

Abstract

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This study was undertaken to determine the level of competency and work related preparedness among Work and Travel program participants of Mariners' Polytechnic College, Naga City, of A/Y 2014-2015. It answered the following questions: 1) What is the profile of the work and travel participants? 2) What is the level of competency among Work and Travel participants along leadership, communication, problem solving and critical thinking skills? 3) What is the level of work related preparedness among work and travel participants along the Seven Flow Conditions?

The methods used in this study was descriptive evaluative method and had 22 respondents who participated in the program. The major tool used in gathering data was questionnaire formulated w/ the basic theories from professional researchers who are vital and proficient in their own field of work. The data gathered were analyzed and interpreted through frequency distribution, weighted mean and ranking methods.

The major findings were: 1) The demographic profile of the respondents showed proficiency and readiness to venture in the Work and Travel program of United Towers Philippines. The participants had adequate resources, skills and knowledge acquired to travel and experience a world class on-the-job training in the United States of America. 2) The level of competency of the participants most especially in the communication skills ranked first followed by problem solving skills. Critical thinking ranked third and ranked fourth was leadership skills. The overall weighted mean of the key set of skills is highly competent. 3) The level of work related preparedness in the basis of the Seven Flow conditions indicated high perceived challenges as 1st in rank. High perceived skills

which ranked 2nd. Knowing what to do which ranked 3rd. Knowing how to do it rank 4th. Knowing where to go ranked 5th. Freedom from distraction rank 6th. Knowing how well you are doing ranked 7th.

The major conclusion of the study were: 1) in respect to the company and the agency, the institution along with the Practicum Coordinator made sure that the students participating in the said program are 2nd, 3rd, 4th year student and are of legal age to travel to the United States. 2) Competency is a cluster of related abilities, commitment, knowledge and skills that enable a person or an organization to act effectively on a job or situation. Further the program improved communication skills of students' competency. The students' improved confidence in conversing with different nationalities and was able to share the culture they were born in and most importantly to speak confidently and naturally using the English language. It also indicated the improvement of problem solving skills which evaluates the students' response to inconvenient scenarios along critical thinking which include the students' capacity to actively and skillfully conceptualize. Apply, analyze, synthesize, and/or evaluate information with this key set of skills, the program had a big effect on the level of competency of each participant. 3) In line with work related preparedness, the participants in work and travel program have acquired international experience, which will be of great help for applying in the near future. Moreover, the skills and knowledge acquired during and after the program indicates work related preparedness among the respondents. Generally, the majority of the respondent was highly competent to many given challenges in terms of work and highly prepared to changes in context of the work setting and ethics as well.