

Exploring the Challenges Facing Industrial Engineers in the Employment Market of Trinidad and Tobago: Some Findings

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ABSTRACT

In Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), the Faculty of Engineering at The University of the West Indies (UWI) had since the 1980s operated its degree of Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering for the Caribbean region. The degree concepts are well-known to the employment market in other parts of the world, a quite-difference situation has been prevalent in T&T and the region over the years. This paper presents the findings of a study that investigated into the challenges facing Industrial Engineers in the employment market of T&T. Empirical findings showed that many respondents were lacking understanding of IE applications in their organisations. It was also not uncommon that T&T organisations hired other non-Industrial Engineers to perform IE-related jobs one hand, and then expected good operational results of these tasks on the other hand. The prevalence of misconstrued perception towards IE would have deteriorated the competitiveness of many T&T organisations. There is a pressing need to break such prevalence by recognising the IE roles and contributions to industry and the society at large. The government and stakeholders in both public and private sectors should work together to break the prevalence chain.

Keywords: Industrial Engineering, challenges, employment market, Trinidad and Tobago