

Rajabhat University Education Policy and Image of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University's Thai dance and theatre

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Abstract: This article aims to study the relations between Rajabhat university education policy and the image of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. The scope of the study focuses on the policy of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, located in Bangkok, between 2004 – 2021, by studying from document, interview, observation, and small group discussion. The results showed that, the prominent policy of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University is to be the smart archetypal university of the society in education, research, academic service, and preservation of art and culture. With the mission to become the university for community, this emphasizes the image of the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Department of Performing Arts (Thai Classical Dances). The faculty has various personnel with outstanding identity, who are academic practitioners, proficient in communication, skillful in thinking, and full of public mind. The contribution to the public can be divided into 4 categories; teaching and practice service, performing arts documentary research, field study, and experimental service; academic service with innovative teaching methods; performance arrangement service, academic seminar, research, and activities for the community; preservation service for art and culture, conservation, succession, and development according to the royal initiative of King Rama X. With the variation in image and organization culture that support for self-development of the personnel and organization as a whole, the Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha is well known in both national and international level..

Keywords: Rajabhat University Policy, Image of Thai Classical Dances Program, Suan Sunandha, Image of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha

1. Introduction

Dance can be used as a communication tool of a person and organization to show the identity of the person or the image of the organization. Rajabhat University's educational policy has an important mission to provide education to both urban and provincial communities. The Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha is an institution under the supervision of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. The institution implements the educational policy in accordance with the policy of Rajabhat University along with the palace-related identity of Suan Sunandha, by applying the policy in courses, curriculum, researches, art and culture preservation, knowledge development, and community service. As a result, the image of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha has been passed down continuously until the present.

Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University has developed from being a royal residential school in Suan Sunandha Palace to become a teachers college, Rajabhat Institute, and Rajabhat University, respectively. Since the establishment of the university, Thai classical dances have been the medium for teaching and promoting the university's contribution continually on a regular basis as well as on special occasions.

The contribution that has been published is the teaching of performing arts in Thai classical dances, both in theory and practice, which covers the knowledge of both Thai and international approaches. For the research of students and faculty staff, it can be categorized in 3 formats: documentary, quantitative research, and experimental research. For knowledge development, there are publications of research, academic works, and creative works. For the academic service, there is Thai Classical Dances for Community Project, which offers an opportunity for interested people from age 5 years to study and practice Thai dance skills and be able to acquire educational achievement. In addition, for the preservation of art and culture, Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha has been accepted by various organizations to perform on important occasions at both national and international level continuously.

Rajabhat University's educational policy and the image of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha are found to be corresponded in format, content, meaning, and role. The significance of such a relationship is still limited, with scattered information and lack of analysis of important factors.

For this reason, the researcher was interested in studying the educational policy of Rajabhat University and the image of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha during 2004-2021, by studying from documents, interviews, and observation, in order to create a guideline for developing the image of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha to be in accordance with the policy of Rajabhat University, maintaining its identity, as well as being a guideline for creating the image of Thai classical dances program of the institutions affiliated with Rajabhat University in the future.

2. Research Objectives

The objective of this research article was to study the relationship between educational policy of Rajabhat University and the image of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha.

3. Research Methods

Research Design and Process

This research is qualitative research. The data was collected from document archives of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha, which were researches, photograph, teaching materials, performing video, and academic works, as well as from the interview of faculty staff and students of the Performing Arts Program (Thai Classical Dances), participants in the Thai Dancing Art for Community Project, and people who have invited staff and requested for performances to be published on various occasions. The data included observations from live and recorded performances. The obtained data was processed and presented in descriptive analytics format.

The research process began with determining research objectives by studying the educational policy of Rajabhat University, which has the common ideal to be the university for the community. Then the identity concept was explored, by studying the identity of 'the palace' of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, as well as the identity of the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, which are academic practitioners, proficient in communication, skillful in thinking, and full of public mind. The 5 aspects of faculty staff's responsibilities were also explored, which are teaching, research, knowledge development, academic service, and preservation of art and culture. By categorizing the works of students and faculty staff in the Performing Arts Program (Thai Classical Dances), Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, the result showed the identity and image of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha that also reflected the image and potential of its personnel and organization. Steps were shown in Fig. 1.

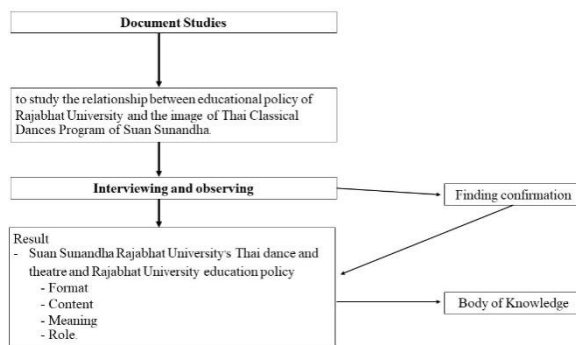


Fig.1Research process for Rajabhat University Education Policy and Image of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University's Thai dance and theatre

4. Results

The study of educational policy of Rajabhat University and the image of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha were related in 4 aspects: format, content, meaning, and role.

For the format of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha, there is the curriculum in performing arts in both theory and practice, which presented the expertise in both Thai classical dances and drama, as well as being comprehensive in related subjects that makes students interested in studying this area and wish to utilize this knowledge upon graduation. The research and knowledge development of the faculty staff has been implemented continuously and showed potential in specific areas, such as documentary research, field research, and experimental research. It is also evidently demonstrated in the presentation of creative works, the presentation of articles in academic conferences, and publication in both national and international level. For academic service, the faculty staff and students disseminate performing arts knowledge to people who are interested in this field, and develop the community by using performing arts as a tool. For the preservation of art and culture, the creative works of the

faculty staff and students were published on behalf of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, which was welcomed by both national and international organizations.

