

**Title** : **Results of the Implementation of Co-operative Education Project at the Undergraduate Level Phase I**

**Author** : **Asst. Prof. Dr. Thawatchai Teekachunhatean and Other**

**Publish** : **1999**

**Source** : **Institutional Research Project Financially Supported by Suranaree University of Technology**

---

### **Abstract**

Results of Implementation of Co-operative Education Project at the Undergraduate Level aimed to be an evaluation report of Co-operative Education and Career Development Project in between academic year 2/1995-3/1997 (September 1995-April 1997). Three main components of the project (1) 425 co-op students enrolled in the period of the study, (2) employees who offered jobs to the students, and (3) faculty members in the Institutes which joining the co-operative education (co-op) are the key informants of the study.

Research instruments included (1) co-op student performance appraisals, (2) work term paper appraisals, and (3) questionnaires for co-op students, companies, and lecturers. Mathematical average and percentage were applied to analyze the research. The report has summarized results as follows:

#### 1. Pattern and Process of the Project

Co-operative Education and Career Development has been established to being an integral part of SUT undergraduate curriculum. It is supervised by the SUT Advisory Committee and Administrative Committee. The project directly responses for searching the most suitable jobs for the co-op students, prepares co-op students to be ready before going to their work terms. It also assists both students and employees to meet the appropriate job matching. Institutes and schools response for designing the best suitable curriculum for the co-op student as well as provide the co-op advisors to visit the students at their work sites. Finally, the project arranges the post work term seminar for co-op students to present and share their experience after returning from the work sites. Students and companies cited that roles and implementations of the project were useful and the management of the project also greatly supported co-op students.

## 2. Quality of co-op students

Co-op students were students who had grade point average at least 2.00. The co-op student performance appraisals done by employers concluded that all the students could pass the evaluation satisfyingly, and most of them (70%) passed the evaluation with the above average scores (very good and excellent). Besides, the employers mentioned that most of students did truly great in their academic work term reports.

Students mentioned that working at the work sites assisted them gain knowledge and their confidence about their future careers. It also socialized themselves to people outside campus. They learned to stay and work with other people, had experience concern human relation, and personality development. Supervisors and executives of work sites said that co-op students had enough skill in communication and willing to work for them.

## 3. Quality of the Employees

The employers participated in the project agreed with the co-op education concept and appreciated in educating, training and delivering work skill to the students. They assigned the most suitable jobs for the co-op students. Moreover, some schools were offered jobs from the employers more than the number of the students.

## 4. Quality of Institutes

Institutes which agreed with their students work terms prepared the proper curriculum. They also provided course placements which most suitable with the co-op students' work terms. They afforded advise and site visitations during work terms. The institutes also offered the lecturers to be co-op advisors to assist the co-op students.