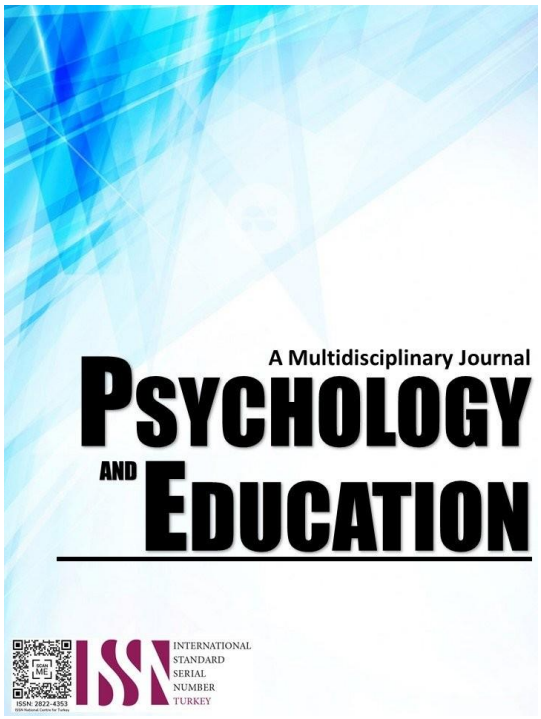
EMPLOYABILITY OF GRADE 12 TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL LIVELIHOOD (TVL) GRADUATES FROM SCHOOLS IN HIGHLY INDUSTRIALIZED DISTRICTS OF LAGUNA



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Research Article

Employability of Grade 12 Technical Vocational Livelihood (TVL) Graduates from Schools in Highly Industrialized Districts of Laguna

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Abstract

This study aimed to determine the employability of Grade 12 Technical, Vocational, and Livelihood (TVL) graduates from schools in highly industrialized districts of Laguna. The researcher employed a descriptive quantitative research design using a correlational method. This involved gathering and analyzing numerical data to test the hypothesis. The researchers utilized the purposive random sampling method to select respondents for the study. It is crucial to select a representative sample of graduates from schools in highly industrialized districts of Laguna. The study will employ a research-made survey questionnaire as the primary data collection tool. Relative Frequency, Weighted Mean, Chi-Square, Pearson-r correlation were the statistical tools used in the study. The results revealed that the majority of TVL graduates were moderately prepared. They possessed technical skills acquired through hands-on training in various fields such as automotive technology, culinary arts, electronics, and welding. Additionally, they demonstrated adaptability and flexibility, as they were trained to work effectively in diverse environments and handle various tasks and responsibilities. To enhance employability, it is recommended to develop an industry-driven curriculum that aligns with the needs and requirements of industries in highly industrialized districts. Regular updates to the curriculum should be made to incorporate the latest technologies, skills, and industry trends.

Keywords: *employability, work immersion, TVL students, descriptive design*

Introduction

The employability of Grade 12 Technical Vocational Livelihood (TVL) graduates from schools in highly industrialized districts of Laguna is a topic of great importance and relevance. Laguna, located in the Philippines, is known for its thriving industrial sector, with numerous multinational companies and manufacturing plants operating within the region. As such, the demand for skilled workers in various technical and vocational fields is significant.

Grade 12 TVL programs are designed to provide students with specialized knowledge and practical skills in specific vocations, such as automotive technology, electronics, computer hardware servicing, culinary arts, and many more. These programs aim to equip students with the necessary competencies and qualifications to meet the needs of the local industry.

The employability of Grade 12 TVL graduates in highly industrialized districts of Laguna is generally favorable due to several reasons. Firstly, the curriculum of TVL programs is tailored to the specific requirements of the industrial sector, ensuring that students gain practical skills and knowledge that are directly applicable to the workplace. This makes TVL graduates highly desirable for employers who seek skilled workers with hands-on experience.

Secondly, the presence of numerous multinational companies and manufacturing plants in highly industrialized districts of Laguna creates a wide range of employment opportunities for TVL graduates. These companies often prefer to hire local talent as it reduces recruitment costs and ensures a steady supply of skilled workers.

Additionally, the partnerships between educational institutions and industry stakeholders play a crucial role in enhancing the employability of TVL graduates. These collaborations often include internship programs, on-the-job training, and apprenticeships, providing students with real-world experience and exposure to the demands of the industry. Such opportunities not only allow students to apply their acquired skills but also enable them to build professional networks and establish connections with potential employers.

