

A Model of Academic Administration Based on Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for Primary Schools under the Office of Loei Primary Educational Service Area

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Abstract

The objectives of the research were to study the conditions of academic administration based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy in primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office, to develop a model of academic administration based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office, and to evaluate the model for academic administration based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. The model was implemented with three hundred and eighty participants consisting of school administrators, supervisors, teachers and educational personnel of elementary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office. The research instrument was a questionnaire and an in-depth interview form. The statistics used for data analysis were the percentage, mean and standard deviation. The research results showed that the overall condition of the academic administration based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy in primary schools under Loei Educational Service Area Office was at a high level. However, the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy was used variously for academic administration because of the unclear practical guidelines. As a result, a model of academic administration based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy was designed and developed for primary schools under Loei Educational Service Area Office. The model for academic administration in primary schools consisted of seven activities. Finally, the findings indicated that the model was practical and useful for primary schools at a high level.

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Introduction

School is an important institute for teaching-learning management according to the Basic Education Core Curriculum B.E. 2008. The national curriculum has focused on the importance of educational management by integrating Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy in order to achieve the objectives.

School directors take an important role for efficient and appropriate administration in organizations. They take a major part in designing, planning, and managing academic works in school to improve efficient and effective management. Initially, it is important that the school directors have to analyze problems and needs of teachers, students and people in communities for planning school administration. Currently, there is an administrative system for decentralizing authorities of different public sectors in Thailand. A good model of academic administration is strongly required for basic education

management in accordance with the policy of Ministry of Education. The school administrators need to have an efficient and appropriate administrative system for developing schools and achieving objectives, goals, and missions of their school. Ministry of Education has realized the importance of the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. Consequently, the royal philosophy has been employed for basic education management. The Basic Education Core Curriculum B.E. 2008 emphasized learner development to be a good, happy, and intelligent Thai people for peaceful society and a good career. The eight desirable characteristics are 1) love nation, religion and king, 2) honesty and integrity, 3) self-discipline, 4) avidity for learning, 5) observance of principles of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in one's way of life, 6) dedication to work, and 7) cherishing Thai-ness, and 8) public-mindedness learning (Ministry of Education, 2008, .7)

The Basic Education Core Curriculum B.E. 2008 has driven the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy into educational management for all levels of schools. Therefore, many training projects have been organized for both primary and secondary school teachers concerned with the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. The training courses include introduction to the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy, implementing the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy in schools, organizing training courses of the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for school administrators, teachers school personnel and people in communities (Ministry of Education, 2009).

Ministry of Education has established action plans, strategies and indicators for driving the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy into all levels of schools focusing on four main areas. 1) Knowledge transfer of the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy through various different media for Thai people, 2) introducing and transferring the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy to students

through teaching-learning process and administration, 3) creating networks and collaboration among educational institutions, families, communities and religious institutions for educational management, 4) monitoring and evaluating the competencies, knowledge, skills, and positive attitude of the school administrators, teachers, school personnel and students towards Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy (Ministry of Education, 2012).

Educational management in schools should focus on the way of life of students and communities and practice in actual situations (Khonkaen Primary Education Service Area Office 1, 2009).

According to the 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017-2021), Thai government has introduced the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy into the country administration. It is used as a framework for educational reform of Thailand that covers 11 areas of educational management for improving The management of school is influencing to the quality and achievement in educational

management in Thailand (Office of the National Economics and Social Development Board, 2017).

Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office has formulated the policies on applying the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for all primary schools in the service area. However, each school has implemented different practical guidelines for educational management due to lack of a good model and unclear practical guidelines. Therefore, the researcher, a school director under Office of the Basic Education Commission was interested in conducting a research for developing an appropriate and efficient model of academic administration based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for primary schools. The researcher realized that this model could provide useful knowledge for both teachers and students for improving their life quality.

The researcher has believed that the school has an appropriate and clear academic model of practical application for improving educational quality and students' life quality.

