

A Study On Impact Of Internship On Regular Studies Of Undergraduate Students.

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A Study On Impact Of Internship On Regular Studies Of Undergraduate Students.

Goplani Mala¹, Gupta Akash² & Sabhani Jewel³

Abstract: *An internship during college studies can help to enhance quality of higher education and to improve skills & competencies amongst students. It helps to fill the gap between the theoretical learning at class room and practical application at work place. It is also seen that the student undergoing internships while their 3 years degree course are not able to perform better in their regular exams because of time constraints. On the other hand, Internships also help them to achieve higher professional competencies and excellence in their field of interest and so that they can perform better in their future job with full potential knowledge. In this study we analyze the positive as well as negative aspects of internships on regular studies of undergraduate students of self-financing courses (BMS, BBI, BAF, etc.) with the help of data collected from 319 students by random selection of sample size.*

Keywords: *Undergraduate students, Internship program, Higher Education.*

1. INTRODUCTION:

An **internship** is a period of work experience offered by an organization for a limited period of time. The Internship is typically undertaken by students and graduates looking to gain relevant skills and experience in a particular field. Employers benefit from these placements because they often recruit employees from their best interns, who have known capabilities, thus saving time and money in the long run.

The benefit of bringing an intern into full-time employment is that they are already familiar with the company, their position, and they typically need little or no training. Internships provide current college students the ability to participate in a field of their choice to receive hands on learning about a particular future career, preparing them for full-time work following graduation.

Definition: An internship is an opportunity to integrate career related experience into an undergraduate education by participating in planned, supervised work.

Benefits to students

- Opportunity to work in career related or professional environment
- Provide career awareness for the students
- Give the students the chance to evaluate, reflect upon and try a career field
- Provide valuable experience that helps secure future employment
- Can earn money or credit
- Provide professional networking contacts
- Make classroom learning more interesting
- Help the student develop job search skills
- Develop self-confidence as they identify skills, abilities and talents

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Benefits to the employer

- Can evaluate the student for potential full time employment
- Give the employer access to quality candidates
- Students contribute new energy and ideas to the work place

Benefits to the department/ college/ university

- Strengthen ties to alumni and the community
- Make the transfer out process easier for students
- Curriculum can benefit through feedback from employers
- Help with retention and graduation
- Strengthen the students' ties to the university when the experience is facilitated by the department/ college

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

(1) Michael Hergert, San Diego State University, USA (2009)

Internships are an important part of the business school curriculum. They play a crucial role in helping students to make the connections between their traditional coursework and the workplace. The study found that students place a great value on the internship experience. This is particularly true when the internship has a direct connection to their ultimate career goals. It is clear that students appreciate the benefits of internship programs, particularly when designed to meet their needs.

(2) Chen, Chin-Tzu & Hu, Jn-Li & Wang, Cheng-Cai & Chen, Chun-Fu. (2011).

The main purpose of their study was to explore the positive and negative effects of the internship experience on the behavioral intentions of college students in Taiwan. The results of their study shows the different effects on satisfaction, willingness to return to the original internship organization, willingness to work, willingness to recommend the internship organization to other students, ability to move between departments during the internship, etc.

(3) Thilakerathne, P.M.C. & Madurapperuma, Wasanthi. (2013)

Increasingly, internship has become an essential component of the undergraduate degree programs. It provides students with a smooth transition from on-campus environment to the working environment. Employers benefit from internships because interns are sources of future employees. The relationship between Internship and academic performance on accounting degree is significantly under-researched. This paper examines the effect of accounting student internships on subsequent academic performance in one of the national universities in Sri Lanka. For this purpose post-internship course unit performance of students with accounting internship experience were considered.

(4) Ivana, Diana. (2019).

The study analyzes the internships of students within an international study program (German line of study) in order to determine what factors account for the most valuable internship experience. Based on the elements of the experiential education approach, the results reveal some characteristics that contribute to a higher level of perceived internship effectiveness in accordance with the employment status and gender.

(5) Mr. Gautam (2017)

His study concludes that majority of the students are satisfied from the intern opportunity and hence they wish to join hotel industry. The study has observed low but positive and significant relationship with satisfaction and intention of changing attitude. The study has also explored the

fact that there no gender influence in satisfaction level of the intern students but male students are more prone to change on behavioral intention. Students are positive regarding their career choice but are found of developing negative attitude towards college management as well as in-college activities.

3. OBJECTIVES:

1. To analyze and compare among undergraduate students who undergo Internship and who do not opt for Internship.
2. To examine the reasons for which students opt for Internship during their three year degree course.
3. To understand the Impact of Internships on Regular studies.
4. To analyze the views of Undergraduate students towards internship with respect to whether it helps them in their regular studies.
5. To suggest and recommend the effective ways of studies while taking up Internship program.

