

Potentiality and Readiness of TNI Students for the Work in Organizations

Penkhae Prachonpachanuk

College of General Education and Languages

Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand.

penkhae@tni.ac.th

Abstract - The main aims of this study were to find out the students' opinions concerning their potentialities and readiness for work at organizations in the areas of academic, vocational and experiences. The students' opinions and suggestions concern the preparation for work were also complied. Five hundred and seventy-six students were randomly selected for the study. Data analysis was made by various types of statistic: percentage, mean (\bar{X}), S.D., t-test, F-test, Scheffe's Method and Content Analysis. The results came out that the students' potentiality were in average level and readiness for work was in low level. The students suggested varieties of teaching method and training activities. The "Monozukuri" and "Practice-Oriented" teaching methods and techniques as well as field trip to place activities should be arranged.

Keywords - Potentiality and Readiness, Work in Organizations, Monozukuri, Practice-oriented Teaching Method and Technique, Field Trip to Places

I. INTRODUCTION

Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology has a strong goal to produce well qualified students who are keen in their areas of study: Engineering, Information Technology and Business Administration. In addition, the students should have high skills in performing their work after their graduation from TNI. In order to pursue the goal, TNI has set the main philosophy and strategies for the students' teaching-learning. The main philosophy of TNI is to create the Thai personnel in Science and Technology who are able to work efficiently in the Thai and foreign organizations or manufactures, especially in the Japanese enterprises. For this purpose, the main teaching strategies at TNI should be the "Skill Practices" or "Monozukuri" in Japanese, which means "Learning by Practicing". During their studies at TNI, the students are required to take courses that can be divided into 3 main parts: Foundation Courses in Languages, Social Science, and Sciences: Courses related to one own major and the last one is the skill training or experience training. By all of these 3 parts, it is expected that the students will be well trained and are ready for the work at any organizations in Thailand or in foreign countries (College of General Education and Languages, 2009).

In order to find out the student's potentiality and readiness for the work in organizations, a research study was conducted in 2009 academic year. The research had three main purposes: 1) To find out students' opinions concerning their potentialities and readiness for the work in organizations in the areas of academic, vocational, and experience. 2) To compare students' opinions varied by gender, school year, major, faculty, and grade average.

3) To compile the students' opinions and suggestions concerning the preparation for work.

The result of this study can be used as the indicator to show the real potentiality and readiness of TNI students for work in organizations. The information derived from this study will be very useful for TNI staffs to develop the appropriate curriculum and teaching techniques for the students. It will be very helpful for TNI as well for the plan for uplifting the students' skills later on.

Limitation of the study

In this study, potentiality and readiness to work of the students derived from the opinions of the students who were studying the first year to the fourth year in different faculties and majors in the year 2009 of TNI.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

Five hundred and seventy-six students or 64% of 900 students who were the first year to the fourth year students at TNI in the year 2009 in 3 faculties: Engineering, Information Technology and Business Administration, were randomly selected by using simple random technique.

Data collection was made at TNI on the second semester, 2009 academic year by the questionnaire asking the students about their potentiality and readiness for their work according to the studying program arranged by the Institute. The students' suggestions in terms of the appropriate ways to help lift up their skills and readiness were also made.

Data analysis was made by various types of statistic techniques: percentage, mean, standard deviation, t-test, F-test and Content Analysis.

III. RESEARCH RESULT

Research results were as follows:

1. Seventy percent of the samples were the first and second year students, the rest of the group were the third and fourth year students.

2. It was found out that TNI students have the average level of potentialities by all areas: academic, vocational and experiences, and in each area ($\bar{x} = 3.13$, $\bar{x} = 2.89$, $\bar{x} = 3.01$). However, readiness in academic, vocational and experience areas are in low level in all ($\bar{x} = 3.84$).

3. Students with different school year and grade average were different in potentialities and readiness. The second and third year students have higher levels of potentialities and readiness than the first and second year students.