The study applied the principles of Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy as basic guidelines for designing and developing a model of academic administration in primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office and feasibility and usefulness of the developed model was evaluated (Khonkaen Primary Education Service Area Office 1, 2009; Ministry of Education, 2009; Predinun Aupormaii, 2008). Particularly, the academic administration is a critical factor for improving the achievement in teaching and learning. Moreover, Deming cycle or PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Act)-cycle and academic administration scopes were employed for academic administration focusing on academic planning, curriculum development, learning process development, measurement and evaluation, media innovation and educational technology development, learning resources development and education guidance by integrating the practical guidelines with academic management for the productive results of educational development (Preeyaporn Wonganuroj, 2010;

Ministry of Education, 2009; Deming, Edward W., 1995).

Objectives

1. To study the academic performance conditions based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy in primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office

2. To develop a model of academic administration based on Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office

3. To evaluate a model of academic administration based on Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office

Operational Definitions

1. The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy refers to create balanced and stable development for all levels, from the individual, family, community and country by adopting the principles of Philosophy of Economy Sufficiency for educational management. The principles emphasize moderation,

reasonableness, and self-immunity toward any impacts. It is occurred from internal and external changes concerned with knowledge, prudence and carefulness by using the various academic disciplines for planning and administration of every step.

2. The academic performance condition system based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy of Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office refers to the process of primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office for academic management based on applying the principles of the royal philosophy consisting of moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity.

2.1 Academic planning refers to the integration of the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy with the criteria that focuses moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity. It provides knowledge and awareness of morality by implementing via PDCA process. It is the most effective strategy for providing the highest benefit to students in primary schools under Loei

Primary Educational Service Area Office.

2.2 The curriculum development refers to the integration of the principles of the royal philosophy: moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity with academic management. The contents focus on knowledge, and awareness of morality, and the PDCA process is employed for curriculum development based on needs of students, teachers and community.

2.3 Learning process development refers to the integration of the principles of the royal philosophy: moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity with academic management for learning management of primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office. The contents focus on knowledge, and awareness of morality, and by the PDCA process is employed for curriculum development based on needs of students, teachers and community.

2.4 Measurement and evaluation refers to an assessing

process of the integration of the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy focusing on moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity and awareness of morality for academic management of primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office.

2.5 Media innovation and educational technology development refers to the applications of a new model, technology and innovation to build a learning center, to establish a learning information system, and effective media in educational institutes and communities for learners and teachers. This management focuses on teaching-learning activities to promote the teachers for producing learning media by using their local materials. The media quality is systemically evaluated by using the principles of moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity. The contents focus on knowledge, and awareness of morality, and the PDCA process is employed for curriculum development based on needs of students and teachers of schools

under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office.

2.6 Learning resources development refers to the integration of the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy of moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity and awareness of morality by implementing via the PDCA process. The school learning resources are established and developed for primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office.

2.7 Educational guidelines refer to the integration of the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy of moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity and awareness of morality by implementing via the PDCA process for educational guidelines of primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office.

3. Accuracy refers to the correctness of the academic management model based on the principles of Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and management guidelines of the government.

4. Suitability refers to the appropriateness of the academic administration model for using in economic and social conditions, community environment, schools, and stakeholders.

5. Possibility refers to the ability in introducing the academic administration model based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for educational management in educational institutions. It is practical for appropriate and efficient application in primary schools.

6. Usefulness refers to benefits, worthiness, prosperity and happy life caused by the academic administration model based on the philosophy of sufficiency economy.

Scope of the Research

The research was divided into three phases.

1. In the first phase, the author studied the current conditions of academic administration in primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office.

2. In the second phase, a model of academic administration

based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy was designed and developed for primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office.

3. In the third phase, the model of academic administration for primary schools consisted of 7 activities: academic planning, curriculum development, learning process development, measurement and evaluation, media innovation and educational technology development, learning resource development and educational guidelines. The model was implemented and evaluated.

Theories

The principles of Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy were employed for academic management of primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office. The researcher studied and summarized the concepts and principles of academic management as follows.

1. Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office Office of the Basic Education Commission emphasizes seven areas of academic administration: 1) academic planning,

2) curriculum development, 3) learning process development, 4) measurement and evaluation, 5) media innovation and educational technology development, 6) learning resources development, and 7) education guidance.

