

Adopting an Action-Learning Approach to Teach Industrial Engineering Courses in Universities: The UWI Experience

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Abstract

Action-learning involves “learning about learning” that enables people to handle dynamic problems. This paper reviews the concept of action-learning and discusses the adoption of an action-learning approach in teaching Industrial Engineering courses at universities. It presents the experience of the University of the West Indies (UWI), Trinidad in the design and delivery of an action-based teaching course. The course incorporates formal lectures, tutorials and an outdoor workshop that has been implemented with encouraging results in student learning and development. This paper concludes by underlining that action-based teaching stresses teamwork and experimental learning principles, and is an effective means other than the traditional classroom and IT-oriented teaching in universities.

Keywords: Action-based teaching, action learning, industrial engineering