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Internship education analysis of vocational school students

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Abstract

The main purpose of vocational and technical education is to make the individuals gain; knowledge, ability, and practice sufficiency which are needed for particular occupation. On the other hand the main function is to make the individual provide financial income and with this be useful to society at social and economic ways. Vocational and technical education has great affection power at development of country's economy with human labor qualities. For this reason, in the developed countries vocational and technical education has special importance. In the developed countries; for more strong economy and more rapid social development, more qualified work labor is need to be provided. With this purpose, an effort is made to develop vocational and technical education.

In Turkey, vocational schools are one of the most important education institutions at raising qualified human power. It is aimed the vocational school students to have more theoretical knowledge than technical man, and more practice ability than engineers by graduating with technician title. The cooperation between university and industry has importance at vocational school graduates having these abilities. In the education programs; students must continue a part of their education at industrial companies for 30 working days duration. This process is named as internship and it is necessary for the students to graduate. Students can find various abilities during the period where they were at the companies.

In this study; it is aimed to analyze the expectations from internship education, and the gained knowledge and abilities of Marmara University Vocational School of Technical Sciences students. According to this, an answer is searched to the question "What kind of knowledge and abilities do the vocational school students gain during the internship period?" The universe of this study is the students studying at Marmara University Vocational School of Technical Sciences programs. It is goaled to discuss the education partnership between vocational school and industry according to the knowledge and abilities the students gained during the internship period.

Keywords: Vocational school; vocational education; internship; industry cooperation; vocational application.

1. Introduction

In today's world we are experiencing rapid changes in the information and technology field. Keeping up pace with this ever so rapidly changing technology, to follow the new developments and protect the freshness of acquired information are the basic factors that determine the profile of human power which is required by today's society. (Soran, Akkoyunlu, Kavak, 2006) .

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Vocational and technical education plays an active role as a man-power training tool in determining the society's welfare level. The targets that make vocational and technical education economically compulsory can be listed as follows: Meeting the needs of the labour market, increasing the efficiency in production and quality, reducing unemployment, producing cheaper and qualitier goods and services, increasing the competitiveness in both domestic and international markets, using the resources according to the principles of efficiency and rationality, monitoring and interpretation of modern technology and it's reflection on the production of the goods and services, materializing fast-stable and healthy economic growth.(National Education Magazine,2002)

To succeed in profession one need to possess theoretical and practical knowledge. The contents of the applicationary classes and the applied technology that are carried out in the workshops and laboratories, lags behind the level of welfare. Therefore, internship applications make it possible for students and teaching staff who are monitoring them to follow emerging technology in parallel with current and live applications.

Internship applications that enable students to communicate with businesses, and with the references gained after graduation, it helps them to have their services hired in an rapidly changing and globalizing business world, has a great importance in vocational education. Internship experience can be seen as a factor that makes individuals different from others during their career periods.

During the internship period, which is also called job training students having to known what career they would like to pursuit, make better plans the future by determining the topics and chapters they are interested. Whilst academic informations turns into observation based practical applications in work environment they become permanent information. Throughout this education they gain new talents, practical knowledge and vision in order to solve problems they may have to encounter during working life , in most appropriate manner and as soon as possible within the framework of logic and information. Meantime they understand the importance of team-work and their optimum time using and responsibility skills would develop hence they grow in confidence in themselves and their courage would increase.

In accordance with this information " Vocational School of Technical Sciences of Marmara University and Industry co-operation" titled project that supported by Scientific Research Projects Unit of Marmara University Rectorate has started and between the dates of 21-22 nd of April, same named workshop was organized. Below it's scoope and some found findings are given.

2. Method

Vocational training is provided within the technical programs department of Marmara University's Vocational School of Technical Sciences for Turkey's 10 different most important industries. In the College education and training are given in electric and electronics technology, mechanical and computer programming, printing and publishing technologies, electronic communication technology, fisheries and aquaculture, bio-medical equipments, jewelry and jewelry technologies. In the 2008-09 academic year, 1985 students have been studying.

In this study, within the context of project, headlined 'Co-operation of Marmara University Vocational School of Technical Sciences and the Industry' which was aimed to improve the infrastructure of vocational school of technical sciences, surveys have been prepared in order to determine the problems students have encountered, their expectations fro the training and also what related sectors expected from trainings and their solution suggestions.The collected data from these two researches were analyzed using SPSS statistical package programme(17.0) .

3. Findings

In this section there are findings and comments that have been reached as a result of statistical analysis.. The research has taken place to determine the perspectives of students and industry and it's done to shed light on the re-structuring of the internship which will be held in our college in the future. Therefore, survey results which are applied differently to both groups, valued separately.

3.1. Industry findings

The research field is made up by 493 enterprises. When the legal organizational structures of these enterprises are taken into consideration it is noted that 52% of those are Limited companies, 32% are family businesses and 11% are joint-stock companies. While 1% of these enterprises are avoiding to respond to this question it is noted that

small group of businesses seem to established their organizational structures as collective enterprises and limited companies.

Within the context of work when these businesses are taken into consideration in terms of people they employ it is noted they 44% employ 1-9 people, 24% employ 10-24 people, 14% employ 25-49 people, 9% employ 50-99 people. In total, 5% of enterprises employ 100-149 people.

