

Employment Array of Bachelor of Science in Criminology Graduates in Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology

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Abstract— In this modern world where contemporary educators are now dwelling in an ever-changing domain of corporate trends, innovations, transformation and improvements, it is, therefore, substantial to identify whether the programs offered by our academic institution can adapt to these moving developments. This objective can be achieved by following and tracing the arrays of our graduates. This study delved at tracing the graduates of Bachelor of Science in Criminology of Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology for Academic Year 2015–2016. In order to provide adequate and reliable information for the evaluation of the study, the descriptive method of research was used by the researcher to facilitate the gathering of information on the traceability of the abovementioned graduates. Results have shown that the majority of the graduates were male which means that the program is a male-dominated program. Furthermore, it was found out that at the present time, the majority of the graduates were employed under permanent status. It is also good to note that majority of the respondents were able to serve the country under their purpose due to the fact that majority of the criminology graduates were connected to different law enforcement agencies like the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology. It was also discovered that the majority of the respondents were able to get hired within six months after graduation. It can be concluded that the skills they have acquired from the college are relevant to their present job since these agencies found the need to hire them. It is recommended that the college should continue to make interventions in order to upkeep the performance of their graduates not just in the board exam but also in getting a better opportunity after passing the board exam and that is through improvement of the curriculum to make it more relevant for the better future of the graduates in order to achieve full employment of their products. The Alumni and Placement Services of the university should also intercede and help the graduates of the university in general and the College of Criminology in specific to give assistance to the graduates in terms of proper job placement and employment to minimize underemployment of its graduates.

Keywords— *criminology, employment array, graduates, job placement.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Studying in the Far Eastern countries just like the Philippines is very much important since it is considered as the primary portal for the social and economic mobility of the country. Realizing this facts, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) is tasked to government's obligation to transformational leadership that puts education as the main strategy for investing in the Filipinos, declining poverty, and creating national competitiveness that shall promote, among others, relevant and quality education which is reachable to all [1].

As evidence, beginning the academic year 2018–2019, the administration undertakes the payment of tuition fees of

students enrolled in 112 State Universities and Colleges, 78 Local Universities and Colleges, and appositely accredited technical–vocation education and training programs [2]. The reason behind the launching of this particular endeavour is that they value learning and the opportunity to use education as an avenue for economic improvement including development.

According to authors in [3], “the value of tertiary education is measured in its function to open doors to the graduates for future application and the creation of their sustainable career path. The program undertaken by students during college does not only develop their capabilities; but also prepares them to be competitive citizens and with dignity”.

Students go to colleges and finish a bachelor's degree with the objective of being hired in a job and to have a better living. The College of Criminology which offers the course Bachelor of Science in Criminology that is a four-year degree program in the Philippines is mainly concerned with the nature of crimes and criminals. This is also one of the programs being offered at Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology and as the university aims to produce graduates who are equipped with expertise and discipline that can be employed locally and globally. They use different tactics to achieve this objective of the university that is mainly anchored to its vision and mission.

In order to become adaptive, they continuously improved their curriculum content and delivery through hiring and training competent professors, equipping with advance instructional facilities, delivering applicable student support systems, and cultivating a culture of quality and excellence. Through these collaborative exertions, it is hoped that they would result to high-quality Criminologists and provide alumni with better employment [4].

One form of the empirical study is a Graduate tracer study that can congruously provide pertinent data for evaluating the results of the education and training of a specific institution of higher education [5] like Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology. According to [6], "it can gather essential information with regards to the employment profile of graduates, their undergraduate experience", "the first and current jobs of graduates and the relevance of their educational background and skills required in their job" [7]. Graduate tracer study can also collect data on the relevance of the curriculum [8] and graduates' level of satisfaction with their preparation academically [9].

Furthermore, tracer study is an important means of evaluating the outcome of the education and training given by the college to their students. This provides basic information about the totality of graduates, number of employed, number of permanently employed, number of employed in a related field, number of employed in non-related field, number of graduates who got employed within six months after graduation and number of graduates who got employed more than six months after graduation. The results that will be deduced would suggest whether there was a mismatch between the provided education and trainings by the college and the requirements of the workplace. It is sought that these results will function as a basis in revising the course curriculum in the future, if needed [1].

The fact that Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology offers a Bachelor of Science in Criminology, it shows that it renders preparedness for students wanting to have a stint in the criminology profession. To monitor its performance and the relevance of its curriculum, the college regularly conducts graduates tracer studies like this.

By having this sort of data, the Bachelor of Science in Criminology in particular and the whole college can reveal the success of its educational efforts pertaining to its graduates, the labor market, and employers by making accurate decisions given available information [10]. Strategically, the institution can identify areas for growth and development in the context of quality assurance and the provision of relevant preparation and training. Any possible deficits in its program offerings specifically in the program related to administration, content, delivery and relevance can be ascertained and further improved.