Research Objective

This study aimed to determine the Employability of Grade 12 Technical, Vocational, Livelihood Graduates from Schools in Highly Industrialized Districts of Laguna.

Methodology

Research Design

The researcher used descriptive correlational research design method for this study that involves gathering and analyzing numerical data and eventually tests the hypothesis. Seeram, E. (2019), state that correlational research is a type of non-experimental research that facilitates prediction and explanation of the relationship among variables. According to Calderon (2016), descriptive research is a purposeful process that involves gathering, analyzing, classifying, and tabulating data to provide an accurate interpretation of prevailing conditions, practices, processes, trends, and cause-effect relationships. This method is used to describe the general characteristics of a group under study, either qualitatively or quantitatively, or both. Descriptive research aims to investigate one or more variables and often utilizes quantitative methods to collect and analyze data. It allows researchers to gather and describe the nature of demographic segments in a quantifiable manner, providing the necessary information for statistical analysis.

Population and Sampling

Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling method commonly used in research to select participants who possess specific characteristics or meet predetermined criteria. According to Campbell et al. (2020), purposive sampling is chosen as a sampling method in research to ensure a better alignment between the sample and the aims and objectives of the study. This approach enhances the rigor of the research and increases the trustworthiness of the data and results. By specifically selecting participants or cases that are most relevant to the research questions and objectives, purposive sampling allows researchers to gather in-depth and meaningful information that directly relates to their study. This deliberate selection process helps to ensure that the sample represents the specific characteristics or qualities of interest, improving the overall quality and relevance of the research findings. In the context of studying the employability of Grade 12 Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (TVL) graduates in highly industrialized districts of Laguna, purposive sampling can be applied as follows:

Researchers established specific criteria or characteristics that are relevant to the research objectives. For example, the criteria might include recent Grade 12 TVL graduates who have completed specific TVL programs (e.g., ICT, Automotive Technology) from schools located in highly industrialized districts of Laguna. Researchers identified potential participants who meet the established criteria. This can be done through collaboration with schools, educational institutions, or other relevant organizations in the selected districts. The researchers can obtain a list of eligible Grade 12 TVL graduates and their contact information.Once potential participants are identified, researchers contacted them (respondents), explain the research objectives and procedures, and seek their informed consent to participate in the study. It is crucial to ensure that participants understand their rights and the voluntary nature of their involvement.

Research Instrument

A research-made survey questionnaire will become the main tool that this study opts to use. In order to ensure the contents and relevance of the questions in a research questionnaire, it is common practice for the researcher to seek validation from a competent authority, preferably someone with a doctoral degree in the relevant field, such as English. This validation process involves sharing the questionnaire with the authority and seeking their feedback and input.During the validation process, the validating person will review the questionnaire and assess its contents, structure, and relevance to the research objectives. They may provide suggestions, propose changes, or offer recommendations to improve the questionnaire's clarity, comprehensibility, and alignment with the research goals.

Results and Discussion

Based on the data gathered, researcher found out that majority of the respondents aged 18 years old with 147 respondents out of 210 or 70.00 percent. Data also revealed that most of the respondents were all male with 130 out of 210 respondents or 61.90 percent, most of them were ICT strand with 98 out of 210 or 46.70 percent and majority were graduated at Southville 5-A NHS. Data also shows that most of the respondents earned NC2 certification.Based on the data gathered, researcher found out that most of the respondents waited one year or more to get hired, wherein most were part-timer, with a position as contractual and most were hired based on their certification or licensure gained.

Based on the result of the study, researcher found out that respondents were moderately prepared because they possess technical skills acquired through hands-on training in various fields such as automotive

technology, culinary arts, electronics, or welding and undergone rigorous training to develop their practical skills and proficiency in their chosen vocational fields. Furthermore, respondents were moderately prepared because they gained experience in teamwork and collaboration, as they often work in groups or with colleagues to accomplish tasks and projects.

Additionally, researchers also found out that respondents were minimally prepared because they cultivate adaptability and flexibility, as they are trained to work in diverse environments and handle various tasks and responsibilities effectively and Developed teamwork and collaboration skills through group projects and practical training, enabling them to work harmoniously with colleagues and contribute to collective goals. Moreover, respondents also minimally prepared because they developed effective communication skills, enabling them to convey ideas, instructions, and information clearly and professionally in the workplace.

