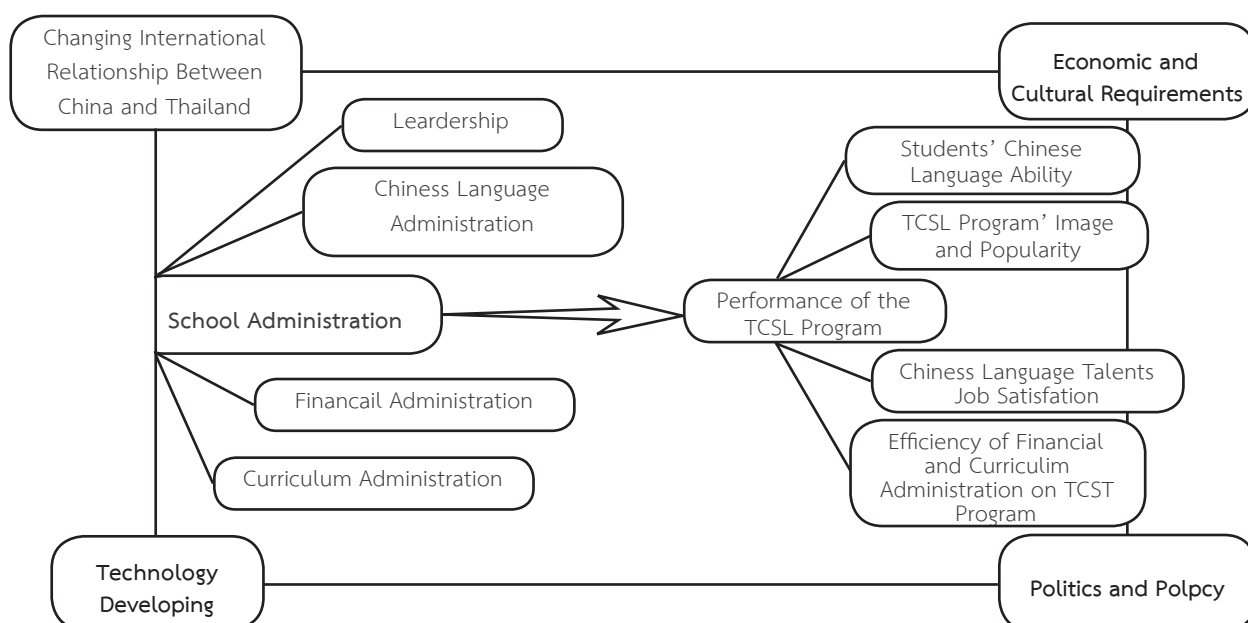


Conceptual Framework

On this research, it is obvious to know that the influence of the changing international relationship, economic and cultural requirements, technology developing, politics and policy between China and Thailand on the TCSL program under the external environment. And, it is not hard to see the school administration' huge and direct effect on the program within the internal environment of school organization.

Specifically, leadership, Chinese language teachers administration, financial administration and

curriculum administration of school administration are the main and straight factors to the whole output which mainly point at students' Chinese language ability, program's image and popularity, Chinese language teachers job satisfaction and the efficiency of financial and curriculum administration, so that formed this conceptual framework to know clear about this research. Hence, identify the current situation, clear up the problems and find out the effective administrative methods are the important cores of this research.



Methodology

It is a general summary of the research method of purposefully and systematically collecting materials on the actual or historical status of the research object. A survey method is a basic research method commonly used in scientific research. It uses a mixed research method, covering both quantitative and qualitative researches, while research questions number 1 and 3 are quantitative research and questions number 2, 4, 5 are qualitative research.

Population and Sample

The target population use are those public secondary school administrators (including headmaster, director of human resource, curriculum and financial) and the Chinese language teachers from four selected schools, which are 20+25 school administrators and Chinese language teachers correspondingly. The researcher is to take the 20+25 population units as a sample of the study.

