

**UNDERSTANDING STUDENTS' EMPLOYABILITY  
CONFIDENCE AND THEIR PERCEIVED BARRIERS TO  
GAINING EMPLOYMENT (WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE OF  
EASTERN UNIVERSITY, SRI LANKA)**



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## ABSTRACT

Educational and professional qualifications of the employees are an essential element for the economic growth as well as the social development of each and every country. As a developing country Sri Lankan labor market expects well qualified, motivated and skilled individuals for the success of country's economy. Higher education has experienced massive expansion in terms of student's enrolments and the emergence of new kinds of providers.

In this context, objectives of this study are to identify the level of employability confidence of undergraduates and to identify the level of perceived barriers in securing employment in the future from the perspective of undergraduates. In order to achieve these objectives data were collected from 100 undergraduates of Eastern University, Sri Lanka by using structured questionnaire. Collected data were analyzed by using univariate analysis.

Findings of this study clearly show that there is high level of employability confidence among the undergraduates. Internship based work experience, self-management, perceived reputation and confidence in getting employment are the major factors contributing to the high level of employability confidence of undergraduates. At the same time, low level of degree quality, low level of competitiveness in the job market and low level of government role considered as major perceived barriers in gaining employment.

***Keywords: Employability Confidence, Internship based Work Experience, Self-Management, Perceived Reputation, Confidence in getting Employment, Perceived Barriers, Degree Quality, Competitiveness, and Government Role***

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