Evaluation of the Home Economics Study Plan
at the Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences
K F U
(A Survey Study to obtain the Opinions of the Students & Graduates)
*By: Dr. Aisha M. O. Hassan
Dr. Salwa Abdul-Muneim & Nadia Al-Jadidi

Abstract

Home Economics is an applied science which aims at improving the well-being of the family, and accordingly the well-being of the whole society. Home Economics Education started in the Kingdom in the last quarter of the 14th century AH. It was introduced as a branch of knowledge in the universities and girls’ colleges in the beginning of the seventies. KFU is considered as one of the leading universities to introduce the discipline in 1398-99 AH, with the aim to prepare the girls students for personal, family and professional life.

The future of Home Economics is the responsibility of the universities and colleges, since their graduates are employed for different jobs. Therefore, it is the duty of these institutions to revise the study plans & curricula of the discipline, in a world of accelerating changes. But since the establishment of the Home Economics Department at KFU, there has not been a study to obtain the opinions of the students & graduates on the study plan. Therefore, this study attempts to obtain the students & graduates points of views on the current Home Economics study plan at the bachelor level, with regard to its contribution to the professional and personal development and preparation for family life. The study also aims at verifying the students points of views on the quality & quantity of the material taught and the graduates points of views on the quality.

The samples of the study were limited to (156) senior level students and (262) graduates randomly selected. Two questionnaires were designed, one for the students and the other for the graduates.

The results of the study, according to the students sample, indicated that the course contents of areas, considered to be fundamental in Home Economics, are inadequate. Also the degree of benefiting from the material taught falls below 50% for most of the areas of Home Economics. So the quantity & quality of the syllabus content need to be revised. Results also showed that there are differences between the opinions of students and graduates with regard to the extent of benefiting from the material taught. The study indicated that the number of courses in Art & Art Education has to be revised, too. Equilibrium between theoretical and practical courses has to be considered when revising Home Economic study plan, as well as supplying the discipline with the necessary references.

The study showed that 66.7% of the students and 78.5% of the graduates indicated that the Home Economics study plan highly contributed to their preparation for family life while 52.6% of the students and 76.6% of the graduates indicated that the plan contributed highly to their personal development. As for the professional preparation, the percentage has been low. Therefore this problem has to be considered when revising the plan of Home Economics.

* King Faisal University- Home Economics Dept.