2. Preeyaporn Wonganuroj (2010) states that academic administration involves 1) academic planning, 2) teaching-learning implementation, 3) teaching-learning management and 4) measurement and evaluation.

In conclusion, the academic administration refers to 1) academic planning, 2) curriculum development, 3) learning process development, 4) measurement and evaluation, 5) media innovation and educational technology development, 6) learning resources development and 7) education guidance.

3. Administration process, the researcher studied the concepts and principles of the quality management cycle of Deming (Deming 1995, 12). PDCA refers the quality of management cycle that consisting of 4

main steps: planning (Plan) doing (Do) checking (Check) and action (Action).

4. The Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy, the researcher studied from the conclusion of Predinun Aupormai (2008, 14). It consists of moderation, reasonableness, and self-immunity.

5. The evaluation of academic performance condition system based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for primary schools under Loei Primary

Educational Service Area Office, the researcher studied the concepts of Stufflebeam (1997) that were cited in Sirichai Kanchanawasee (2007, 10). It refers to evaluation of educational project focusing on 4 aspects: 1) accuracy, 2) suitability, 3) possibility, and 4) usefulness

The researcher used these concepts and principles for the conceptual framework of the research as showed in Figure 1

Conceptual framework of academic performance condition based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy of the Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office

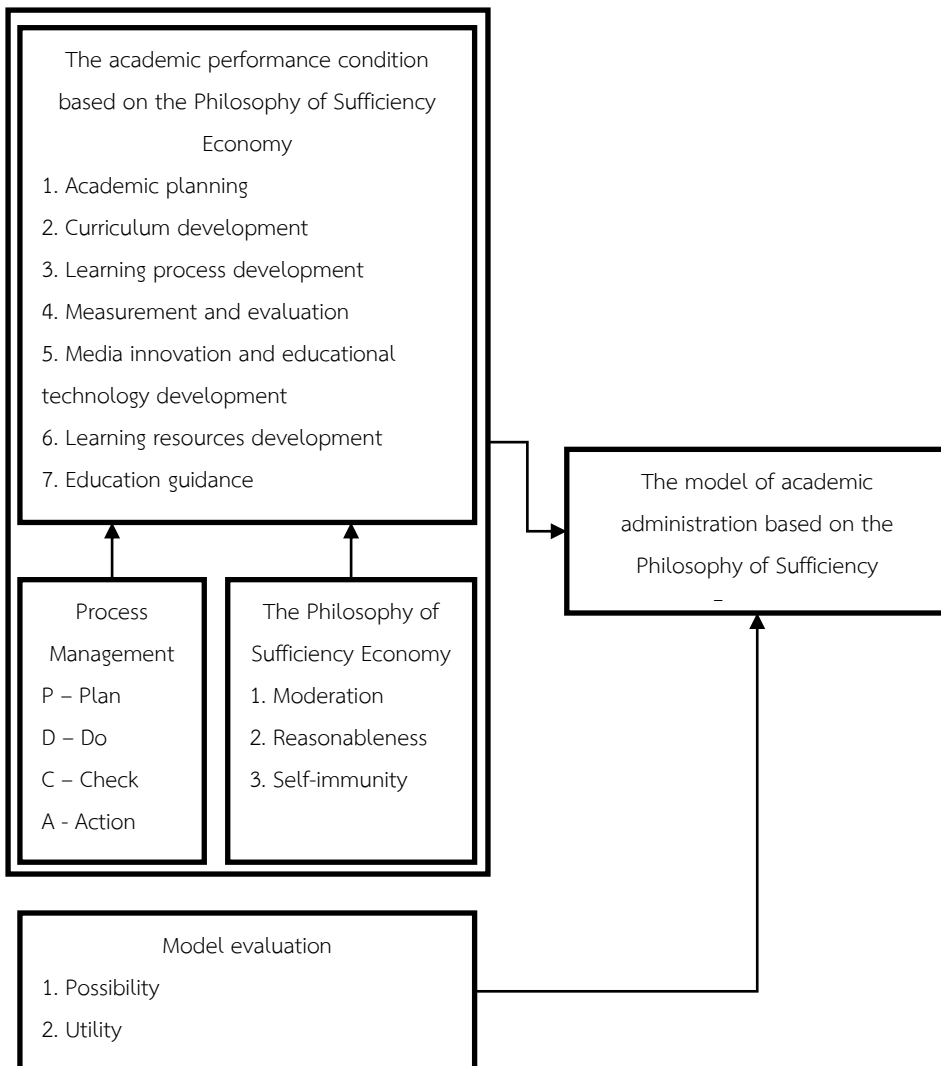


Figure 1: Framework of the academic performance condition based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for primary schools under the Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office

Methodology

The mixed research method was employed for the study by integrating quantitative research and qualitative research.