4. HYPOTHESES:

HO: Internships are not helpful for students to understand regular college syllabus

H1: Internships are helpful for students to understand regular college syllabus

HO: The students who undergo for internship program are not able to perform better in exams

H1: The students who undergo for internship program are able to perform better in exams

HO: Internship does not help students to get the Jobs easily after completion of degree course.

H1: Internship helps students to get the Jobs easily after completion of degree course.

HO: Internships does not help students to learn practical application of knowledge at their workplace.

H1: Internships helps students to learn practical application of knowledge at their workplace.

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

Data Collection:

Primary Data- To get the data from the students, survey method will be carried out. Data has been collected from 319 respondents by using Random sampling technique with the help of structured questionnaire.

Secondary Data- This data has been collected from, research article, journal, writ-up, theses and dissertation etc.

Research Design:

The present study is Analytical and Descriptive in nature. It will highlight the Impact of Internship on Regular studies of undergraduate students of Self-Financing Course.

Sample Design:

Students currently undergoing three year self-financing degree course are taken into consideration only.

Sample Size and Technique:

For this study, Random convenient sampling is used as only the Undergraduate students of Self-Financing Course will be studied and results will be assumed to be applicable to other students.

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Sample size depends upon the number of students enrolled in the colleges situated in Central Mumbai.

Data analysis:

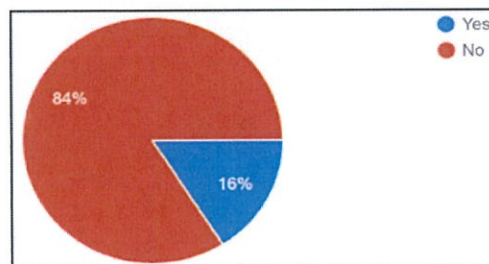
Data relating to Performance of students while engaged in Internship program are collected from Undergraduate students of Self-Financing Course from different colleges in Mumbai.

Limitations of the study:

1. The study is restricted to the college situated in Central Mumbai.
2. The study is restricted to students currently undergoing three year self-financing degree course only.

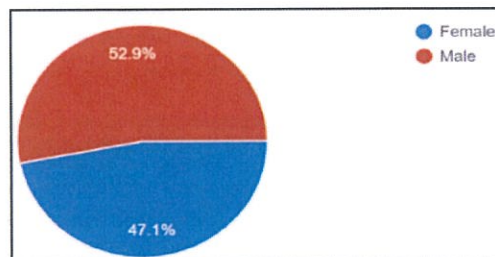
6. DATA ANALYSIS & INTERPRETATION:

1) Have you ever taken any internship program?



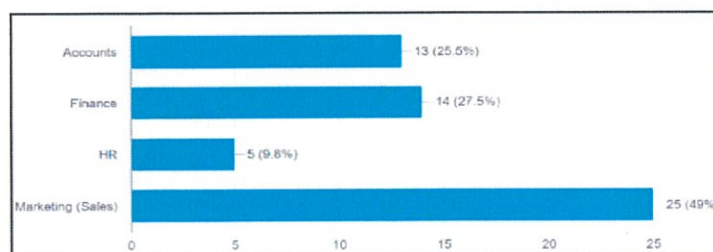
The study reflects that out of 319 respondents, 51 students (only 16%) have taken internship during their three years degree course and rest 268 students (84%) did not opt for the internship.

2) Gender-wise distribution of students who have opted for internship:



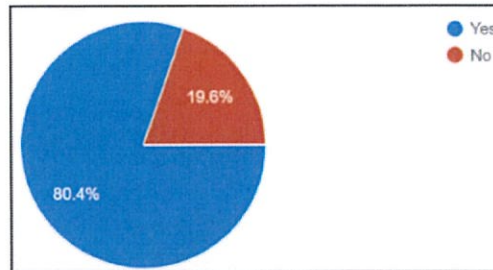
Out of those 51 students who opted for internship, about 47% which comes around 24 students are females and rest 27 students (53%) are males.

3) Department in which internship was done:



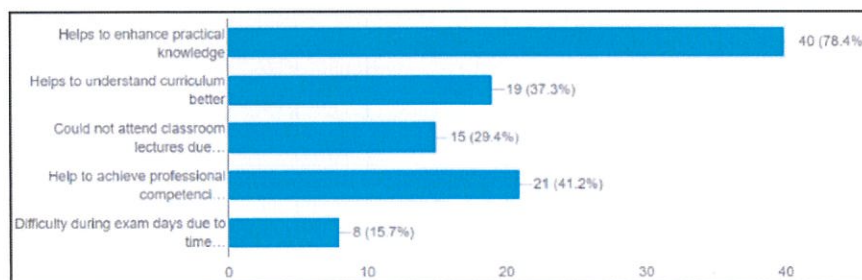
It is observed that most of the companies offer the students to take active part in their Marketing (Sales) department which is about 49% and the least is found in HR department which is only 5%.

