Career perceptions of undergraduate students in hospitality industry: An empirical study

Abstract
This research focuses on the factors influencing student desire to pursue a career in the hospitality industry, with particular reference to hotels. Based on the literature review, seven dimensions have been chosen which have been theoretically linked to the choice of career by students. The dimensions are nature of work, social status, industry-person congeniality, working conditions, pay scale and benefits, promotion opportunities and commitment to the industry. As there is no evidence to empirically prove their relationships, an empirical investigation has been conducted. The descriptive statistics provided the description of the data in terms of age, gender, work experience, etc., and the inferential statistics were used to test hypotheses and draw specific suggestions to guide policy makers as to what measures could be taken to build a positive image of the hospitality industry among the future career seekers. Out of the seven hypotheses posited, five have been accepted, based on which suggestions are made.

Biography
Dr. Girish Nair is the Associate Professor & Program Leader of International Hospitality Management, Stenden Qatar University of Applied Sciences. He received his Ph.D in Management in the areas of Financial Accounting and Industrial Economics from Banasthali University (Accredited by NAAC with ‘A’ Grade status) and Master’s Degree in Commerce, International Business and Business Administration from India. He has more than 15 years of teaching, research, and administrative experience. Prior to joining Stenden University, he held the position of Senior Lecturer in Commerce in an ‘A’ Grade College (Accredited by NAAC) in India. His primary research interests are in the areas of Corporate Finance and Financial Economics. He has several international and Indian domestic publications to his credit.
Ms. Swati Prasad is the Senior Lecturer and Head of Training & Development at Stenden Qatar. A dedicated teaching professional with over 14 years of combined experience as a Lecturer and course coordinator in international Universities in Qatar, Malaysia and India. Ms. Prasad has supervised, coordinated, and successfully organized the hosting of events and projects. She has experience in developing need based customized training program, she is competent in identifying problems and developing improvement plans within the process and has expertise in screening, testing, counseling and motivating the students as well as supervising degree students in their research work.

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