Study method

This research was divided into three phases.

Phase 1: the researcher studied the academic performance condition based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy in primary schools under the Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office. In the first phase, the data was collected by a questionnaire and in-depth interview form. Population and sample used in the research in phase 1 were divided into two groups: 1.1 Population used in this phase were 380 primary school directors, 30 supervisor and 380 teachers in primary school under the Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office. The total population was 790 people. The respondents used in this research were 175 school directors of a good sufficiency economy school, 30 education supervisors and 175 teachers in primary schools under the Loei Primary Educational Service Area

Office. The total sample subjects of the study were 380 people. The sample size was calculated by Krejcie & Morgan table and they were selected by purposive sampling. 1.2 In-depth interview, population was the same as mentioned above. Sample group used in the second phase were 5 school directors of a good sufficiency economy school, 5 education supervisors, and 5 teachers in primary schools under the Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office. The total samples were 15 people. They were selected by purposive sampling.

Phase 2, a model based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy was designed and developed for academic administration of primary schools under the Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office. In the second phase, the researcher analyzed and synthesized the results of the first phase and designed a model by integrating the concepts, principles and theories of Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for primary schools under the Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office. The correctness and appropriateness of the developed

model was assessed by 10 participants consisting of primary school directors, educational personnel and heads of government sectors who supported of the project of sufficiency economy philosophy.

Phase 3, the model was evaluated by an evaluation form and in-depth interview. The population and sample groups were the same ones in the first phase. The evaluation form was used for evaluating the appropriateness and usefulness.

Results

1) The research results showed that the overall current condition of the academic performance condition based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for primary schools under the Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office was at a high level. All items of the academic performance condition were at a high level. The mean scores for academic planning, educational guidance, learning resource development, media innovation and educational technology, measurement and evaluation, learning process

development, and curriculum development were 4.19, 4.11 4.03, 4.01, 3.94, 3.88 and 3.82 respectively. The results revealed that the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy has been applied properly for academic management in primary schools under the Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office. Additionally, the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy could be applied for all levels of educational management focusing on moderation, reasonableness and self and social-immunity. The network was built by using various activities. The details of methods, operations, and processes would be different according to missions and implementation of each institute.

2) The study showed that a model of academic administration based on Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office consisted of 7 missions: 1) a proper management structure, 2) planning for the academic administration of learning activity management based on needs of the students and local community, 3)

personnel development, 4) directing learning activity management, 5) creating cooperation among inside organization, community and external organizations, 6) supervising, monitoring, checking and reporting of operational results, and 7) performance summary, supervising, monitoring, checking and reporting of operational results. The developed model was practical for educational management of primary schools. However, the model was appropriate and efficient in academic affairs based on the current context of the primary schools. The research findings indicated that the developed model was appropriate for improving efficiency and effectiveness for academic management.

3) The evaluation results revealed that the opinion of the research participants towards the possibility and usefulness of the model was at a high level with the mean scores of 4.20 and 4.17 respectively. The overall opinion of the sample group towards eight items of academic administration was at a high level. They were media

innovation and educational technology, measurement and evaluation, learning process development, learning resource development, academic planning, curriculum development, and educational guidance. The average score of media innovation and educational technology, measurement and evaluation, learning process development, learning resource development, academic planning, curriculum development, and educational guidance were 4.37, 4.25, 4.18, 4.11, 4.10, 4.09, and 4.03 respectively. Therefore, it might be concluded that the developed mode of academic administration based on Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office was possible and useful for academic development. Moreover, it can be promoted and applied to other educational level for improving the efficient and effective academic administration.

