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THE MANAGEMENT OF THE EDUCATION AND THE STUDENTS IN THE KECSKEMÉT COLLEGE

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ABSTRACT: The majority of our students do hope to find a job in their profession in an appropriate position within a year or two after their graduation. Graduates of Kecskemét College have already been working in a permanent job before their final exam, however, it is because non-full time students have had a job before finishing their studies. According to the online research more than half of the students of Kecskemét College plan to continue their studies either in another higher education institution or further training programmes. We examined the Plans about further training, Job prospects, the Characteristics of the job market and experiences. We manage to develop close professional relationships with enterprises and companies, which partly serve as the practical criteria of the education as well.

KEYWORDS: educational management, further training

INTRODUCTION

Most of the students at Kecskemét College would like to find a job in that profession that they have learnt. The majority of our students do hope to find a job in their profession in an appropriate position within a year or two after their graduation.

According to their faculties, students differ in their job preferences. While students from the Faculty of Automation and Mechanical Engineering prefer big and medium-sized companies. Students of the Faculty of Horticulture would rather choose a small company or start their own ones; students of the Faculty of Teacher Training prefer the civic sphere and nonprofit organizations. The optimism of the active students has logical explanation. The majority of the fresh graduates of Kecskemét College can find a permanent job. The students' workplace management essential based on these.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Kecskemét College was founded on 1st January, 2000 with the merger of 3 tertiary colleges – the College of Mechanical Engineering and Automation, Horticultural Faculty of the University of Horticulture and Food-Processing and the Teacher Training College. As a result of the merger Kecskemét College has become the largest college in the Southern Plain Region with three faculties with different profiles.

The institution is continually broadening its training profile and enhancing its educational facilities to meet the requirements of higher education in the 21st century. Kecskemét College has valid accreditation till 2015. The institution is the scientific, educational and cultural centre of the region and we are proud to maintain and strengthen this role for the future. Beyond our basic activities we promote the improvement of the region with our research, educational development and innovation. Providing counseling in agricultural, mechanical and human areas as well as life long learning, we are able to become an important factor in the region.

Economic and social studies are part of the curriculum of each college faculty, multi-culturally and intercultural issues are separate courses in some cases. In each curriculum sustainability, strengthening social and economic cohesion and definite anti-discrimination issues are given special attention. International training possibilities and teaching and research co-operation develop European dimensions and the recognition of the importance of European integration. Each of the three faculties has adult education programs and courses. The number of post secondary vocational and further education courses is increasing. We intend to develop programs for correspondence students so that they can have access to supporting teaching materials, both traditional and electronic, and self-assessment tasks for independent learning.

RESULTS. PLANS ABOUT FURTHER TRAINING

Among the career-path researches five different surveys were conducted at Kecskemét College in 2010 including online questionnaires. It can be regarded as a follow-up of our previous research.

According to the online research more than half of the students of Kecskemét College plan to continue their their studies either in another higher education institution or further training programmes. Those who plan to continue their studies mainly would like to apply for MA/MSc courses, while the rest of them would like to take part in advanced level professional trainings or professional further trainings.

It is the students of the Faculty of Horticulture who in the largest proportion plan to enter new courses or trainings in the following years; 19% of them are sure to continue their studies, and a further 39% of them are quite certain to do so. It is the students of the Faculty of Automation and Mechanical Engineering who are the least willing to continue their studies, however, 10 % of them plan to continue their studies, and a further one third of them considers to do so.

During personal interviews it turned out that 20 % of those active students who want to continue their studies are sure to do so at the Kecskemét College, 30 % of them are quite sure, 23 % are not sure, 19 % are sure not to do so and 8 % does not know.

RESULTS. JOB PROSPECTS

Most of the students at Kecskemét College would like to find a job in that profession that they have learnt. The majority of our students do hope to find a job in their profession in an appropriate position within a year or two after their graduation.

