



Analysis of Abilities and Attitudes of Graduates toward sustainability (Case study: University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Tehran)

E. Faham*1, S.H. Movahed Mohammadi2

1PhD of Agricultural Education, Faculty of Agriculture Economics and Development, University of Tehran, 2Associate Professor, Faculty of Agriculture Economics and Development, University of Tehran
faham@ut.ac.ir

Higher education system has particular potential to facilitate social response to increasing sustainability challenges facing communities throughout the world. University graduates as heretics of technology and future leaders can be part of the solution through gaining sustainability competencies during their study. Therefore, the present study has been done to analyze the part of sustainability competencies including the abilities and attitudes of graduates towards sustainability. Statistical population was included graduates of the past 20 years at the University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Tehran, and 120 from them were selected as sample. Data collection was done through a researcher-made questionnaire. To measure validation of factor structure of each of the latent variables was used a confirmatory factor analysis using LISREL software. The results showed that the skills' levels of critical thinking and creative thinking in sustainability were moderate in the majority of graduates. Also, about 77 percent of graduates did not any kind of interdisciplinary collaboration during their study. Analysis of level of sympathy revealed that empathy among more than 60 percent of graduates was above the mean. Also, commitment to sustainability among 45 percent of graduates was less than the mean. Respect to past, present, and future generations among 60 percent of graduates was moderate. According to the results, the integrating sustainability content in higher education system is proposed.

Key Words: Sustainable development, Sustainability education, sustainability competency, Graduate.