

Understanding the Graduate Student Journey: The Case of the Lebanese University

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Overview

- Statement of the Problem
- Purpose of the Study
- Conceptual Framework
- Literature Review
- Methodology
- Data Collection and Analysis
- Significance of the Study

Statement of the Problem

A blurred doctoral program leads to a student's state of dissatisfaction and burn-out that ends with withdrawal.

(Cummins-Collier, 1998; Heinrich, 1991)

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3

Purpose of the Study

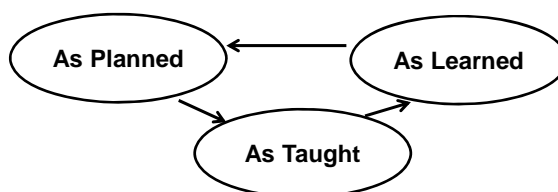
- Describing the program design and its implementation from the perspective of the two doctoral students.
- Identifying the challenges experienced by these two students due to the blurred program.
- Describing the students' strategies to overcome these challenges and persist in the program.
- Identifying the students' views on the measures needed to improve the quality of the doctoral studies experience at the Lebanese University.

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4

Conceptual Framework

- Sergiovanni & Starrat's (2007) curriculum design:
 1. as-planned
 2. as-taught
 3. as-learned
 4. as-tested
- Our version of the model:



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5

Literature Review

- Students' Satisfaction
- Factors Resulting in Doctoral Program Incompletion
- The Program Satisfaction Model
- Satisfaction Detractors & Distracters

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6

Methodology

- Qualitative Research (Denzin and Lincoln, 1994)
- Case Study Design (Glaser and Strauss, 1967)
- Grounded Theory (Corbin and Strauss, 2008)
- Narrative Inquiry (Webster and Mertova, 2007)

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7

Data Collection and Analysis

- direct observations of weekly sessions, conferences, workshops, general meetings
- focus group interviews with students and program director
- document analysis
- examination of policies and procedures

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8

Data Collection and Analysis

Phases of Our Doctoral Journey

- Phase One: As Planned
- Phase Two: As Taught
- Phase Three: As Learned

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9

Significance of the Study

- It shows originality.
- It can inform other doctoral students on the nature of the challenges they face and provide them with lessons learned.
- It provides university leaders with insight on the conditions the students are facing.
- It serves as a feedback for our doctoral program administration and offers them recommendations grounded in the students' real life experiences.

1/11/2013

10

A Few Last Words

A story is the very stuff of teaching, the landscape within which we live as teachers and researches, and within which the work of teachers can be seen as making sense.

(Al Baz, 1991)

1/11/2013

11