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**Research Article** 



# A Synthesis Of Rajabhat University Graduate's Attribute In Thailand According To The Framework Of The Development Guideline Of King Bhumibol's Philosophy

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#### ABSTRACT

The framework for university graduate attributes should be determined based on the context and environment. This study therefore studied and synthesized attributes of graduates of Rajabhat universities in Thailand. Rajabhat University is classified as a group of universities for community and local development. It also emphasizes on using the King's philosophy as a framework to development. The researchers collected data and synthesized qualitative data using EDFR research techniques. In-depth interviews and questionnaires were collected 3 times from 18 key informants, consisting of the university presidents, vice-presidents, deans, and teachers from 4 modeled Rajabhat universities, local philosophers, and officials from local government organizations.

The research result showed that the attributes of Rajabhat university graduates under the framework of Rajabhat university's development policy and development guidelines according to King Bhumibol's philosophy composed of 3 groups: 1) Life Attributes which composed of 15 indicators, having the ability to self-learning and self-development , being humble and respect others, 2) Professional work qualification which consisted of 5 indicators, having the ability to bring knowledge and skills to be a standard and professional worker, and being responsible and patient at work and 3.) Characteristics of being a local developer which consisted of 9 indicators, understanding and awareness of local development, having judgment and the ability to analyze local problems and needs.

**Keywords**: Rajabhat University, Graduate, Attributes, Thailand, King Bhumibol's Philosophy

## Introduction

Education helps develop people with knowledge, skills, academic competency, and life skills (Ngaoransi, 2016). Each country has different education arrangements. In Thailand, education is divided into several levels. Higher education is considered an important period that can help to fill the knowledge and skills from training for students to step into work in the labor market according to their knowledge and expertise in the sciences they have chosen. Higher education in Thailand is divided into several groups: world research and development, innovation development and promotion group, local or community development, wisdom and moral development with religious principles, production and development of professional personnel and specific fields, etc. Each institution will organize an educational model focusing on the aptitudes of the group they choose.

Rajabhat University is an institute of higher education that is scattered locally throughout Thailand. It defines its role as an educational institution for community or local development according to the aspiration that His Majesty King Rama IX bestowed the name "Rajabhat", which means the people of the King. Graduates from Rajabhat University must return to develop their localities and communities. Education management,

therefore, focuses on having a learning management process arising from community practice to solve the real problems of the community, be a good citizen, and have social responsibility as well. (Dichabeng and Moalosi, 2016). In the process of creating and developing learners to acquire the desired knowledge and skills, it depends on the different goals and contexts of each educational institution (Patrick, 2008). Rajabhat University graduates also need to have specific characteristics. In addition, beside the attributes of academic excellence, the graduates should be a moral person, be an expert in the profession and they must have skills and characteristics in terms of accessing communities and localities (Jaichalad, 2016). Therefore, the researcher would like to study what characteristics graduates of Rajabhat University in Thailand should have in order to be suitable and consistent with being a university for community and local development.

## **Literature Review**

## The Concept of Rajabhat Universities Graduate Attributes

Graduate Attributes means qualifications, skills, and a mutual understanding between the university and the community agreeing on what students will gain from studying at that institution (Bowden et al., 2000; Barrie and Prosser, 2004). It is an abstract showing a broad concept about the ability to employ lifelong learning as to prepare for an uncertain future and justice in society (Pitman and Broomhall, 2009). Also, Chansuwan, et.al. (2005) mentioned graduates must possess desirable attributes in 3 areas which are academic knowledge and competence, technical practice, and morality.