4) Is internship helpful in their regular studies?



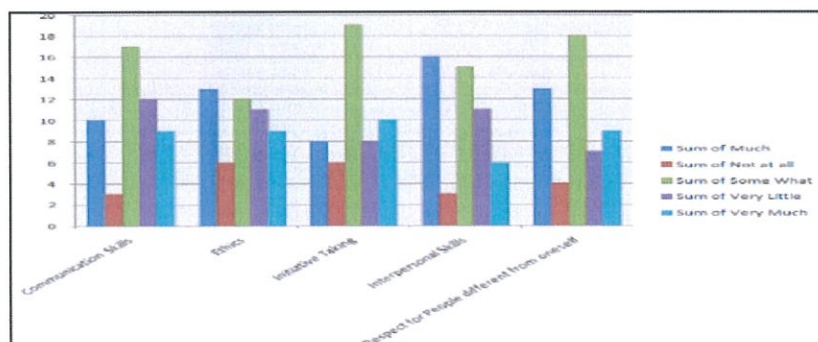
80% i.e. 41 students responded that internship is very helpful in their regular studies.

5) What they feel about impact of internship on their regular studies?



Most of the students (i.e. 78%) have positively responded about the internship as they feel it is very helpful to enhance their practical knowledge and around 41% students believe that internship is valuable to achieve professional competencies. Whereas, it is also found that around 37%, 29% and 15% students' responded internship helps to understand curriculum better, due to internship they could not attend the lectures and they find it very difficult during their exam days due to time constraints respectively.

6) The contribution of Internship program towards development of Personal skills of students

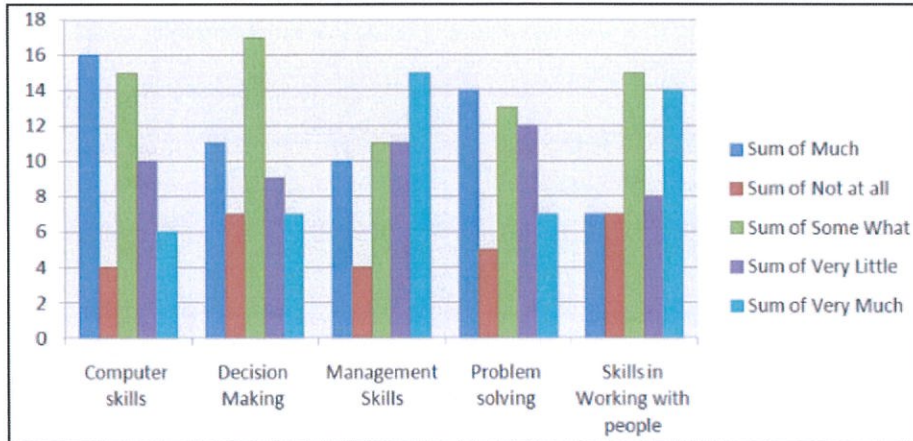


Response Out of 51 students:

Skills	Positive response towards development of skills	Internship program helped students to a certain extent	Negative response
Communication	19	29	3
Ethics	22	23	6
Initiative Taking	18	27	6

Interpersonal	22	26	3
Respect for others	22	27	4

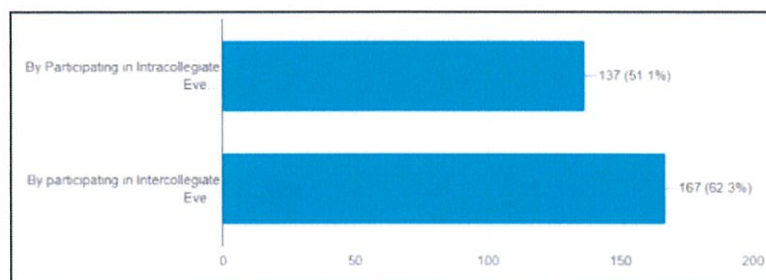
7) The contribution of Internship program towards development of Professional skills of students



Response Out of 51 students:

Skills	Positive response towards development of skills	Internship program helped students to a certain extent	Negative response
Computer	22	25	4
Decision making	18	26	7
Management	25	22	4
Problem solving	21	25	5
Skills of working with People	21	23	7

8) How you develop Communication, Interpersonal and other related skills without taking Internship program?