Research Tools

In order to achieve the research objectives and solve the research problems, the researcher adopts two research instruments to help implement the studies, one is a set of questionnaires for the selected Chinese language teachers, and another one is a structured interview form for the school administrators.

Data Collection

After receiving the questionnaires from Chinese language teachers which are distributed during April to May 2018, the researcher edits the questionnaires, then, reorganize and clear up the interview records form the selected school

administrators, grab the useful and effective information according to the studied variables. Lastly, record and keep the noteworthy details and special conditions on the process of observation and experiencing on the TCSL program, which would to be the vital evidences of this research.

Statistical Analysis

The process of research planning and implement, which provide the research data and details from school administrators and Chinese language teachers by the interviews and the questionnaires, aiming to study the support of school administration to the program of teaching Chinese as a second language in public secondary school of Thailand. This research chooses four public secondary schools to be the particular data resources after further knowing the general information of the TCSL program in Thailand; adopts the questionnaire, the interview to put it into action; applies quantitative and qualitative method to analyze and process the data collected.

According to the five research questions, the research questions number 1 (What is the current situation on the school administration of the TCSL program?) and 3 (What situation on the school administration affect the performance of the TCSL program?) are presented and analyzed by frequency and percentage, the research questions number 2 (What are the main problems on the school administration of the performance of the TCSL program?), 4 (What are the effective methods to improve school administration and supporting of the TCSL program?) and 5 (What are the appropriate methods to evaluate the effectiveness of the school administration and the TCSL program?) are presented in descriptive type and analyzed by content analysis technique.

Result

After a long-term and meticulous observation, research, and analysis, the researcher obtains the conclusions as follows: on the one hand, the public secondary school administration plays a virtual role on the performance of the TCSL program, especially leadership. On the other hand, the most susceptible part is the students' Chinese ability of the whole performance of the program by the effect of school administration.

In addition, it is not suitable to ignore the exist of the Chinese language teachers administration, Chinese language curriculum administration and financial administration which also have a positive few influence to the results of supporting the development of the TCSL program.

Discussions

As for the leadership of the public secondary school administration, most respondents' opinions are, firstly, on the personal quality which is the starting point and cornerstone of whole leadership. Secondly, they think that decision-making runs through the entire process of the construction of a quality school. Thirdly, strong action force is indispensable for the leadership (Pont, Nusche & Moorman, 2008).

As for the Chinese language teachers administration, it discusses that, its main purpose is to achieve the efficiency to develop teachers' work ability, and professionalism with the core of teachers' autonomy, initiative and creativity. The salary of Chinese language teachers are the most focus of all the aspects, it is not only a material affirmation for the hard work, but also the acknowledgement on ability. And the increase of investment in teacher capacity training is a new and significant item for the sustainable development for the TCSL program (OECD/UNESCO, 2016).

As for improving financial administration, it is needed to implement a series important measurements, they are: building a comprehensive system to administrate the democracy annual budgets, public financial information, omni-direction supervision of expenditures. It is more focused on ensuring all types of public Chinese language education funds for the program at all levels, granting for student scholarships, building a professional Chinese language teachers team including the remuneration, benefits, insurance, and expense reimbursement, and the strive for balanced annual growth for the sustainable development of Chinese language teaching program. (Lanfang, 2011).

As for the curriculum administration, the three main principles that obtain the most supports in the development of the Chinese language syllabus for public secondary schools in Thailand: to meet the national education requirements, that means conducting a student-centered education philosophy that focuses on the students Chinese language skills training and cultural communication, to draw international curricular outline formulation results in line with international standards, and to make the output of the program be targeted and practical.

Recommendation

As to the research findings and discussion, it would be more beneficial to, firstly, improve the level of school administrators' leadership on the personality and action. secondly, pay attention to the Chinese language teachers administration on the program including the professional training and compensation arrangements, thirdly, take the financial and curriculum administration into account on the TCSL program' developing.

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