

The examination of post graduate quality in sport management departments among Iran's public physical education faculties

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Aim of paper and research questions

The main objective of this research is to determine post graduate quality in sport management departments among Iran's Public universities. In the past decade the number of master graduates and Ph.D. students in P.E. faculties as well as in sport management field has increased, but so far no research has been done regarding the assessment of the quality the academic output in comparison with its quantity growth. To recognise the quality of post graduate education in sport management it is vital to examine the quality of the education, research, facilities and opportunities of employment afforded to students. Regarding the above objectives, the basic questions in this research are:

1. What are the quality objectives, instructional content, teaching methods and evaluation systems in sport management post graduate departments?
2. Are the graduates capable of managing sport organisations, clubs, educational and recreational centres?
3. Are the buildings and facilities appropriate for sport management departments?
4. Do the sport management departments' managers provide suitable conditions for improving the quality of research and education activities?
5. What are the post graduate students, faculty members and managers' opinions about the quality of educational provision?

Literature review

Regarding the nature of research, at first some major constructs about quality and its application in higher education will be presented and then some quality models like TQM (Total Quality Management), EFQM (European Foundation for Quality Management) and Malcolm Baldrige Model will be introduced. Moreover, some countries' findings about the quality in higher education will be discussed.

Since 1980, the number of post graduate courses on offer has substantially increased and this includes different aspects of sport management; however no study has been conducted to investigate the quality of these courses in Iran. Due to lack of research available in Iran it was decided to further explore this issue.

Research design and proposed data analysis

This research has been done in 20 sport management departments which have post graduate offerings along with 216 master and 89 Ph.D. students, 78 faculty members who are teaching

sport management courses and 46 post graduate managers. Three different instruments were used to gather information which were designed based on research objectives in three groups: post graduate sport management students, faculty members who are teaching sport management, and post graduate managers.

The questionnaires' validity and reliability was improved following a pilot study and considering the opinions and insights from experienced sport management professors. Descriptive and inferential statistics and SPSS software were used analysing data. The most significant results were:

1. Master and Ph.D. students were dissatisfied with the lack of proper buildings and facilities, that they could not apply their theoretical studies and that universities did not provide enough educational resources.
2. Sport management faculty members were dissatisfied with insufficient access to literature and they noted that their job environment was negatively impacting their job motivation.
3. Finally managers were dissatisfied with lack of proper policies, procedures and guidelines, complained about poor facilities and about inexperienced faculty members.

Discussion of progress

Regarding the research results and researchers' studies regarding higher education quality, making fundamental changes to delivering post graduate quality in Iran's public universities sport management departments seems necessary. Some changes that are suggested as a result of this research will be discussed during the presentation.

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