The content of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha is diverse due to various potential of the faculty staff and students from all regions of the country, which is an important element for the creation and development of academic knowledge and performances. The content of the performance depicts all classes and styles, including royal, local, and folk stories. In addition, the content can be divided into 3 characteristics: conservative, contemporary, and creative.

The definition of meaning in this research is how to convey the meaning of the performances, which can be divided in 5 dimensions: teaching, research, knowledge development, academic service, and preservation of art and culture. It is found that the image or identity presentation in various dimensions is diverse in all areas. This is the result of the potential of the faculty staff and students. Though the students rotate according to academic semesters, it appears that the major characteristic is still the same, that is, the students come from all regions. This makes the primary element of the creation, an important variable, remain unchanged from the past. With the same processes and goals, it will produce the same results with the same quality.

The role of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha is corresponded to the educational policy of Rajabhat University, especially the knowledge creation and development, as well as dissemination of knowledge to the community through various projects, such as Thai Dancing Art for Community, Nawattawithee, and course activities, which is also in conjunction with the preservation of art and culture.



Fig 2. Thai Dancing Art for Community Project [1]



Fig 3. Innovative Movement Project (Nawattawithe) [2]



Fig 4. Presentation of research project [3]

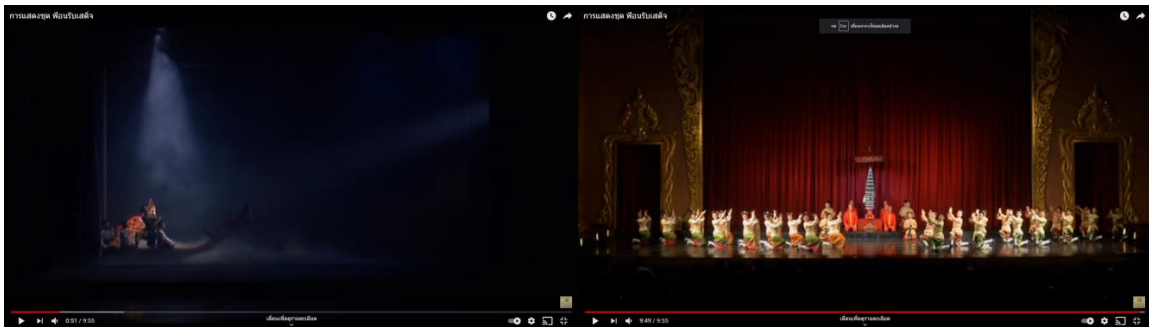


Fig 5. Creative work: Fon Rub Sadead[4]



Fig 6. Creative work: Le Laweng (Trick of Laweng) [5]



Fig 7 Creative work: Maya Rasmi and Sakara Wati Dress Up [6]



Fig 8. Lakhon Nok: Nang Sibsong [7]



Fig 9. Musical drama: Chan Chao Kha by Phranbun [8]



Fig 10. Pratheep Buranamee Tara (Full Moon Bath Dance) [9]**Fig 11.** CultureExchang[10]

5. Discussions

Educational policy of Rajabhat University and image of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha is correspondence in 4 aspects: format, content, meaning, and role. It also corresponded to the concept of university for community. The main identity of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University is the “palace” characteristic, which can be seen as a concept of Thai traditional practice, “*bowon*,” or the combination of residence, religious institution, and palace. Combining with the identity of the Faculty of Fine and Applied Art, which is academic practitioners, proficient in communication, skillful in thinking, and full of public mind, the Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha has a distinct image of the comprehensive and versatile institute, which can be seen from the teaching and learning, performances, researches, and creative works in 5 responsibilities: teaching, research, knowledge development, academic service, and the preservation of art and culture.

Educational policy of Rajabhat University and the image of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha is a reflection of an important aspect, the stability of the core administrators. The faculty staff, students, and support personnel, all represent the concept of university for the community. With the emphasis on the “palace” identity and academic excellence in both national and international level, Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha became an educational institution for performing arts (Thai classical dances) that has been accepted from various organizations from all over the country and abroad. At the same time, it also presents the image of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University in different dimensions that can be clearly seen in the creative works.

6. Recommendations

A. Recommendations for Practices

1. The educational policy of Rajabhat University is related to the image of the organization. Therefore, the guidelines or policies for the selection of personnel, which is an important element, is required for the personnel development process, creative work production, and publication to the public.

2. The image of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha is diverse due to the potential of the personnel. With the mutual goal and systematical management in 5 aspects of responsibilities, namely, teaching, research, knowledge development, academic service, and the preservation of art and culture, the creation produced by the personnel can be utilized effectively.

B. Recommendations for Further Research

1. Rajabhat universities or other educational institutions can apply this study for research purposes and to create guidelines for their own image and identity development.

2. The research results can be developed to be more in-depth by studying only one aspect of the responsibilities, or by comparing them with other Rajabhat universities that use Thai classical dance as a tool to present the image of the organization.

7. Conclusion

The findings from this qualitative research show the relationship between the education policy of Rajabhat University and the image of Thai Classical Dances Program of Suan Sunandha, which corresponded to each other. The key factors are personnel, work processes, goals, and human resource management, which affect the quality and effectiveness that can be utilized in all aspects, namely, teaching, research, knowledge development, academic service, and the preservation of art and culture. The application is systematic and comprehensive, in accordance

with the policy of Rajabhat University in becoming the university of the community. The “palace” identity of Suan Sunandha also supports the dissemination of knowledge and development of communities, along with the identity of the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, which is academic practitioners, proficient in communication, skillful in thinking, and full of public mind. This relationship accentuates human resource and organization development to be more distinct and widely accepted by the society, as can be seen from excellence concrete achievement.

8. Acknowledgement

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