

Employment status of the graduates of bachelor of physical education in Bicol state college of applied sciences and technology, Philippines

Emily J. Berja

Bicol State College of Applied Sciences and Technology, Naga City, Camarines Sur, Philippines

Abstract

The employability of graduates is a symbol of the quality of an academic institution. In addition, graduates are the product of the institutions' efforts to help the nation move forward. This tracer research was performed to assess the job status of Bachelor of Physical Education graduates of the Bicol State College of Applied Sciences and Technology A / Y 2018—2019. The survey instrument tailored to the study is the structured tracer study questionnaire formulated by the Higher Education Commission of the Philippines. The questionnaires have been distributed via the online platform. On the basis of the data provided, the majority of graduates are female. In addition, despite the graduation rating of "slightly satisfied" with their knowledge and skills acquired in the curriculum of the Bachelor of Physical Education, the majority of graduates are employed in different sectors of society. It is also found that the primary reason for those who were not employed was to pursue further studies. Based on the findings, there is a need for an institutionalized career counseling network for students to follow their key fields and for a forum between high school graduates and their parents and teachers to build a career direction and a successful work climate. In addition, the Bachelor of Physical Education curricula can be improved to guarantee that participants are prepared with the expertise they need to be at the same standard as the business.

Keywords: Bachelor of Physical Education, employment status, graduates, tracer study, descriptive study, Philippines

Introduction

An academic institution's mission is to provide quality and socially responsive graduates that will help in the nation's progress. One factor to determine the success of an academic institution is to determine the employability of its graduates [1]. The quality of graduates is very much a feature of quality education and services, since they will help ensure that graduates are prepared with the expertise, skills and values that will allow them to work in their respective fields. Based on the graduate employability survey of 2020, 9 out of 10 graduates are working; 86% found a job within six months after graduation; 66% are in private sector and 50% are on permanent contract [2].

Market factors determine the kind of competencies needed by the workforce, and universities need to look forward to bringing in and handling desirable transition. Graduate tracer studies are a reliable instrument for universities to assess the quality and functionality of the programs they offer to their graduates. They offer a solid basis for deliberate enhancement of both the material (curricular and associated activities) and the delivery of their instructional programs, such as teaching and learning. The best features of a university are its best advertisement. Properly planned and implemented tracer studies offer insight about the degree to which the institution's goal, purpose and goals, curriculum objectives and student learning outcomes have been accomplished.[3][4]

Bicol State College of Applied Sciences and Technology (BISCAST) at present as only state college for Applied Sciences and Technology in the country, it focused on the vision of the college to be a premier applied sciences and technology institution recognized as a prime mover for creativity, innovations and molder of globally competitive graduates.[4]

In 2015, BISCAST offered the Bachelor of Physical Education and produce the first graduates of the program last 2019. The program is one of the priority programs of Commission in Higher Education. The program is

expected to produce graduates that are equip with capabilities at par with international standards. This tracer study is intended to recognize the job predicament of BPE that is critical for university planners and administrators, as it will act as a framework for better strategies to enhance its existing program for students and group clients it represents.

Objectives of the Study

This study was conducted to determine the employment status of the graduates of Bachelor of Physical Education (BPE) in Bicol State College of Applied Sciences and Technology, Philippines. Specifically, it aimed to determine the gender profile of the BPE graduates and the employment status of the graduates.

Methods and Materials

Research Design

The descriptive analysis approach was used in this study to assess the job status of Bachelor of Physical Education graduates at the Bicol State College of Applied Sciences and Technology A / Y 2018-2019.

Research Locale and Participants

The study was conducted in the province of Camarines Sur, Philippines where almost all of the graduates are residing. Names and addresses of the graduates were secured from the college registrar's office.

Instrumentation

The instrument used to gather the data is adapted from the tracer study questionnaire developed by the Commission of Higher Education for Tertiary Graduates [5]. The CHED instrument was adopted and embedded in Google form then distributed through email and facebook messenger of the target respondents.