II. METHODOLOGY

This study utilized the descriptive research method. In order to provide adequate and reliable information for the evaluation of the study, the descriptive method of research was used by the researcher to facilitate the gathering of information on the traceability of Bachelor of Science in Criminology graduates of Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology for the A.Y. 2015–2016. The study used the descriptive method of research in an attempt to trace the employment status, type of employment and length of time between the respondent-graduates' graduation and first employment. According to [11], "descriptive research is concerned with conditions, practices, structures, differences or relationships that exist, opinions held, processes that are going on or trends that are evidently useful in presenting facts concerning the nature and the status of everything. The respondents of the study who were chosen purposively [12] were the 99 graduates of Bachelor of Science in Criminology at Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology. The questionnaire which was an excerpt from the standard Tracer Study Questionnaire of the Commission on Higher Education was the main instrument used by the researcher in conducting this study. Frequency and percentage were used to conduct the tracer study. The information and data gathered by the researcher were organized, tabulated and collated for better analysis and interpretation.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Table.1: Demographic Profile of the Bachelor of Science in Criminology Graduates for A.Y. 2015–2016

Sex								f	%
	Male							76	76.77
	Female							23	23.23
	Total							99	100.00
Employment Status		Male		Female		Total			
		f	%	f	%	f	%		
	Employed	41	59.42	16	53.33	57	57.58		
	Unemployed	28	40.58	14	46.67	42	42.42		
	Total	69	100.00	30	100.00	99	100.00		
		Male		Female		Total			
		f	%	f	%	f	%		
	Permanent	27	65.85	14	87.50	41	71.93		
	Non-permanent	14	34.15	2	12.50	16	28.07		
	Total	41	100.00	16	100.00	57	100.00		
Type of Employment		Male		Female		Total			
		f	%	f	%	f	%		
	Related	30	73.17	9	56.25	39	68.42		
	Unrelated	11	26.83	7	43.75	18	31.58		
	Total	41	100.00	16	100.00	57	100.00		
Length of Time between		Male		Female		Total			
	Graduation and	f	%	f	%	f	%		
	First Employment								
	Six months and below	25	60.98	12	75.00	37	64.91		
	More than six months	16	39.02	4	25.00	20	35.09		
	Total	41	100.00	16	100.00	57	100.00		

It can be gleaned from the table above that the majority of the graduates from the Bachelor of Science in Criminology for the A.Y. 2015–2016 were male. It can be seen from the figure that there were 76 or 76.77% male graduates and only 23 or 23.23% female graduates. A few studies have examined Criminology and Criminal Justice majors' perceptions of the programs. The author in [13] found a significant relationship between students' gender and their perceptions about the Criminology course and he found out that male students were significantly more likely to choose the program favorably than female students. This is because the criminology course is often characterized as a masculine program that only implies that the BS Criminology program is a male-dominated degree.

Moreover, the table above shows that among the 99 graduate-respondents, 57 or 57.58% were employed and 42 or 42.42% were unemployed based on the results of the survey. In general, it can be distinguished that there is a higher percentage of employed graduates over the unemployed ones. This only signifies that there is an opportunity for employment in the criminology course especially nowadays that there is an increasing demand for security-related jobs like policemen, military, jail men and firemen in the country and this course is high in demand especially for those graduates who passed the board exam. Likewise, the data above revealed that among the 57 graduate-respondents, there were 41 or 71.93% who were in permanent status and only 16 or 28.07% were in non-permanent status or those who were on a contractual basis.

To go deeper with the reasons, it has been discovered that those who passed the board examination were most likely to be permanent in their current job and those who were not lucky enough to pass the board exam were only hired on a contractual basis. Furthermore, the unavailability of plantilla position in the agency could also be the reason why there were some criminologists who were still in a non-permanent basis status.

As shown in the table above, out of the total number of 57 employed graduate-respondents, it can be noticed that 39 or 68.42% were employed in the related field and only 18 or 31.58% were employed in the unrelated field. It is a privilege that majority of the respondents were able to take advantage the opportunity to serve the country under their purpose. It is a fact that criminology graduates usually joins different law enforcement agencies like the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection and Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in order for them to apply the knowledge they have acquired in their four years in college plus the different trainings they have went through to be expert in the field of criminology. However, there were few who did not get lucky to be accommodated in the agencies that could match their academic qualifications and field of specialization considering the fact that there were still some who were employed in the field that is out of their fields of specialization.

Furthermore, it can be seen in the data above the waiting period of the graduates before they landed on their first job. Among the 57 employed-respondents, there were 37 or 64.91% who got their first job within 6 months and 20 or 35.09% who waited more than six months before they got hired. Apparently from the figures above, graduates took a long period of time before they could land on a job it is due to the fact that this program has a board exam and there were some who decided to just look for a job and get hired and there were some who preferred to pass the board exam and wait for better opportunity. It can also be inferred that the period of seeking a job depends also on the availability of vacancies and the need for criminology graduates.

IV. CONCLUSION

From the findings of the study, it can be concluded that the Bachelor of Science in Criminology course is a male-dominated degree and the majority of the graduates are employed and mostly are in permanent status in their current job. It can also be concluded that the majority are employed in the fields that are related to their course and most were able to get hired within six months after graduation. This

only means that the skills they have acquired from the college are relevant to their present job that these agencies found the need to hire them.

V. RECOMMENDATION

On the basis of the findings and conclusion, it is recommended that the college should continue to trace their graduates to update their employment status and determine what specific actions can be taken by the Administrators, College Dean and Faculty Members to further improve the curriculum and make it more relevant for the better future of the graduates. The Alumni and Placement Services of the university should also intervene and help the graduates of the university in general and the College of Criminology in specific to give assistance to the graduates in terms of proper job placement and employment to minimize underemployment of its graduates. Also, the significant findings of this study have provided valuable information for administrators and curriculum planners to enhance policies and pedagogies [14] relating to Criminology instruction.

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