



Pragmatism the Missing key of agricultural higher education system (The case: Payame Noor University of Zanjan)

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Currently national higher education system of agriculture is encountered with serious problems in training of experienced and skilled graduates', due to dominance of theoretical education over practical training. These problems had led to consequences such as unemployment of agriculture graduates, lack of accountability to market demands, dissatisfaction, and unhappiness of executive organizations and destruction of valuable agricultural resources. This descriptive - survey study was carried out to identify and analyze factors influencing quality of practical training from the perspectives of senior students of agriculture at the Payame Noor University of Zanjan. A stratified sampling was used to select 83 respondents from a total of 168 students who comprised the statistical population. A questionnaire was used to collect data which was further validated by an academic panel of agricultural extension and education experts, and its' reliability for practical training quality scale was estimated 0.92 by Cronbach's alpha coefficient. Results of factor analysis showed that few factors can affect the quality of practical training in four general categories, namely the correct management of practical training, active participation of teachers in practical training, targeted and effective communication inside and outside the organization, and active and meaningful participation of students classified. Finally 72.22% of the variance in variables was explained by these factors. Based on the research findings it was suggested that the university to have strong link with the agriculture sector; necessary equipment's be given to agricultural colleges for practical training; Part-time training be provided for students during their study and content of practical courses to be determined with regards to job market demand.

Keywords: Practical training, Quality, Agricultural practice, Agricultural students.