Journal of Higher Education Service Science and Management. 2020. Volume 3, Issue 1

Students Awareness on Educational Tour Policies: Commission on Higher Education Memorandum Order (CMO) No. 17 Series of 2012

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Abstract

400 students became respondents in Higher Educational Institutions in S.Y. 2016 - 2017 with the study students' level of awareness on the Educational Tour. The study used Descriptive – correlational design utilizing. Pearson r, Point Biserial and Eta Correlation as Statistical tools. The findings state that most respondents answered a much aware level of awareness on the Educational Tour before, during and after the conduct of the study. Lack of money, time, safety and management deficiencies were the moderately felt problems. It concluded that the level of awareness in Educational Tour before, during then after educational tour is much aware. The Study recommends, sustainable awareness programs, inclusion of the discussion of educational tour in student, parent's orientation and discussed in the student handbook. Constraints with educational tour be addressed before the activity, and a conduct of relevant studies regarding to educational tour be further addressed.

Keywords: Awareness; Educational Tour; Experiential Learning; Tour constraints; Policies;

1. Introduction

Learning takes place when students enjoy in a less formal setting like fieldtrips, as students are challenged in applying their knowledge learned in the real-world setting (Leatherbury, 2011; Braund and Reiss, 2006; Falk, 1983; Flexer and Buron 1984).

Awareness of the Policies of conducting an educational tour give the teacher and students a bit more concern on safety and preparedness before, during and after the educational tour have applied, the study is conducted through issued CHED Memorandum Order no.17, series of 2012 which is the "Policies and Guidelines on Educational Tours and Field Trips of College and Graduate Students".

Occurrences concerning educational tour of the Marinduque State College on February 21, 2013 (Inquirer.Net, 2013) and educational tours in the Bulacan State University dated August 19, 2014 (Business Mirror, 2014). Several schools have banned field trips and educational tours until such time the safety and security plus liabilities of the stakeholders can be assured.

One main source of giving knowledge to students is by providing them the chance to self-experiences and lasting learning especially that educational fieldtrips are conducted for them (Shakil, 2011).

The study determined the level of awareness on the educational tour policies in selected state universities of Region 8 as assessed by the students during the School Year 2016-2017 and their constraints.

The study answers the student's level of awareness on educational tour policies as provided in CMO #17 classified according to: Before the educational visit, During the educational visit and After the educational visit. It also answers if the profile of the students is related to their level of awareness on educational tour policies and provided in CMO #17 and the constraints of educational tour. Different strategies have shown growth the effectiveness of teaching where educational fieldtrips have been argued for the insertion to more informal learning experiences in science (Hofstein and Rosenfeld, 1996).

Selection and peer-review under responsibility of JoHESSM 2020.
Available at: https://www.joherd.co/journals/index.php

In his Experiential Learning Theory, Kolbs expresses the four-stage cycle of learning that would give tangible experiences providing basis for observation and likenesses were learners may create new ideas and new experiences (Kolb's 1974 as cited in ARC Facilitators toolkit, 2005). Giving the opportunity to the students to engage in positive activities will help them learn more and will also provide positive social behaviour among others (Treceñe, 2019).

The study was conducted during the school year 2016 – 2017 in selected State Universities of Eastern Visayas, randomly selecting students who have undergone Field Trips on their subject

2. Methodology

The study applied a descriptive – correlational design. This design ascertained how much variation is caused by one variable. Besides, this research design sought to examine the relationship among two or more variables (Calmorin, 2000).

The researcher-made questionnaire was used as the main tool to gather the information. The information's gathered from the respondents were organized, analyzed then statistically treated. The study used the frequency counts, percentages, and weighted mean to describe categorical data. Further, to determine the correlations between the variables, Pearson r, Point-biserial and Eta Correlation were used.

There was a total of 400 student respondents with 50 students taken from each State University who were officially enrolled during the school year 2016 – 2017 from the identified universities of region 8 whose curricular programs included educational tour as one of the required subjects.

The researcher prepared structured questions through a survey questionnaire for the student respondents which was composed of sets, for the students and later validated. The Part I dwelled on the profile of the students. Profile of the students included age, sex, course, year level, parent's educational background and combined family income. Part II asked for the level of awareness in the conduct of educational tour under the CMO #17 s. 2012 for students before, during and after the educational tour. Part III included the problems met by the students in the conduct of educational tour.

The survey questionnaire adapted the 5-point Likert Scale to elicit the responses of respondents on compliance and awareness of CMO #17 and the constraints with 5 the highest and 1 the lowest value. With its corresponding descriptions as 4.51 to 5 is very much aware,3.51 to 4.5 as much aware, 2.51 to 3.5 as aware, 1.51 to 2.50 as slightly aware and 1.0 to 1.5 as not aware.

Before the actual conduct of study, the researcher prepared communication letters to the identified SUC's in the region asking permission towards conduct the actual survey to the respondents. The researcher gave the communication letters to the office of the president through the vice presidents for academic affairs of the state universities visited and was endorsed to the respective deans of the colleges involve in the study. Given the go signal, the questionnaires were personally distributed and retrieved to the respondents by the researcher. However, for the questionnaires which were not retrieved immediately, the researcher sought assistance from the University who helped him in the retrieval of said questionnaires. In some State Universities, the researcher has gone twice in giving the survey and in retrieving the said survey questionnaires.