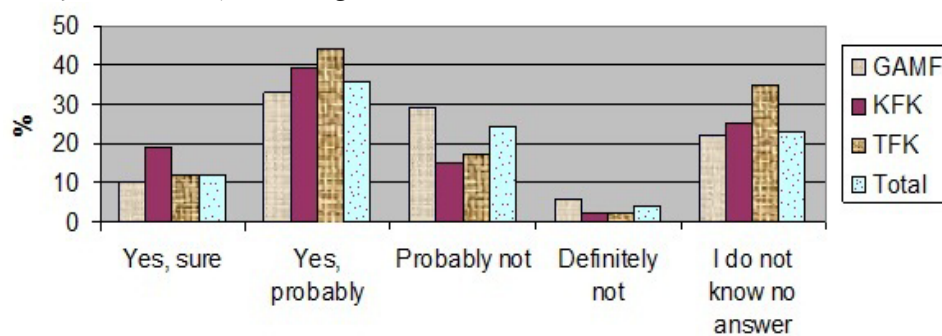


Figure 1. Do you plan to enter advanced courses or continue your studies? (N=1229)

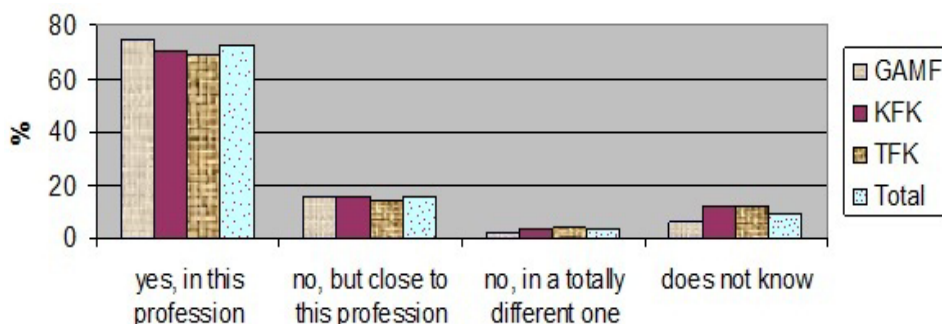


Figure 2. After getting your degree would you like to work in the profession, you are qualified to or would you like to work in a different area?

It is the graduates of the Faculty of Automation and Mechanical Engineering who are the most optimistic: 24% of them are sure while 61% of them think it is quite probable that they will find a job. A higher percentage of students of the Faculty of Horticulture and the Faculty of Teacher Training think they will not find a job, however, 69% and 74% of them think they will or could find a job in their profession within one or two years after their graduation.

According to the online research the students' job preferences are very varied, however, it is big companies they mainly prefer: 17 % of the interviewed students would like to work for a multifunctional firm, 15 % for a big private company, 7 % for a state firm, 14 % for a medium sized, 5 % for a small private company. A further 23% of the students would like to work in the civic sphere. Most of the students do not want to initiate their own private business, however, 16% of them are considering to do so. A very low ratio of them, only 1 % thinks that their profession leads them to the nonprofit sector.

According to their faculties, students differ in their job preferences. While students from the Faculty of Automation and Mechanical Engineering prefer big and medium-sized companies (state-owned or private big companies, multinational companies, medium-sized companies), students of the

Faculty of Horticulture would rather choose a small company or start their own ones; students of the Faculty of Teacher Training prefer the civic sphere and nonprofit organizations.

