

**A SURVEY ON EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF GRADUATES OF
EASTERN UNIVERSITY AND THEIR EMPLOYER
SATISFACTION: SPECIAL REFERENCE TO TRINCOMALEE
DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

The employment of graduates to raise an organization's intellectual capital is not a new phenomenon and there is a less demand for graduates it is basically due to the miss-match between graduates' competencies and employers' expectations and also due to the weak relationship between university and the business sector. In this context, this research was carried out as a survey on employment status of graduates of Eastern University and their employer satisfaction in Trincomalee District. Objective of this survey are to identify the current status of graduates of EUSL in terms of employment status and career progression, to explore the satisfaction of employers in terms of professional and personal attributes of EUSL graduates, to assess the preferences of employers towards EUSL graduates when compared with graduates of other Universities during recruitment / selection, and to identify the relationship between overall level of satisfaction of employers and overall quality of EUSL graduates.

The entire EUSL graduates in Trincomalee District were considered as the population of this survey and 150 graduates were selected as sample from the population by using convenience sampling method. Structured questionnaire were used to collect data from the selected samples. Descriptive statistics and correlation analysis were used to analyze the data.

Finding of this survey revealed that most of the graduates are working as development officers in government sector. These graduates got their first job with one year, and only 41% of them completed their postgraduate studies. Furthermore, this survey discovered that employers have higher level of satisfaction towards EUSL graduates in terms of professional and personal attributes. Moreover, this survey highlighted that employers prefer to recruit EUSL graduates to their organizations in the future. Finally, this study shows there is a moderate positive relationship between overall quality of EUSL graduates and overall satisfaction of employers.

Keywords: Employment Status, Graduates Quality, Employer Satisfaction, Professional Attributes, Personal Attributes, Employer Preference

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