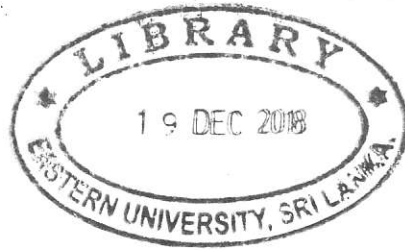
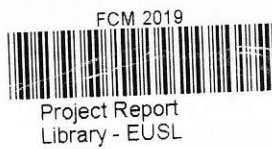


**EMPLOYERS' EXPECTATIONS OF THE EMPLOYABILITY
SKILLS OF MANAGEMENT GRADUATES**



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ABSTRACT

Graduate employability skills have become one of the most important topics in the 21st century. Employability skills have the sustained, productive, successful employment of graduates. This study investigates the employers' expectation of the employability skills of management graduates. The study considers five sectors of employers in Batticaloa.

The semi- structured interview is used to structure the eight employability skills and the key features of each skill from the view of employer expectation. The data were collected from 48 respondents from insurance companies, banks, NGOs, divisional secretariat and hotels. The data were summarized and to identify the levels of employability skills the study used univariate analysis in the analysis part.

The findings reveal that among the eight skills communication, team work and professional qualities are given priority in the expectation of employers. And employers expect these skills in high level. The current level of skills of this three skills that management graduates has not meet the expectation of employers. The information technology expressed that the expectation of employers is exceeded by the level of skill management graduates has at present. The other skills were expected in moderate level but the current level is not meet the expectation. This study found the specific skill expectations of the employers' and the skill gap of the present management graduates regarding the expectations of employers' in Batticaloa. The results of this study help the management graduates and academic organizations to identify the employers' expectations of the employability skills needed for the management graduate employment.

Keywords - *Employability skills, Employers' expectations, Management graduates*

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