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The Development of Curriculum for Vocational Promotion of Special Needs Children Based on Rice Culture in Chalerm Phra Kiat District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province

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Abstract

This research article aimed to: (1) study the fundamental information and needs for developing a vocational curriculum for children with special needs based on rice culture in Chalerm Phra Kiat District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province; (2) develop the vocational curriculum for children with special needs based on rice culture in Chalerm Phra Kiat District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province; (3) implement and trial a vocational curriculum for children with special needs based on rice culture in Chalerm Phra Kiat District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province; and (4) evaluate and improve the implementation of a vocational curriculum for children with special needs based on rice culture in Chalerm Phra Kiat District, Nakhon Si Thammarat Province. The target group consisted of 15 pairs (30 individuals in total), selected through voluntary participation. The research instruments included interviews, focus group discussion guidelines, vocational skills and attributes assessment forms and curriculum satisfaction questionnaires. All the instruments were validated by experts. The limitation of this study is that it may only apply to children with special needs in schools or special education centres located in Chalerm Phra Kiat District. Consequently, the findings may not be generalisable to children with special needs in other districts or provinces. Future research should broaden its scope to encompass other categories of children with special needs. This expansion ought to be accompanied by the development of educational media, innovative tools, or technology integrated with the curriculum to enhance engagement and accessibility for these learners. Qualitative data were analysed using content analysis, and quantitative data were interpreted using statistical methods. Qualitative data were analysed using content analysis, while quantitative data were analysed using percentages, means (x), and standard deviations (S.D.). The research findings are summarised as follows.

The results of the needs assessment indicated a common expectation among the participants. In the area of local food, there was a desire to promote careers in traditional Thai dessert-making. For handicrafts, the preferred activities were those with simple processes that children could complete successfully. In the area of creative work, there was a desire to support the production of low-cost, locally made souvenirs using community-sourced materials. Emphasis was placed on hands-on training conducted by local wisdom holders who shared knowledge and provided experiential learning opportunities.

The curriculum development results revealed that the curriculum consisted of ten components: (1) principles, (2) goals, (3) activity guidelines, (4) activity formats, (5) course description, (6)