Researcher also found out that respondents agree that respondents were moderately prepared because have the advantage of being highly specialized and ready to meet the demands of their respective industries and the track and strand system in TVL education ensures that graduates are well-prepared with the specific technical skills, industry knowledge, and competencies required for their chosen vocational tracks. Additionally, respondents also moderately prepared because they undergone track and strand programs that have in-depth knowledge and skills related to their specialized vocational areas, enabling them to contribute immediately to the workforce upon graduation.

Moreover, researcher found out that respondents were moderately prepared because they demonstrated a strong foundation in industry-specific knowledge and practices through the learning competencies, enabling them to adapt to new technologies, trends, and challenges in their vocational fields and acquired effective communication skills as part of the learning competencies, allowing them to convey ideas, collaborate with colleagues, and interact professionally with clients or customers in their respective industries. Moreover, respondents were moderately prepared because the learning competencies in TVL education are designed to align with industry standards and requirements, ensuring graduates possess the necessary skills and competencies that are in demand in the job market.

Researcher found out that respondents obtain a high employability because employers highly value TVL graduates with job-relevant skills, as they can quickly contribute to the workplace, requiring less training and onboarding and the job relevance of TVL programs fosters a strong connection between the education provided and the skills demanded by employers, leading to successful transitions from education to employment. Moreover, respondents obtain a high employability because they enhanced the graduates' value proposition to employers, increasing their chances of obtaining higher-paying positions and better career prospects.

Conclusion

Researcher concluded that most of the TVL graduates were moderately prepared because they possessed technical skills acquired through hands-on training in various fields such as automotive technology, culinary arts, electronics, or welding and cultivated adaptability and flexibility, as they are trained to work in diverse environments and handle various tasks and responsibilities effectively. Furthermore, respondents were also moderately prepared because they have the advantage of being highly specialized and ready to meet the demands of their respective industries and demonstrated a strong foundation in industry-specific knowledge and practices through the learning competencies, enabling them to adapt to new technologies, trends, and challenges in their vocational fields. (1) Based on the findings, researchers also concluded that majority of the TVL graduates obtain a high employability because employers highly value TVL graduates with job-relevant skills, as they can quickly contribute to the workplace, requiring less training and onboarding and job satisfaction among TVL graduates contributes to their professional growth and development, as it fosters a positive work environment that supports their learning and advancement. Furthermore, respondents obtain a high employability because they reflect the market need for their specific skill sets, making them sought-after candidates in their respective fields and can stay updated on industry trends, job openings, and professional development opportunities, helping them stay competitive in the job market. updated on industry trends, job openings, and professional development opportunities, helping them stay competitive in the job market. (2) Researchers also concluded that from the data presented it revealed that the researchers' null hypothesis was rejected, wherein there is a significant relationship between the level of preparedness for job readiness of Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (TVL) graduates and the level of employability of Technical-Vocational Livelihood (TVL) graduates in the highly industrialized districts of Laguna.

To enhance the employability of Grade 12 Technical, Vocational, Livelihood (TVL) graduates from schools in highly industrialized districts of Laguna and prepare them for the demands of the modern workplace, here are some recommendations: (1)The school heads need to ensure that the TVL curriculum aligns with the needs and requirements of industries in highly industrialized districts. Regularly update the curriculum to incorporate the latest technologies, skills, and industry trends. (2) The schools are encouraged to establish partnerships with local industries and companies to provide work-based learning opportunities such as internships, apprenticeships, and on-the-job training. (3) The schools may offer comprehensive career guidance and counseling services to assist students in making informed decisions about their career paths. Provide information about various industries, job prospects, and skills in demand. Help students explore different career options and develop personalized career plans.
(4) The school heads could establish strong connections with employers and alumni networks to facilitate job placement opportunities for TVL graduates. Regularly organize job fairs, career expos, and networking events to bridge the gap between graduates and potential employers. (5) Encourage TVL graduates to pursue continuous professional development by enrolling in relevant certification programs, workshops, and seminars. Provide support for lifelong learning initiatives and promote a culture of self-improvement and upskilling. By implementing these recommendations, Grade 12 TVL graduates will be better equipped to meet the demands of the modern workplace in highly industrialized districts of Laguna and increase their employability prospects.

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