

ABSTRACT

Research Title : Strategies in Enhancing Education Quality by the Research Network: The Enhancement of Education Quality by a Participatory Empowered Research Network : The Case of the Lower Southern Thailand.

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The research project focusing on the developing of strategies in enhancing education quality by the research network : the enhancing of education quality by a participatory empowered research network for the lower southern region of Thailand was aimed at increasing the education quality which is appropriate for a certain area using a participatory empowered research network. It was also sought to suggest the appropriate education quality enhancement policy to the government and concerned parties. Universities, regional education offices, and schools in Songkhla, Phattalung, Satun, Yala, Naratiwat, and Pattani were selected to take part in this study. The deans of four Education Faculties were appointed to be the leaders of the four sub-network groups, while the Education Faculty of Thaksin University was assigned to be the center for education research network in the lower southern Thailand.

The experimental research method was employed in this research. However the research method could be applied to research and development or action research depending on the appropriateness to each sub-network. As for the main network, the experimental research in natural field settings method was employed using the education quality enhancement strategy by the participatory empowered research network.

In evaluating the success of the network formation, the members of the networks valued the usefulness of networking as it enhanced participation in improving education quality by using a participatory empowered research network. They were confident and also ready to be the leader of the smaller network in their own area. They expressed high level (average of 4.09) of satisfaction to the participation of network members. When assessing the success of networks, it was found that the network members had conducted 10 research projects to develop the innovation for developing the quality of education as follows:

1. The thinking skills development project for students of Papayorm Pittayakhom School who were studying at the level 3 of basic education was conducted using the PTS model. P stands for the awareness of **problems** or content, while T is for using **thinking** process, and S is for concluding or **settling** cases. It was found that the effectiveness of the learning plan for developing think process of students at the basic education level (Muttayomsuksa 1-3) using the PTS was higher than the pre-determined criteria. And when assessing the students' ability in thinking process after being engaged with the PTS, it was found that their ability increased significantly (significant level at .01)
2. The thinking skills development project for students of Songkhla Wittayakhom School who were studying at the level 3 of basic education was conducted using the teaching and learning patterns from the synthesis of related research results and theories. It was found that the students of level 3 of the above-mentioned school (Muttayomsuksa 2-3) showed the significant improvement in their academic performance.
3. The thinking skills development project for students in Phattalung educational region who were studying at the basic education level was conducted using the ASCEND Model. (A: Analyze experience, S: Survey, C: Conceptualize, E: Elaborate, N: Normalize, D: Develop). It was found that the students' ability in analyzing, synthesizing, critical thinking, creative thinking, and visioning increased significantly at .01 level after experiencing teaching and learning patterns using the above-mentioned model.
4. The analytical thinking skills development project for students of Bannkating School who were studying at the level 2 of basic education was conducting using the ODACP Model (O: Orientation, D: Data collection, A: Analyzing, C: Conclusion, P: Presentation). It was found that the students of level 2 of this school showed the significant improvement in their analytical thinking skills at the level of .01.
5. The thinking skills development project for students of schools in Songkhla Educational Region 2 (Hatyaiwittayalai 2 School) and Satun Educational Region (Princess Chulabhorn's College Satun) who were studying at the level 3 (Muttayomsuksa 1-3) of basic education was conducted using the Learning Pack for Thinking Skills Development. It was found that the students of those above-mentioned school showed certain level of improvement in their academic performance after having gone through such learning patterns at the level of .05.

6. The thinking skills development project for students of schools under the Office of Basic Education in Yala Province and of schools under Yala Municipality who were studying at the level 3 (Muttayomsuksa 1-3) of basic education was conducted using the Learning Pack for Thinking Skills Development. It was found that at Bannkotabaru School the students' ability in analyzing, synthesizing, creative thinking, and problem solving increased significantly at .01 level after experiencing teaching and learning patterns using the above-mentioned model. But, at Yala Municipality 2 School, the thinking skills were not increased.
7. The Thai reading and writing skills development project for students who was studying at Pratomsuksa 5 of schools in Naratiwat Educational Region 1 was conducted using the Pack of Supplementing Knowledge Thai Grammar. It was found that the students of those above-mentioned school showed significant level (.01 level) of improvement in their academic performance in their Thai language after having gone through such learning patterns.
8. The analytical thinking skills development project for students of the Pratomsuksa 6 by using the Cooperative Learning technique. It was found that the students showed certain level of improvement .05 level in their academic performance after having gone through such teaching technique.
9. Smart Known Teaching Technique for Hadith Teaching (Islamic teachings by legend or tale) effecting on learning prospective in virtue ,Moral , desired value, and unity awareness of Pratomsuksa six students. Smart known Teaching Technique focuses on the essence of faith , pursuing morality and wise use, living with care and live development. It was found that the students showed significant improvement .01 level in their academic performance after having gone through the learning patterns which was incorporated with such technique.
10. The creative thinking skills development project for students who were studying at the Mattayomsuksa 1 of Thairat Wittaya School 52 (Banntonpai Village) by using the Pack for Developing Writing Skills in the Thai subject. After employing such technique, it was found that the students showed significant level (.01 level) of improvement in their creative thinking skills, as a whole and also in the areas of fluency, flexibility, and originality.

In conclusion, the strategies of enhancing education quality by the research network : the enhancing of education quality by a participatory empowered research network for the lower southern region of Thailand has made educational institutions, all sub educational research networks, and the research team understand research conducting processes by exchanging related knowledge about conducting a research and developing innovations in order to improve education quality. This study also gave opportunities for learning how to manage a research project by using the participatory empowered research network. It was also clear that the network members who were involved in the project have developed highly positive attitude towards the cooperation in improving education quality by using the research network system. All sub-networks can conduct research to develop education quality and all innovations using to develop thinking skills, desired characteristics or achievement are effective.