Abstract

The aim of this research is to assess the masters and PhD theses in the field of Educational Management Supervision and Planning in the Near East University and to identify the general tendencies. The theses were assessed in terms of research subject, research model and research methods. Content analysis method was utilized for the frequency and percentage analysis. Pursuant to the research findings, the most thesis were performed in ‘2003’; the theses were mainly concentrated on the ‘Educational Management’ in the universe levels of ‘primary and secondary education’ with the components of ‘primary school teachers and administrators’; for the sampling method, ‘random sampling’ was used the most and ‘questionnaires’ were used the most as the data collection method. According to the research, ‘the quantitative research’ model was used the most with the significance of interdisciplinary communication and cooperation.

Keywords: Educational management; thesis; education; assessment; content analysis.

1. Introduction

The universities are indispensable elements of the society with the features of information generation and transfer and raising qualified, innovative and quality manpower. Such institutions that generate information and renew
themselves continuously had the mission to develop and improve the status of mankind (Keohane, 2006). The universities should not be content with the transmission of existing information but they also need to undertake comprehensive and quality researches. Therefore, they are obliged to enhance life quality in all aspects of life as social and cultural by producing quality and novel researches. (Aydın, 2012). The postgraduate education has a significant role in the information generation and dissemination through research. The aim of postgraduate education in the universities can be listed as performing researches that would contribute to the development of science, disseminating such research with the public and meeting the lecturer needs in the required domains (Başaran, 2006).

The studies conducted in the educational management are one of the biggest indicators for the education system of a country (Bacanak, Değirmenci, Karamustafaoglu and Karamustafaoglu, 2011). The educational management has the dimensions between various disciplines as social, political, economic, cultural and historic. The researchers must consider these dimensions in their researches (Turan and Şişman, 2013). Bridges (1982) indicated that the researches conducted in the educational management are performed with basic statistical techniques. The research conducted by Balci (1990) underlined that the PhD thesis conducted in the educational management domain did not create any new ideas and were comprised of similar topics Coorough and Nelson (1994) or Heck and Hallinger (2005) or Saraçoğlu and Dursun (2010) or Kivirauma (1999). Karadağ (2009) assessed the educational management PhD thesis in Turkey and noted that the studies did not have unique subjects but had similar subjects with quantitative research methods and particularly screening method and that such studies did not give the validity and reliability sufficient significance. The studies conducted in this domain did not take the open-ended problems into consideration.

There have been many independent studies in the field of educational management. The contribution of these studies on the domain is very vital as well as making assessments concerning the tendencies and results of such studies (Göktaş et al., 2012)). The identification of the existing situation in the researches conducted about the educational management would be very crucial for the future studies. This study is considered to make a contribution on the identification of general tendencies in the theses from the perspective of analysis results in the field of Educational Management Supervision Economy and Planning (EMSEP).

The identification of tendencies among the thesis conducted about the educational management would be crucial for the future researches. The future project would benefit from the identification of subjects throughout the historical process, the tendencies regarding the subjects and the shortcomings.

For this purpose, a content analysis was performed on the postgraduate and PhD theses about EMSEP in the Near East University. The years of theses, subjects, population levels, components of population, sampling methods, sample size, data collection methods, distributions by the quantitative and qualitative research methods, recommendations to the researchers and recommendations for the implementers were analysed under the content analysis. The research aimed to identify the development and the current status of EMSEP department. The assessment of theses in terms of their contents in the universities aiming to raise education administrators and leading in this related direction is very important. Based on such aims, the research would discuss the following questions.

1. What is the distribution in the theses by their subjects?
2. What is the distribution in the theses by their population levels?
3. What is the distribution in the theses by their sampling methods?
4. What is the distribution in the theses by the data collection methods?
5. What is the distribution in the theses by the research models?

2. Method

The quantitative research model was utilised in the research together with the content analysis technique on the assessment of postgraduate and PhD theses in the domain of EMSEP. According to Stacey (1970), the content analysis, as in its most summarised way, is the transformation of qualitative data into the quantitative data. Berelson (1952) described the content analysis as the identification of communication material content by quantitatively in a systematic manner while Krippendorf (2004) defined it as a method where the data are repeated to obtain valid results. Pursuant to the opinions of Cohen et al. (2007), the content analysis is the procedure of indicating the meaning of existing information.

For this research, the content analysis was utilised for the data collection. In the first phase of content analysis,
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