Determining the attributes of graduates of Rajabhat University in Thailand must also take into account the policy and related regulations such as 1) The National Education Act, 1999 and its amendments (No.4, 2019) require educational establishment at all levels to have educational management, which organizes the learning management process that contributes to the growth of individuals and society, as it focuses on continual learning throughout life where education management must allow society to participate in educational management and there must be continuous improvement of subject matter and learning process. 2) 20-Year Long-Term Higher Education Plan (2018 - 2037) sets quality goals, the quality of graduates is defined as having desirable attributes as specified by higher education institutions covering at least 5 skills, for instant, 1) ethnicity 2) knowledge 3) intelligence 4) relationship between person and responsibility, and 5) mathematic analysis, communication, English use, and information technology (Office of the Higher Education Commission, 2009) with skills and knowledge that correspond to the needs of the graduates in accordance with the field of study, or they can create jobs and adapt to cultural diversity in work and living in society as well. And (3) Rajabhat University Strategies for 20-Year Local Development (2017 - 2036) is a strategy created as a framework for the development or operation of Rajabhat universities across the country to drive in the same direction. (Office of the Chancellor's Meeting, Rajabhat University, 2018). The four main strategic issues are local development, teacher production and development, upgrading the quality of education, and development of management system.

In addition, Rajabhat University has given the importance to adopting the concept of King's philosophy as a model for application in educational development because Rajabhat University is a university that plays a major role in local development using the concepts which are sufficient economy, 23 principles of work, the 6 principles of knowledge, and the royal strategy of understanding, access, and development. (Solgosoom and Pothisan, 2018; Muangpakit, et.al., 2020) These knowledge were created as His Majesty (King Rama IX) as role model, teaching and creating works evidently for people. The aforementioned knowledge principles is divided into 3 dimensions which are development, self-dominant, and harmony.

## The concept of King's Philosophy

The King's Philosophy refers to the body of knowledge of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej that can be applied for the development of oneself, family, community and the country. The knowledge came from His Highness who demonstrated, taught, and created works his work for the people. The body of knowledge is divided into 3 dimensions: the theory of development, dominion, and coexistence

The King's Philosophy is often used as a model for application in educational development (Solgosoom, S. and Pothisan, 2018; Muangpakit, et.al., 2020) which are shown as the followings:

- 1) Sufficiency Economy Philosophy consists of 3 concerns: (1) sufficiency means moderation, not stealing others and oneself. (2) reasonableness means decision-making that must be considered rationally, carefully, systematically, and integratively. (3) having good immunity means being ready to accept impacts and changes in various aspects that can happen. In addition, it also consists of 2 conditions: (1) knowledge means having knowledge of the whole that can be able to apply in analysis and consideration. (2) morality consists of being aware of morality, honesty, patience, perseverance, and intelligence
- 2) His Majesty's 23 working principles consist of a thorough and systematic study of information, development of people in the community, solving problems little by little gradually, working in sequence, considering the social landscape, thinking holistically and connectively, being flexible and ready to change, frugal, simplicity, participation, self-interest, having good conscience, sacrifice, self-reliance, adherence to the philosophy of sufficiency economy, honesty, and perseverance
- 3) The King's Strategy for Understanding, Reaching, and Developing consists of (1) understanding which means creating an understanding of basic information with the study of all dimensions of the community, finding the root of the problem, and collecting knowledge of Royal Projects across the country, (2)

accessibility is about communication and participation by communicating to build understanding and confidence with the community and analyzing the problems and needs of the community, allowing the community to participate in the process for the full development. (3) development is about learning to develop community potential, building advisors team, course design and development, field study, exchanging knowledge and practice of the community including the mentor team to give advice and follow up, support, and evaluate. These three steps will give community ownership and contribute to the sustainability of development.

Applying the King's science to develop learners through integration with teaching and learning activities, it was found that the results for the learners were as follows: learners are rational, carefulness, analyzing problems to solving problems and being able to lead their lives. In addition, learners can live a life sufficiently, having reason to control their income and expenses, having knowledge and intelligence according to age, adapting, not clinging to what is wrong, devising a method for self-improvement in the right way and develop oneself regularly, having a sense of love for nature, being able to live with others without interfering one another, being generous, being proud of their culture, customs, traditions and being Thai citizenship. It is what happens to learners at the basic level but at the higher education level, there must be an education that enhances professional identity, building Immunization, having career, avoiding bad things, living life sufficiently, conducting and income and expenses account, researching, practice, and collaborating with the community.