4. For the readiness, it was found the items on setting the vocational experiences for the students all time and teaching by Monozukuri technique was at highest scores ($\bar{x} = 3.39$, $\bar{x} = 3.59$)

5. The students with different majors and faculties have different levels of potentialities and readiness. The engineering students and Information technology students have higher levels of vocational potentialities and experiences than the Business Administration students.

6. The students gave varieties of suggestion as follows: readiness should be prepared by arranging the field visit to the real places. The practice oriented teaching-learning methods should be introduced and arranged as soon as possible. In addition, the elective subjects should be arranged more sufficiently for the students.

7. The highest rank on suggestion was that the school should focus more on “practice-oriented” teaching learning philosophy so that the students can apply what they have learnt to their real work.

IV. DISCUSSION

From the study, it was shown that TNI students reported that their potentiality and readiness for work in organization were in low level, especially for the first and second year student. This may happen because in the year 2009, TNI was still a new established school and most of teaching learning systems was not well set. Thus, comparing this result to what were found at the other research studies, it was shown that in other studies, potentiality and readiness to work were in average or in above average level.

This may happen because most of the schools that had done this kind of research are more well established than TNI. However, it was also pointed out in these studies that these students' potentialities were not completely satisfied. Many of these students' specific potentialities were still in low level, such as academic abilities and foreign language abilities need to be more well prepared (Ladda Maimongkol, 2002; Pensupak Nawakitbamrung, 2008; Thongrian Amarachakul, 2009).

The suggestions which were made in these studies were that in the Thai higher educational institutions, preparation for the readiness for skills in foreign language such as English should be high recommended, since it was found that the weakest point of the Thai graduates was the inadequacy of the foreign language skills.

As for Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology, even though it was found that in the year 2009, the students' potentialities and readiness for the work in organizations were in average level, the students reported that there were 3 school arrangements that were most satisfied: arranging a well set vocational preparation for the student training, managing activities inside and outside of school, a well set teaching learning programs using Monozukuri technique in all classes and arranging a well set of English and Japanese program for the students. From the above discussion, we may say that the results of this study showed that Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology has set the well qualified background for the students in terms of potentialities and readiness for work in

organizations. The specific programs as set by the school such as “Monozukuri”, “Practice-oriented Teaching Technique” philosophy as well as “Language Skill-Oriented” philosophy will help the students to be the well qualified personnel or workers in any organizations in Thailand or in any other countries.

V. CONCLUSION

The results came out that TNI at the present time cannot equipped the students with full scale of readiness and potentiality for the work in organization. Then, the institution should find ways to help the students have more skills and readiness by improving teaching methods and techniques as well as setting the main teaching philosophy used in each faculty. So that students can have more chance for their preparation for potentiality and readiness for the work in organization. As for practical suggestions, the first point is that TNI students should have a chance to be real trained and can apply what they had learnt to work. The second point is to add up a lot more of practice oriented required subjects to the students, so that they can have more chances to improve their skills. The third point is to add up a lot more of field trip program for the students, so that they can have real experiences in learning. In addition, a lot more of training program should be added to the curriculum.

Finally, TNI should cooperate with various kinds of business and industrial sectors, so that the students can have chances for the job training in the real places and be able to prepare themselves for their future work.

REFERENCES

- [1] College of General Education and Languages. 2008. Self Assessment Report. Bangkok, Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology.
- [2] Maimongkol, L. 2002. A Study on the Required characteristics of Information Technology Graduates. Petchaburi: Rajapat Petchburi University.
- [3] Prachonpachanuk, P. 2009. Potentialities and Readiness of the Students for Work in Organizations. Bangkok, Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology.
- [4] Nawakitbamrung, P. 2009. Work Efficiency of the Graduates. Kon Khan, Kon Khan University.
- [5] Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology. 2009. Five Year Plan Strategies. Bangkok, Thai-Nichi Institute of Technology.
- [6] Amarahcakul, T. 2009. The Roles of School and Industry in Vocational Preparation. Bangkok, Srinakarinwirot University.