Data Collection

The data were collected through the administration of survey questionnaire to the target respondents. With the onset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, physical contact was prohibited thus the questionnaires were sent through email and facebook messenger.

Snowball random sampling technique were utilized to recruit more respondents for the tracer study [6]. The number of respondents were determined using the Slovin's Formula.

The data collected was sorted , encoded, tabulated and analyzed using the Social Sciences Statistical Package (SPSS) program. Results were presented in graphs and table.

Results and Discussions

Gender Profile of the Respondents

Shown in Figure 1, is the gender profile of the respondents. Results in the gender profile of the respondents showed that the majority of the graduates are female which encompasses 53.3% of the total number of respondents. This is in contrast with the data of the Philippine Statistics Authority where males dominate females in terms of population in the Philippines [7]. Data are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Personal profile of the respondents

Categories	F	%
------------	---	---

Male	48	46.6
Female	55	53.3
Total	103	100

Knowledge and Skills Acquired from the Course/Degree Program

Knowledge and skills acquired from the course/degree program showed an overall mean of 3.43 interpreted as “slightly satisfied”. Looking into the individual item, Enhanced Academic Knowledge (\bar{x} =3.36), Improved Problem Solving Skills (\bar{x} =3.30), Improved Research Skills (\bar{x} =3.12), Improved Learning Efficiency (\bar{x} =3.48), Improved Communication Skills (\bar{x} =3.44), and Improved Information Technology Skills (\bar{x} =3.28) all were interpreted as “slightly satisfied”.

Enhanced Creativity and Innovativeness (\bar{x} =3.60), Enhanced Teamwork Spirit (\bar{x} =3.66), and Enhanced Work Competencies (\bar{x} =3.62) were interpreted as “moderately satisfied”. This implies that the graduates had very effective instructors and professors since they were satisfied with the knowledge and skills they have acquired in their course. However, there is still a need to develop their skills and competencies some areas for them to be at par with the required technical skills and competencies of the industry.

Table 2 Knowledge and skills acquired from courses/degree program

Knowledge and Skills	Mean	Interpretation
Enhanced Academic Knowledge	3.36	Slightly Satisfied
Improved Problem Solving Skills	3.30	Slightly Satisfied
Improved Research Skills	3.12	Slightly Satisfied
Improved Learning Efficiency	3.48	Slightly Satisfied
Improved Communication Skills	3.44	Slightly Satisfied
Improved Information Technology Skills	3.28	Slightly Satisfied
Enhanced Creativity and Innovativeness	3.60	Moderately Satisfied
Enhanced Teamwork Spirit	3.66	Moderately Satisfied
Enhanced Work Competencies	3.62	Moderately Satisfied
Total	3.43	Slightly Satisfied

Scale: 1-2.24 Not satisfied, 2.25-3.49 slightly satisfied, 3.50-4.74 moderately satisfied, 4.75-6.00 very satisfied

Employment Status

Based on the results gathered there was high percentage of employed BPE graduates (70.9%) and other who ventures in opening their own business for them to be self-employed (3.88%) over the unemployed (25.24%) ones. This result implies that the majority of the graduates are currently employed after they have earned their bachelor’s degree.

Table 3. Number of employed/unemployed graduates

Categories	(f)	%
Employed	73	70.9
Self Employed	4	3.88
Not Employed	26	25.24
Total	103	100.0

Reasons for Unemployment

When the unemployed graduates were asked for reasons why they were not employed at the time of the study, many of them cited that they are pursuing further studies (42.3%) as the main reason. This was followed by some other reasons they don't want to disclose (26.92), family responsibility (15.28%) with only three (11.53%) cited that they not yet interested to join the labor force. However, there were one (3.84%) who have a health problem.

This implies that BPE graduates would like to take further studies and can't manage it with working at the same time and some are likely undecided of what work they wanted to venture on.

Table 4. Reasons for Unemployment

Reasons	F	%
Further studies	11	42.3
Not yet interested in work	3	11.53
Health problems	1	3.84
Family Responsibility	4	15.38
Others	7	26.92

Present Occupation

Presented in table 5 is the present occupation of the BPE graduates. Most of the graduates are massage therapist (14.5%), followed by fitness instructor (7.8%) and teacher (7.8%). Then the remaining graduates are in varied fields and occupation.

