
ABSTRACT

Practical Internship provides a real work experience to fresh graduates which help developing career opportunities for them. The purpose of this study is to assess internship practice in MUET and how students' classroom learning influences their attitudes toward their practical learning and practices in industries during internship. During internship a student not only acquires a hold on practice in industry and become part of a team, but he also gains a precious practical knowledge in his field of study. The main purpose of this research is to find out the practical implementation of internship practice in different departments of MUET as well as identify the effectiveness of this practice on student's career opportunities. This study also inquires the difference involving expectations and perceptions of students towards their internship program, and in addition to evaluate the relationship between the dissimilarity and overall satisfaction.

The research findings showed that there is a difference in students' expectations and perception towards their internship program. The theoretical learning is not meeting the current market demands whereas Industry is promoting advanced technologies. At present, existing department practices of MUET are more focused on theoretical learning. The well equipped resources for students' practical learning are available in department labs, and industry both, only University needs to put more effort to build a strong association with industry for students as a common interest of both stakeholders. This research study tested and proved four hypotheses. **H1:** Student's observation regarding learning of technical skills and readiness for professional life through internship is poor than their expectations in MUET. **H2:** In terms of social experiences the student's expectations about communication skills have been achieved through internship in MUET. **H3:** Student's observation regarding their career planning is lower than their internship expectation in MUET. **H4:** Student's observation about assessing their creativity in industry to obtain employment is less than their expectation in MUET.

Students found advancement and resources boom at work places. Along with this they observe that job rewards are important and students should have greater knowledge about their field or industry. Students do not gain greater satisfactions from internship practices. Companies' responses are differing; Industry gives preference to students having well known references of department teachers, or due to their personal contacts or campus approach towards the industry. All learning institutions should have favorable and appropriate internship policy and strong linkages are required among campus, industry and government to achieve higher satisfaction level of students about internship practices. This study strongly recommends insuring maximum students' practical knowledge education by means of providing campus available resources for learning by doing, and at the same time university may explore maximum internship opportunities at industry to expand experimental learning of students of its various departments.

Key words: Expectations, perceptions, internship, satisfaction level, affective experiences, creative cognitive experiences, social experiences.