## Methodology

## Population and Sample size

This research is a qualitative research. The researcher used the Ethnographic Delphi Futures Research (EDFR) technique to collect data from 18 key informants, consisting of rectors, vice presidents, deans, and teachers from Thai Rajabhat universities. And those who are involved in royal science. The researcher selected Purposive Sampling technique based on to the objectives of the research.

## **Study Tool**

The researcher took in-depth interview and characterization as a tool for data collection in this research. The tools was checked for quality by finding the validity from 3 experts and made adjustments according to the suggestions before using the tool to collect data.

## Data analysis

The process of analysis and synthesis for defining attributes of Rajabhat university graduates under the Rajabhat university's development policy framework and development guidelines according to Rajabhat Science was studied from documents and research related to the concepts of the King philosophy consists of Sufficiency Economy Philosophy, 23 Principles of Work, 6 Dimensions of Knowledge, and Principles of Understanding, Accessing and Developing. These are the development guidelines based on the King's science that have been developed in education and the values related to following in the King's footsteps mentioned by Chat-uthai, Wanarat, and Ongsakul (2020).

These were used as a framework to characterize and collect data from 18 key informant using EDFR (Ethnographic Delphi Futures Research) (Macmillan, 1971). In analyzing and synthesizing the attributes of Rajabhat university graduates, the researcher collected 3 rounds of data from key informants using EDFR technique and 3 sets of tools as follows:

Round 1: The revised interview form was used to conduct in-depth interviews with 18 key informants. It was a non-guided interview and used summaries throughout the interview. Therefore, key informants were able to express their views fully on the attributes of the graduates. Then, the collected data were analyzed and synthesized to summarize as the attributes of graduates of Rajabhat universities under the framework of Rajabhat University's development policy and development guidelines according to the King's philosophy

Round 2: The attributes of the graduates obtained were drawn into a questionnaire form which was a 5-choice rating scale with scoring criteria as follows: 5 means the attribute that students need to have/be at the high level, 4 means the attribute that students need to have/be at the high level, 3 means the attribute that students need to have/be at the low level, and 1 means the attribute that students need to have/be at the lowest level. The researcher examined the quality of the research instrument by determining the content validity and reliability of the instrument. For the questionnaire, the researcher had the thesis advisor examine it. Then, bring the revised questionnaire to 3 experts to check for content validity by using the IOC (Index of Item Objective Congruence) assessment form between the objectives and the individual questions. Then, only questions with an IOC value of 0.50 or higher are selected to be included in the questionnaire for further data collection. Then, the questionnaire was used to collect data with the same key informant. The results obtained from the questionnaire were analyzed for the mean, median, quartile range. Only statements denoting attributes with a median of 3.50 or higher and an interquartile range of less than or equal to 1.50 were selected. Key informants' opinions and the interquartile range represent the congruence of the expert opinion.

Round 3: The original questionnaire was used with the same group of experts. In this regard, the researchers presented the scores answered by the experts in the previous round, the interquartile range, and the median for the participants so that the key informants are aware of the score values and response trends of other key informants. The researcher used the data obtained from the questionnaire in round 3 to analyze by selecting only the attributes of the graduates with a median value of 3.50 or higher and the interquartile range of less than or equal to 1.50 to determine the outline of the attribute of Rajabhat university's graduates under the framework of Rajabhat university's development policy and development guidelines according to the King's philosophy.

Then the results of the analysis were used to create a framework of the graduate attributes of Rajabhat University under the framework of Rajabhat University's development policy and development guidelines according to the King's philosophy.

#### **Results**

The research data analysis and synthesis to find out the attributes of the graduate of the Rajabhat University of Thailand. It was found that Graduates or students of Rajabhat University must consist of 3 characteristics as in Table 1.

