

STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF THE ADEQUACY OF THEIR
TRAINING IN MACHINE SHOP TECHNOLOGY IN FIVE
STATE-SUPPORTED COLLEGES IN WESTERN
VISAYAS *

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The main purpose of this study was to find out the students' perceptions of the adequacy of their training in Machine Shop Technology on the knowledge and skills required of machinists in Western Visayas. The descriptive method was used in this study with the questionnaire as the main instrument for gathering data. One hundred five senior technical students from the five state-supported colleges in Western Visayas responded to the questionnaire. The weighted means of the perception scores of the students were computed to determine the students' perceptions of the adequacy of their training in Machine Shop Technology on the knowledge and skills required of machinists in Western Visayas.

The findings in the study revealed that:

1. The students with on-the-job training perceived as "very adequate" their training on the knowledge and skills required of machinists in five occupations in Machine Shop in Western Visayas.
2. The students without on-the-job training perceived as "adequate" their training on knowledge and skills required of machinists in five occupations in machine shop in Western Visayas.
3. The students perceived their machines, equipment and tools in their shops to be "always in good running and/or working condition" during their shop instruction.
4. The students perceived the machines, equipment and tools in their shops to be "almost always accessible" to them during their shop instruction.

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It is recommended that on-the-job training should be offered as part of the curricular requirements for the two-year trade technical courses offered in Western Visayas. Specific guidelines for the implementation of the on-the-job training programs should be developed and released to the field by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports Region VI. On-the-Job training should be incorporated in the staff development program for Machine Shop instructors. Instructors should be sent regularly to local machine shops and to Metro Manila for on-the-job training during summer sessions. This training will keep them abreast of the rapid technological changes in industry thereby making the knowledge and skills they teach to their students relevant to the needs of industry.

In the light of the findings of this study, the following recommendations are offered.

It is recommended that the five Colleges involved in this study, which train the machinists required by industry in their service areas in Western Visayas, should be provided with new milling machines and other equipment like crankshaft grinding machines in order that these colleges may give more effective and efficient instruction in Machine Shop Technology. Funds for this purpose should be included in the yearly appropriation of the College for equipment outlay. It is further recommended that specific funds for the purchase of instructional supplies and materials for the course should be provided in the budgetary allocation of the College to insure that instructional supplies can be purchased when needed.