Out of 268 students (who did not opt for Internship program) 137 and 167 students developed their different skills through participating in Intra-collegiate and Inter-collegiate events respectively.

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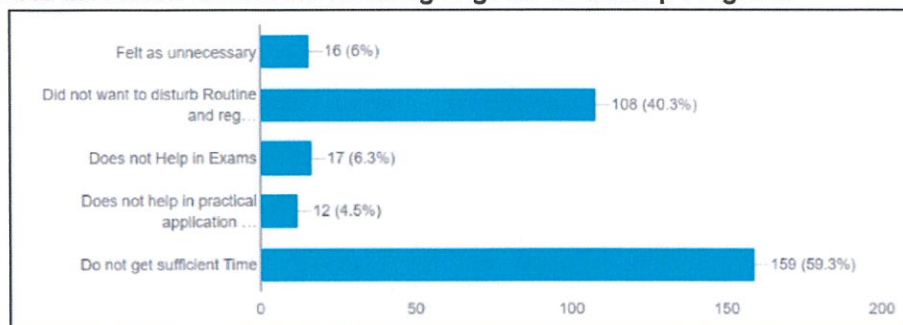
Electronic copy available at: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3551445>

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9) What is the reason behind not choosing to go for Internship Program?



Response of 268 students regarding the Reasons for not taking Internship Program:

Reason for not Taking Internship program	No. Of students	Percentage
Felt as unnecessary	16	6%
Did not want to disturb routine and regular lectures	108	40%
Does not help in exams	17	6.3%
Does not help in practical application of Knowledge	12	4.5%
Do not get sufficient time	159	59%

10) How did you manage studies and Internship both in balanced manner?

It is found that, Most of students took their Internship program during their summer vacation and other students had done part time internship to gain Practical knowledge. Many students also responded that they somehow managed their time to go for the job during their regular studies by scheduling proper time for their learning part every day.

HYPOTHESES TESTING:

Data is tested by employing Averages from the responses received in the course of the survey.

- H0: Internships are not helpful for students to understand regular college syllabus
 H1: Internships are helpful for students to understand regular college syllabus

It is proved; only 37% students (Q.5) responded that Internship is helpful to them to understand the curriculum better. Majority of students felt that Internships are not helpful to understand the college syllabus. Therefore, we accept our Null hypotheses.

- H0: The students who undergo for internship program are not able to perform better in exams
 H1: The students who undergo for internship program are able to perform better in exams

Only 15% students (Q.5) find Internship difficult during their exam days. Whereas, Majority of students are able to cope up better even during their exams. Therefore, we reject our Null hypotheses and accept the alternate hypotheses.

- H0: Internship does not help students to get the Jobs easily after completion of degree course.

H1: Internship helps students to get the Jobs easily after completion of degree course. Since, it is proved (Q.6 & Q.7) Internship helps students enhance their Personal and Professional skills, which makes them capable enough to get Jobs opportunities easily in their career. Therefore, we reject our Null hypotheses and accept the alternate hypotheses.

4. HO: Internships does not help students to learn practical application of knowledge at their workplace.

H1: Internships helps students to learn practical application of knowledge at their workplace. It is proved (Q.7) students enhance their Professional skills through Internship, which helps them apply practical knowledge at their workplace. Therefore, we reject our Null hypotheses and accept the alternate hypotheses.

CONCLUSIONS:

It is noted that, very less number of students (i.e. 51 out of 319) had opted for Internship program. And those who have taken Internship are mostly active in marketing (Sales) department which helps them improve their communication, Interpersonal, Computer, and Decision making etc skills. Also it is helpful to enhance their practical knowledge and apply it at their workplace.

Whereas, those who have not opted for internship responded that they find it difficult to do internship during their regular studies as they cannot manage both together. So, how do they develop their skills? When asked, they responded they enhance their different skills through participating in Intra- collegiate and Inter- collegiate events.

SUGGESTIONS:

1. Students must go for Internship program because it helps enhance Practical knowledge.
2. It helps students to apply their practical knowledge at their workplace.
3. Every Educational Institution must make Internship as a part of their curriculum activity which will help improve students their Personal and Professional skills during their three year degree course.
4. It is better for Companies also who offer internships to students, as it will help them place a right person for the right job easily because they are already aware about the skills of their Interns.
5. Proper Time management is required for taking Internship program during regular studies i.e. they need to find and give scheduled time every day for their regular studies after attending the Internship session so that students can keep a balance between the Internship and studies which help them perform better in exams also.

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ABBREVIATIONS:

BMS: Bachelor of Management Studies

BBi: Bachelor of Banking & Insurance

BAF: Bachelor of Accounting & Finance

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