This result implies that most of the graduates landed in a job related to their degree.

Table 5. Present Occupation

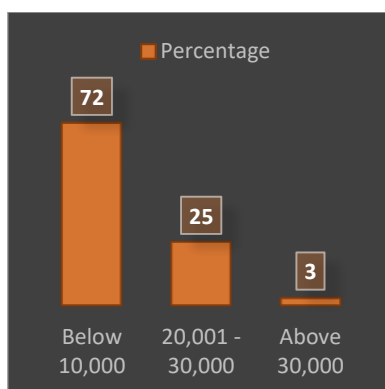
Present Occupation	Frequency	Percent (%)
Administrative Staff	7	6.8
Business owner	2	1.9

CCTV and VHF Radio Operator	1	0.09
Contact Tracer	10	9.7
Customer Service Representative	7	6.8
Enumerator	4	3.8
Teacher	8	7.7
Massage Therapist	15	14.5
Fitness Instructor	8	7.8
Nursing Attendant	1	0.09
Tutor	7	6.8
Registration Officer	1	0.09
Sales Assistant	4	3.8
Team Supervisor	1	0.09
Training officer	1	0.09
Total	77	100.0

Monthly Salary

As to the monthly salary of the respondents, it was found out that majority were earning ₱ 10,000.00 and below per month (72%). This was followed by those graduates earning ₱20,001.00 to less than ₱30,000.00 (14%) with only 2 (3%) having a monthly salary of more than ₱30,000.00. These findings show that most of the graduates earned an income that were not enough to sustain an expenditure of one basic family.[8]

Figure 1. Monthly Income of Currently Employed BPE Graduates



Conclusions and Recommendations

Most graduates of Bachelor of Physical Education are female and majority of the graduates pursue higher degree of education. It can also be implied that the program should be enhanced since the graduates are slightly satisfied with the knowledge and skills they have acquired from the program. However, despite their satisfaction, most graduates are currently employed in different sectors and are earning ₱ 10,000.00 and below per month.

Based on the findings of the study, there is a need for an institutionalized career guidance network for students before pursuing their main fields and for a forum between high school graduates and their parents and teachers to create a career option and a successful environment of work. In addition, the curricula for Bachelor of Physical Education should be enhanced to ensure that the graduates are equip with the capabilities they need to be at par with the industry.

REFERENCES

- Celis, M. I. C., Festijo, B., & Cueto, A. (2013). Graduate's employability: A tracer study for Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management. *Asian Academic Research Journal of Multidisciplinary*, 1(11), 225-238.
- Graduate employability survey 2020. (n.d.). Calameo.Com. Retrieved October 12, 2020, from <https://www.calameo.com/sciencespo/read/00416045413a4258c7369>
- Tanhueco-Tumapon, T. (2016, September 9). Graduate tracer studies. *The Manila Times*. <https://www.manilatimes.net/2016/09/09/opinion/columnists/graduate-tracer-studies/284763/>
- Cuadra, L. J., Aure, M. R. K. L., & Gonzaga, G. L. (2019). The Use of Tracer Study in Improving Undergraduate Programs in the University. *Asia Pacific Higher Education Research Journal (APHERJ)*, 6(1).
- History – bicol state college of applied sciences and technology. (n.d.). Retrieved October 12, 2020, from <https://www.biscast.edu.ph/history/>
- Stephanie. (2014, December 10). Snowball sampling: Definition, advantages and disadvantages. *Statistics How To*. <https://www.statisticshowto.com/snowball-sampling/>
- Philippines population (2020) live—Countrymeters. (n.d.). Retrieved October 12, 2020, from <https://countrymeters.info/en/Philippines>
- Mapa, C. (December, 2019). Annual Family Income is Estimated at PhP 313 Thousand, on Average, In 2018. *Philippine Statistic Authority*. Reference No. 2019-206.