When the concerned businesses were asked about the areas they wish to collaborate, unfortunately, it was observed that 47% of enterprises were not in favour of co-operation. From the results of researches it is noted that they consider marketing and exporting which they hope to be beneficial to them in the region of 23% and staff training 23%.The data obtained from researches once again shows that enterprises wish to cooperate 11% in job training and 5% in employing the graduates. (Figure 1)

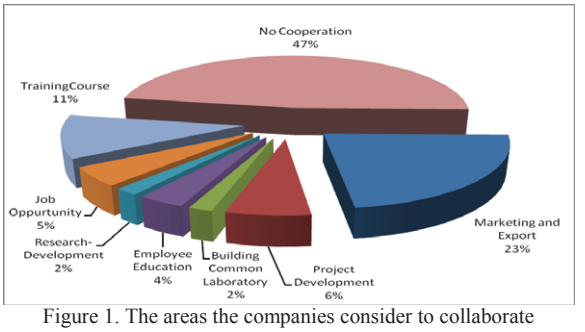

Figure 1. The areas the companies consider to collaborate

When the enterprises were asked to share their views on the graduate students performances they valued students problem detection ability(A) 50%, team-work skills(B) 44%, individuall working skills(C) 49%, life log learning ability(D) 46%, up-dating their knowledge skills(E) 43%, professional and ethical responsibility awareness(F) 49%, performing and timing ability(G) 39% and quality awareness(H) 46%. (Figure 2)

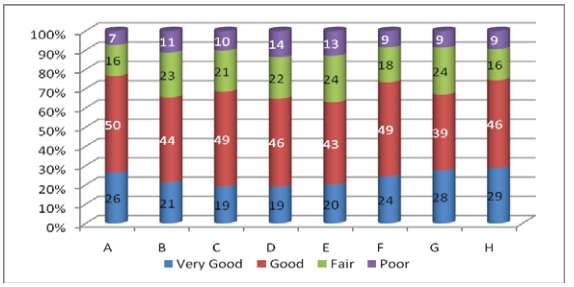

Figure 2. The performance of graduates

3.2. Student findings

Research field is made up by 979 students who have been studying at vocational school's 10 programs. The distribution of these students according to programmes is shown in figure 3.

While 44% of the students in question who were yet to do a training, it is said that 38% of students have done their training in the second year, 18% in the first year.

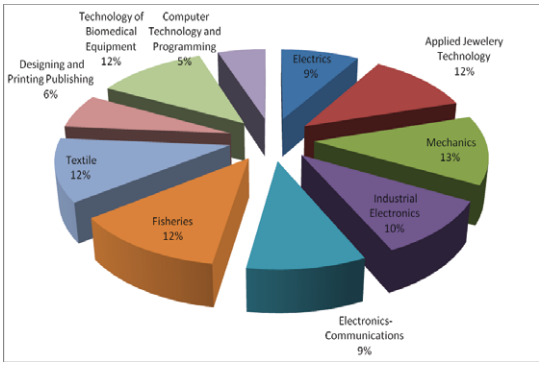

Figure 3. Student distribution according to programmes

When students were asked about the problems they may have encountered during training 34% of them described the distance issue as the most important problem.The per centage of the students who indicated not having education during the training is17%. 18% of students considered location finding problem as the second most important issue. Not having an advisor during training is considered as a problem by 16% of students. Students who were forced to undertake duties outside their professional fields during training make up the 5% of trainees. (Figure 4)

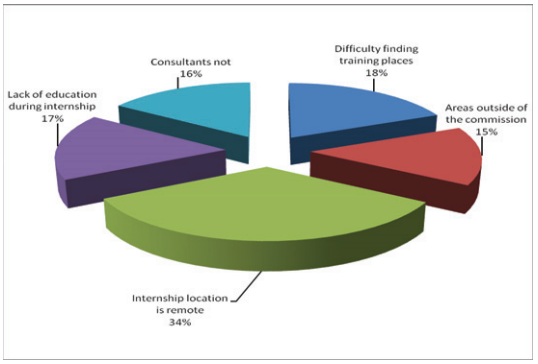

Figure 4. Problems encountered during training

4. Discussion

Studies that are done by different researchers at different times shows that students expectations from training can be listed as follow; being considered as cheap labour by employers, diffuculties they have in adapting to business life, having forced to work outside their fields, social-rights related issues(insurance, holidays, wages and so on.), nutrition and housing issues, employers failure to recognize the necessary importance of job trainig.(2008)

The results obtained in this study are directly proportional with other research results. Especially, the big distance between the place of their residence and enterprise's location and its reluctance in providing the transportation causes big problems for trainee students.

5. Conclusion and Recommendation

The problems that encountered during training cause it to remain on paper. As a result, training application which is thought to be one of the basic needs of education that is carried out in a way in which it doesn' serve any purpose,happened to be undesirable situation.

Therefore, it is essential to provide incentive measures in order to have both businesse and educational institutions as well as students to participate in training applications.Platforms need to be created where all the stakeholders of the relevant sectors (industry,profesional organizations and educational institutions) came together and make common denominator. In this matter state will need to create a solution-focused sanctions.

The issues state has to consider during institutionizing of internship applications listed below.

- During the internship students have to be paid wage in parallel with minumum wage and this to be protected with regulations.
- An oppurtunity should be given to students which would allow them to make contribution to production by 50%, another 50% for reviews and observations.
- A unit which would help to regulate training applications and provide coordination between university and industry, has to be put together.
- Depending on the labour force that are needed in the industry, the characteristics of training places may be provided through internship coordination unit.
- In enterprises, where internship is provided, after graduation employment can be made possible by courtesy of this unit.
- The internship cordination unit can also provide students with housing which would enable them to do their trainings away from their homes.

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