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| Master Project Title | Management of the Bilingual Schools Program (Grade7 - Grade12) in the Upper Northern Region of Thailand. | |
| Author | Miss Krittiya Panthong. | |
| Degree | Master of Education (Education Management) | |
| Supervisory Committee | Dr. Sorabud Rungrojsuwan | Chairperson |
| | Lecturer Lesley Houston | Member |
| | Lecturer Jintana Suttanu | Member |

ABSTRACT

This study examined the management of four bilingual schools in the upper northern region of Thailand. The three purposes were to investigate management in these bilingual schools, to identify any important problems in these schools, and to suggest solutions to these problems.

There were 1,101 participants in this study, consisting of 45 executives and teachers, 528 students and 528 parents, from these 4 bilingual schools: Samakkhiwitthayakhom School (Chiangrai Province), Srinakarindra the Princess Mother School (Phayao Province), Bunyawat Wittayalai School (Lampang Province) and Yupparaj Wittayalai School (Chiangmai Province). Tools used for this study were: open-ended questionnaires, in-depth interviews, and classroom observations. The data were analyzed by SPSS-PC and presented in terms of percentage, mean and standard deviation. The five management areas investigated were: academic management, employee management, budget/building management, student activities management and community relations management.

The result of the first purpose showed that the student activities was the best management in these bilingual schools, followed by the management of academic affairs, budget/building, employee and community relations, respectively. The second purpose resulted in all participants suggesting that the area which had the most problem was academic management. The problems concerning academic management were: the constant changes of curricula; the poor quality of teaching and learning materials and the lack of higher grades (grade 9 to grade 12) in some bilingual schools. The other areas of management had a few major problems, namely: employee management: lack of qualified foreign and Thai teachers; budget/building management: misdirected budget spending; student activities management: the high volume of student activities which interfered with student education; and insufficient variety of activities to improve the English skills of the students; community relations management: insufficient participation with the community.

In the third purpose, the participants proposed solutions to the school management problems. The solutions to academic management problems were: to develop a curriculum steering committee to assist stable curricula; to provide sufficient high-quality teaching materials, knowledge resources and appropriate textbooks and to expand the grades to grade 12 where appropriate. Other solutions were employee management: provide professional development training for teachers; budget/building management: re-direct budget spending; student activities management: decrease those activities which interfere with student education, and increase those which improve English skills; community relations management: increase participation of the community.

Keyword : Bilingual schools program / Management of the bilingual schools