3. Results and Discussions

3.1. Profile of the Students

With regards to the profile of students, there is a higher number of females than males' sampled respondents. There are 266 or 66.57 percent females and 134 or 33.43 percent males. Majority of the students were 19 to 22 years old with 319 or 79.71 percent interpreted as "adolescent". Only 40 or 10.0 percent who were 23 and above interpreted as "above adolescent" and majority of the respondents were Engineering students with 117 or 29.43 percent and also Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism students with 90 or 22.57 percent. There were only few teacher education students with 29 or 7.14 percent and 22 or 5.43 percent were maritime students. Majority of the mothers were bachelor's level with 87 or 21.71 percent and there are few doctoral degrees graduate with 2 or

0.57 percent. There were 83 or 20.86 percent bachelor's graduates and 2 or 0.57 percent doctoral level for the father educational attainment. Majority of the students had a combined monthly family income category of 10,000 and below with 245 or 61.14 percent interpreted as below poverty line. This implies that most respondents were female, and respondents were adolescents commonly under the hotel and restaurants and tourism programs with a low combined family income yet the conduct of the activity is pursued and well participated mainly knowing the importance of the said activity.

3.2. Level of Awareness among Students before The Conduct Of Educational Tour Under CMO#17

The results reveal that on the sub mean score of 3.97 indicates that students were much aware of the requirements of educational tour before the activity was conducted. The indicators that obtained highest mean values are: "Destination chosen, considering cost and benefit requirements, safety and relevance with the subject matter", with a mean of 4.32, described as much aware: "Educational tour is included in the curriculum in the degree that I am enrolled" mean = 4.29, much aware; "medical clearance is duly signed by the medical officer and parents with waiver" mean = 4.27, much aware. The statement, "Evidence that parents or guardians were informed of the conduct of the field trip are duly documented and are available for verification of concerned agencies" got the highest mean of 4.28, this is followed by the "Program of activities must be agreed upon and the schedule must be followed" with a mean = 4.23. In after the educational tour, the students are much aware on all the indicators under after the educational tour. It obtained a mean of 3.89. the results show that the respondents are much aware and are well informed on the conduct of the activity before, during and after it is conducted.

3.3. Relationship between The Students Profile and Level of Awareness Under CMO#17S.2012

Student's profile such as sex, course, fathers and mother's educational background yielded a computed correlation value of 0.148, 0.214, 0.150 and 0.148 with the corresponding p-levels of 0.015, 0.001, 0.013, and 0.014 which are all interpreted significant whose p-levels are greater than 0.05 probability level. While age and combined family income did not yield significant results whose p-levels are less than 0.05 level.

The course and mothers' educational background yielded r-values of 0.154, p-level = 0.011 and r = 0.128 with p-level = 0.034 respectively interpreted significant. Both figures are greater than the 0.05 probability level. Other variables such as; age, sex, fathers educational background and combined family income among students did not show association to their level of awareness of CMO #17.

The profile sex with r-value = 0.144 and course with r = 0.378, both p-level are greater than 0.05 level of significance and found significantly related to their level of awareness on the requirements among the profile variables of the students. These values affirm that students, of which more female had higher level of awareness than their male counterparts. Obviously, the type of course is expected to contribute to their level of awareness on the requirements after the activity. Thus, the null hypothesis is not rejected along sex and course and it is rejected along other profile variables of the students. The result shows that the profile of the respondents has no relationship in the preparation and conduct of the educational tour and it does not affect the pursuance of the said activity.

3.4. Problems Encountered By The Faculty In-Charge In The Conduct Of Educational Tours As Perceived By The Students

The students confirm that majority of the problem is lack of money, lack of time, lack of safety and security and management deficiencies. The mean values are: 3.35, 2.81, 2.57 and 2.51 respectively. These figures are described moderately felt problem. Other indicators are described slightly felt problem. Its overall mean is 2.50 described moderately felt problem. Obviously, students are concerned about their safety and security and proper

management of the activity but despite this moderately felt problems conduct of the educational tour is still pursued by the students.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

Majority of the students are female who are adolescent, mostly from the engineering field, with parents who are bachelor's degree graduates with combined family income below poverty line. The level of awareness on the requirements in the conduct of educational tour under CMO #17 to be complied before, during, and after educational tour is described as much aware by the students. The level of awareness of the students before the conduct of educational tour is significantly correlated with the variables sex, course/program, and parents' educational background. However, the course/program still shows relativity on the awareness during and after the educational tour.

Students have slightly and moderately felt problem respectively in the conduct of educational tour whether it could be lack of money, lack of time, lack of safety and security and likewise on the management deficiencies. It is sought to have a sustainable awareness on the conduct of the educational tour with regards to the students, faculty and other stakeholders concerned, It is also suggested awareness be part of the student's and parent's orientation, part of the faculty meetings or departmental meetings and the student's handbook.

It is also recommended that the awareness of the CMO #17 s.2012 be true to all degree courses that would be having the subject regardless of their year level, gender, sex and parents educational background. It is also possible that the discussant would be the tour coordinators and tour agencies to clarify things and issues before the conduct of the tour. Tour constraints of the students may be addressed and prepared before the tour using the proposed framework for policy redirection on the conduct of educational tours. A study on the relevance of educational tour to the program pursued by the students may be conducted to find out its strength and weaknesses to strengthen its implementation.

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