Table 1. Results of the concordance analysis and expert opinions on graduate attributes The between Popularity **Consistency of Expert Groups** Opinion level range 1. Attributes on life skills 1.1 Having the ability to self-learning and self-development Consistent Highest 5 1.2 Having the consciousness with critical and systematic thinking skills Highest 5 1 Consistent 5 1.3 Having creative initiative thoughts Highest Consistent 5 0.5 5 1.4 Having an attitude to live life that is suitable for today's society Highest 5 5 0 Consistent 1.5 Being aware of rights and duties in the democratic system Highest Consistent 5 1 1.6 Accepting in cultural diversity 0.5 Highest Consistent 5 5 1.7 Having ability to adjust themselves and handle with changes 5 o Highest Consistent 1.8 Having ability to learn modern information technology media that is appropriate with Consistent Highest 5 5 1 the social wisdom and ability to use it for self-development Highest Consistent 1.9 Having ability to communicate with others 5 0 5 1.10 Having disciplines 0.5 Highest Consistent 5 5 1.11 Being generous and have devotion Highest Consistent 5 5 0.5 1.12 Being honest 0.5 Highest Consistent 5 5 1.13 Having the ability to manage emotion and stress Highest Consistent 5 5 1 1.14 Being humble and respect others 0.5 Highest Consistent 5 5 1.15 Having self-adequacy Highest Consistent 0 2. Attributes on professional work 2.1 Having the ability to bring knowledge and skills to be a standard and professional Highest 5 5 1 Consistent worker Consistent 2.2 Having the ability to solve problems in workplace or organization Highest 5 5 o 2.3 Being responsible and patient at work 0.5 Highest Consistent 5 5 2.4 Being able to work with others 5 0 Highest Consistent 2.5 Having the ability to apply media information technology and innovations to be used to Highest Consistent 5 5 0.5 accomplish tasks 3. Attributes on local development 3.1 Having knowledge, understanding and awareness of local development Highest 5 5 0 Consistent 3.2 Ability to communicate and transfer knowledge locally Highest Consistent 5 5 0.25 3.3 Ability to coordinate local synergies in an integrated way or network partners 3.4 Having judgment and the ability to analyze local problems and needs Highest Consistent 5 5 0.5 Highest Consistent 5 0 3.5 Having the ability to develop and extend the body of knowledge to solve local problems 5 5 o Highest Consistent and develop 3.6 Having the local collaborative skills Highest 0 Consistent 5 5 3.7 Having transformational leadership Highest Consistent 5 5 3.8 Ability to apply information technology media to problem solving and local 5 5 0 Highest Consistent development Consistent 3.9 The awareness of the importance of natural resources and the environment Highest

The results from table 1, it was found that the experts had opinions on the attributes as follows: The attributes on life skills -15 sub-attributes were consistent (range quartile =0-1) and had the highest level of opinion (median =5) which include the following issues: ability to learn and develop oneself, having an attitude to live a life that is suitable for today's society, ability to adapt and cope with changes, having self-adequacy, ability to communicate with others (median =5, interquartile range =0, creativity, acceptance of cultural diversity, discipline, kindness, generosity and sacrifice, honesty, respect, humility (Median =5, Interquartile Range =

0.50), consciousness, critical and systematic thinking, democratic awareness of one's rights and duties, ability to learn about the information technology media which is modern and appropriate to their social circumstance in order to be able to apply in self-improvement, ability to deal with emotions and stress (median = 5, interquartile range = 1).

The attributes on professional work -5 sub-attributes were consistent (range quartile = 0-1) and had the highest level of opinion (median = 5). which include the following issues: ability to solve problems at work, the ability to work with others (median = 5, interquartile range = 0), responsibility and patience in work, ability to apply media, information technology, and creative innovations to get the operational achievement (median = 5, interquartile range = 0.50), and ability to apply knowledge and skills to standardized and professional practice (median = 5, interquartile range = 1).

The attributes on local development -9 sub-attributes were consistent (range quartile = 0-1) and had the highest level of opinion (median = 5) which include the following issues: having knowledge, understanding and awareness of local development, having judgment and the ability to analyze local problems and needs, having the ability to develop and extend the body of knowledge to solve local problems and develop, having the local collaborative skills, having transformational leadership, ability to apply information technology media to problem solving and local development (median = 5, interquartile range = 0), ability to communicate and transfer knowledge locally (median = 5, interquartile range = 0.25), ability to coordinate local synergies in an integrated way or network partners, and the awareness of the importance of natural resources and the environment (median = 5, interquartile range = 0.50).

