Profile of Students in a Study Centre

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Abstract
In this paper are presented results of the analyses of the students' profile. The research included a sample of students of the Regional Higher Education Study Centre in Ptuj, Slovenia. The aim of the research is to get the profile of present students in Ptuj, and to anticipate the profile of future students. The knowledge of it is of special importance in order to better understand the situation and needs of students. Based on this knowledge, it is possible to improve study conditions that result in prompt, quality and attractive study of the student. This is also important for identification of the target group of future students. Seventeen questions were used to get data of variables that define profile of students. In the analysis process the descriptive statistics methods were used. Research conclusions will be considered already in drafts of new study courses.
Keywords: education, analysis, descriptive statistics, student, socio-demographic profile.

1 Introduction

The Regional Higher Education Centre Ptuj (Revivis Ptuj) was established to encourage tertiary education in a specific region of the Republic of Slovenia. The aim of the Centre is to offer different study programmes, the so-called guest study programmes, to the local population as well as to establish a new high school.

High school of Ptuj will initially have three 1st Bologna degree study courses: Technologies and Food Chain Management, Tourism in Local Environment, and Heritage Maintenance. The accreditation process of the High school of Ptuj is ongoing.

Offered guest study programmes are 1st and 2nd cycle of Tourism programmes of the University of Primorska, and Organization and Management study programmes of the University of Maribor.

It is of great importance to get the information about the students' profile to support higher education development in the region. Research was made to ensure the most adequate study conditions for the students. The sample of present students can also help anticipate students' profile of the High school of Ptuj in future.

Therefore we decided to get students' profile data by a questionnaire completed by the students. In the paper, the most interesting data will be presented arranged in tables and they will be discussed.

The aim of the research was to find out if students in Ptuj have their own particularities of the selected indicators.

2 Methodological Remarks

The purpose of the research is to establish students' profile. Some indicators of interest are presented. The synopsis of indicators presented provides profile of the undergraduate students of the Organization and Management course, students of the graduate programme Tourism, and candidate students who expressed their interest to attend study process in Ptuj. The research was made in the academic year 2006/2007. The unit of the analysis is a student. The sample number is 41. The research instrument used was a standardized 17-questions questionnaire completed by students. The sampling procedure used was the random sample. Described are characteristics such as: gender, age, distance from the school, parents' education, final school result, an alternative to a selected study place, international students exchange, employment status during the study, employment chances after the study, place of living, type of dwelling, and preferred study form. Tabular form is used for the survey data presentation.

3 Research Results and Discussion

In this section are presented some of the most specific or interesting results of the survey, according to our opinion. Complete survey can be found in [3] and compared by [1].

Table 1: Gender of the student.

Gender		2006_7
	female	28
	male	13

Table 2: Age of the student.

Age		2006_7
	<21	4
	22-25	14
	26-30	11
	>31	12

Table 3: Distance from the school.

Distance		2006_7
	<5 km	12
	5-30 km	20
	>30 km	9

Table 4: Parents education - mother.

Parents education		2006_7
mother	primary and less	7
	midle	28
	high and more	6

Table 5: Parents education - father.

Parents education		2006_7
father	primary and less	6
	midle	27
	high and more	7

Table 6: Secondary education final result.

Final school success		2006_7
	excellent	4
	very good	15
	good and less	21

Table 7: Alternative to a selected study place.

Alternative for study		2006_7
	easy elsewhere	13
	hard elsewhere	22
	cannot study	5

Table 8: International students exchange intention.

International exchange		2006_7
	yes	15
	no	24

Table 9: Employment status during the study.

Employment in time of study		2006_7
	employed	26
	not employed	14

Table 10: Employment chances after the study.

Employment after study		2006_7
	easy	16
	difficult	17
	don't know	8

Table 11: Place of living.

Place		2006_7
	Ptuj	15
	another city	12
	rural settlement	14

Table 12: Type of dwelling.

Dwelling		2006_7
	own house	17
	with parents	22
	undertenant	2

Table 13: Preferred study form.

Study form		2006_7
	regular	3
	irregular	38

The table 2 shows that 60 % of our students are older than 26 years. It is obvious that these students are expected to be promoted in their companies due to the achieved higher education. This statement supports also answers presented in the table 9 and table 10. Most students are employed and they will improve their professional position. The structure of answers collected in tables reflects the structure of employees in tourism sector and other tourism related enterprises. Students are financially responsible and highly self-motivated for the study. Employers' interest to support students' study is not present.

Main part of students expressed their conviction (more than 60%) that they could not study or could hardly study elsewhere than in Ptuj, as can be deduced from the table 7. We have to understand this in connection with the fact that they are employed and they have their own place of living (40%) or they live with their parents (50%) as shown in the table 12. This endorses the mission of the Regional Higher Education Centre in Ptuj to make studies possible also for people who could not study otherwise.

4 Conclusion

The purpose of the survey was to define some indicators of student's life, as well as to position the findings within broader social circumstances. The students of the first and second degree of Tourism studies and Organization and Management studies participated in the survey.

Some quantitative parameters about potential students' profile are important to be acquired as a background for implementing student policy, before academic and business decisions are taken. Survey results of the students' profile for Slovenia can be found in [1] and in [2], but they cannot describe our potential students in details. In the

academic year 2006/2007 we performed a survey profile of the students studying in Ptuj.

Our students are characterised by their origins in a relatively poor region and by their specific needs. The research shows that our students have different age profile and employment status during the study period. They are older and they are mostly employed during the studies. There is also a significant part of students who could not be involved in the study process unless it is organised in Ptuj, near the place where they live.

However we have got a profile of a student in our region. This was the purpose of the research. We will be able to make better student policy and conditions for the students. Consequently we will offer more effective study programmes to the students and students' results are expected to improve. This gives sense to our efforts to encourage quality higher education in our region.

References

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