Discussions

The research results revealed that the overall current condition of the academic performance condition based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office was at high level. The study indicated that the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy could be applied for all levels of educational management focusing on moderation, reasonableness and self-immunity. The network would be built by using various activities. The details of methods, operations, and processes would be different according to missions and implementation of each institute. The results may be caused by precise understanding the school directors, government officials and educational personnel of Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office about the practical application and they are really aware of the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. They can use it to drive in all agencies including applying on work system about human-resource recruitment for increasing the effectiveness and

efficiency in work. Moreover, it is also able to build the participatory process of stakeholders and organizations. The results indicated that the school directors have developed knowledge, skills, and various capabilities of the teachers in applying the royal philosophy in primary schools under the Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office. According to the previous study on “Development of Educational Management Model by Integration of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy in Secondary Schools, Office of Ubon Ratchathani Educational Service Area”, Surin Phusing, (2009) asserted that that the school directors, teachers and students must have knowledge, morality, awareness and appreciation of the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. However, the school directors and teachers should be a good model based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for academic administration.

The result of the academic performance condition based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy in primary schools under the Loei Primary

Educational Service Area Office consisted of 7 missions: 1) academic planning, a proper management structure, 2) planning for learning activity management based on needs of the students and local community, 3) personnel development, 4) directing learning activity management, 5) creating the cooperation among inside organizations, communities and external organizations, 6) supervising, monitoring, checking and reporting of operational results, and 7) performance summary, supervising, monitoring, checking and reporting of operational results. The developed model was operated by integrating with 7 missions of academic administration, Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy and PDCA cycle. It is obviously that the model is effective and efficient in academic administration of primary schools under the Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office. The results were consistent with the concepts of Ministry of Education, (2008) and Preeyaporn Wonganutrohd, (2010).

The evaluation results showed the overall opinion of the sample

group towards the possibility and usefulness was at a high level.

Thus, the successful implementation of the learning management based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy should focus on directing, monitoring, and checking the performance for improving learner qualities of self-reliance with awareness of moderation, reasonableness, self-immunity, morality, good Thai citizens. The results were consistent with concepts and principles of Ministry of Education. Ministry of Education (2007) created the practical guidelines for the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy. The major requirements for driving the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy into schools should cover 1) school curriculum contents by adding vision and goals, desirable characteristics of learners based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy, 2) teaching-learning management based on learner' lifestyle focusing on analytical thinking process and actual practice relating to their daily life and families, communities, societies, nation and global society. Additionally,

measurement and evaluation criteria covers 3 areas: knowledge, skill, process and desirable attributes. 3) The learning process should develop the environment, and the desired atmosphere to facilitate teaching-learning based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy guidelines. 4) The school management system should be organized according to the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy guidelines that facilitate and promote educational management. 5) Parents and communities should be provided the opportunities to participate in the educational management. 6) A management system in school based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy guidelines should be monitored and evaluated focusing on the desirable characteristics of the learners, a process for monitoring and evaluating the implementation and the curriculum development activities, teaching-learning management, atmosphere and environment arrangement, administration system, and guardians and community participation in education management. 7) The performance

results and reports should be provided and promoted to internal institutes, public sectors and affiliation. The results is consistent with the concept of Stufflebeam (1997).

Recommendations

The developed model of academic administration based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office is practical and useful.

Thus, the recommendations from the research results are as follows:

1. Educational institutes should adopt the mode of the academic performance condition based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy for primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office by considering the major factors such as size of educational institute, number of students and readiness of staff and budget.

2. Educational institutes or related agencies of educational management should be adopted this developed model for learning

management in other primary schools under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office by designing action plan, strategies and staff.

3. Educational institutes should adopt the model for other primary school under Loei Primary Educational Service Area Office by deeply studying contents, factors and application of the model.

4. Educational institutes should implement the model for primary schools through holding a meeting with all stakeholders for understanding of guidelines and setting clear goals.

For further research

1. The developed model should be experimented in other school and other provincial education areas.

2. A further study should focus on integrating other concepts such as sustainable development for developing model

3. A future study should analyze other factors affecting the achievement in academic administration based on the Philosophy of Sufficiency Economy.

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