## **Discussion**

At present, Rajabhat University has taken the 20-year Strategic Framework for Local Development University (2017-2036) as the main guideline in determining the direction of the university's operations and administration for the university. There are attributes according to the needs of graduate users and focus on making graduates to have love local ties aware of local development which stipulates that the learning process will be adjusted to integrate with the work and enhance skills and awareness of local development for students. Therefore, the mission must be carried out whether teaching and learning management, research, academic service and cultural Therefore, it must be integrated with the local community and the community. Hence, the quality of local development is necessary and an attribute that graduates of Rajabhat University should have. This is in line with the study of Jaichalad (2016) which defined the attributes of commitment to community and local development as one of the graduate attributes for students of the Faculty of Education, Rajabhat University in Thailand. Such qualities include knowledge, understanding, awareness of local development, the ability to communicate and transfer knowledge to the locality, and having the ability to collaborate with local communities in an integrated way or network partners that require communication and cooperation (Jaichalad, 2016). Having good judgment and the ability to analyze local problems and needs are the ability to develop and extend the body of knowledge to solve problems and develop local to work with them. Also, they should have a status of leadership to change and the ability to apply information technology media to solve problems and develop local with an awareness of the importance of natural resources and the environment. In addition, graduates produced by educational institutions need to have professional knowledge and skills for use in future careers. Graduates must work professionally, comprising the ability to apply knowledge and skills to standard and professional performance. Have the ability to solve problems that arise in the work Have the ability to work with others In line with the study of Patrick (2008), which states that in occupations, work meets standards according to customer requirements. Being able to work as a team is an important factor reflected from an entrepreneur's perspective. Moreover, graduates must be responsible and patient in their work, ability to apply media information technology and innovative innovations to be used to achieve results. Furthermore, to expertise in work, Rajabhat University also has to create graduates with honesty, integrity, and discipline which are personal Attributes. They must also be capable of self-learning and self-development, conscious, critical and systematic thinking, and creative thinking which is flexible thinking and has a self-uniqueness. It turns simple theoretical thinking into extraordinary thinking (Udo, Bagchi, and Kirs, 2011), where creative individuals will be able to gain new perspectives or understandings on problems and be a person that can find creative solutions to such problems. In addition, there is an attitude in life that is suitable for today's society where people who know their rights and duties under a democratic regime, and be person who accepts cultural diversity that has the ability to adapt and cope with changes and the ability to learn modern information technology media and appropriate to the social background. Be a person that can be used for self-development have the ability to communicate with others as the ability to cope with emotions and stress, be respectful, be humility and be self-sufficient.

#### Conclusion

At the end of this study, the aim of the study was to attributes of graduates of Rajabhat University under the framework of Rajabhat University's in Thailand development policy and development guidelines compliance with the King's development philosophy are consisted of 3 groups. Group 1, features in life consisting of 15 attributes as follows: the ability to learn and develop oneself, have conscious, critical and systematic thinking,

be creative, have an attitude to live life that is suitable for today's society, know the people's rights and duties under a democratic regime, be a person who accepts cultural diversity, have the ability to adapt and cope with changes, to learn modern information technology media and appropriate to the social landscape, and use it for self-development, be able to communicate with others, be discipline, be generous and devoted, be honest, be able to deal with emotions and stress, be humble, and be sufficient for oneself. Group 2's features are about working professionally consisted 5 features which are: having an ability to bring knowledge and skills to standardized and professional operations, be to solve problems that arise in thework, be patient and responsible at work, be able to work with others, and be able to apply media information technology and innovative innovations to be used to achieve results. And group 3 in local development, consisted of 9 features which are: have knowledge, understanding and awareness of local development, be able to communicate and transfer knowledge to the local area, be able to coordinate local collaboration in an integrated or networked manner, have judgment and the ability to analyze local problems and needs, be able to develop and extend the body of knowledge to solve problems and develop local, be able to work with local, be an adaptive leader, be able to apply information technology media to solve problems and develop local, and have an awareness of the importance of natural resources and the environment.

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