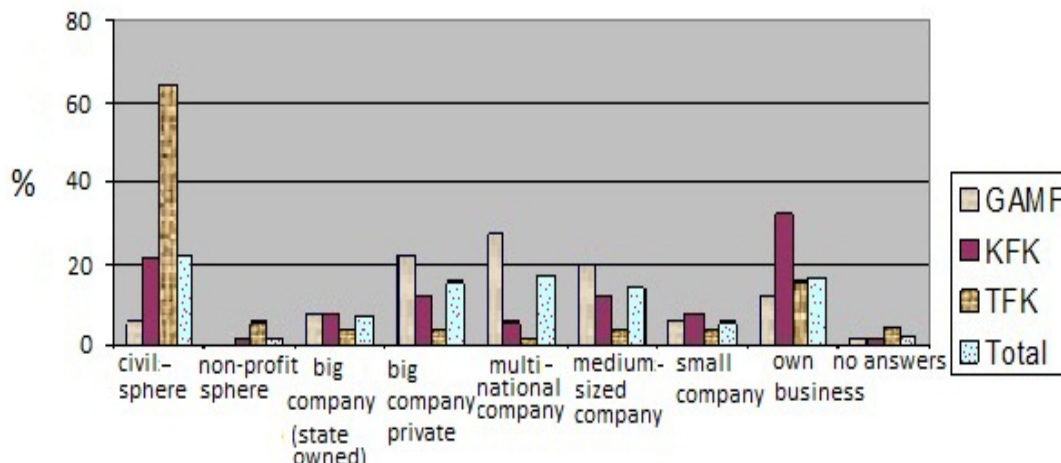


Figure 3. If you wanted to work in Hungary after getting your degree, what workplace would you choose? (N=1229)

RESULTS. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE JOB MARKET AND EXPERIENCES

The optimism of the active students has logical explanation. The majority of the fresh graduates of Kecskemét College can find a permanent job. This fact should be appreciated in the present economic situation especially because it is the fresh graduates who are in a very unfavorable situation at the job market. Moreover, those of our students who already do have a job have not been forced to find a job out of their profession. The message is of the results is that Kecskemét College provides a degree that meets the expectations and requirements of the job market.

92 % of the graduates during interviews reported about having a job while a further 3 % reported not having a job at the moment but having had one since their graduation. During the online research 85% of the students reported having had a job since their graduation (finishing their studies).

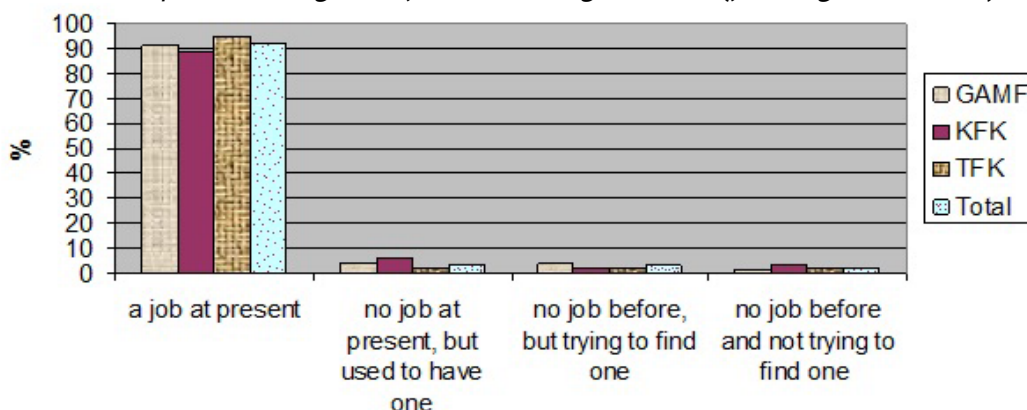


Figure 4. Place of work and finding a job

Graduates of Kecskemét College have already been working in a permanent job before their final exam, however, it is because non-full time students have had a job before finishing their studies. On the other hand, full time students could find a job within a year.

CONCLUSIONS, SUGGESTIONS

The Faculty must strive for developing the infrastructural conditions in order to educate the discipline of theoretical and practical rural development in a most modern way. The training can be organized on three levels: basic full time courses (BSc), vocational training, and MSc courses. Particular emphasis should be put on courses giving professional qualifications, most of which are subsidized by the state. As a result, the institute manages to develop close professional relationships with enterprises and companies, which partly serve as the practical criteria of the education as well.

In close cooperation with enterprises and companies the institute try to provide services beyond education and further training including both laboratory tests and purchasing specialized books.

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