**SAIGON UNIVERSITY**

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

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**GROUP 5**

**DIFFICULTIES AND SOME SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS OF**

**PART-TIME JOBS ON THE STUDYING RESULTS AMONG THE JUNIORS AT FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT IN SAIGON UNIVERSITY.**

***RESEARCH WRITING***

**Training Level:** **WRITING**

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Ho Chi Minh City, November 26th, 2020

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**1. ABSTRACT**

Part-time jobs have been considered as one of the factors affecting students’ results in learning. This phenomenon can also be observable in the studying results of the Foreign Language Department’s Juniors at SaigoPage **2** of **25**n University. This research aimed to determine the difficulties and some suggested solutions of part-time jobs on the studying results among the Juniors at the Faculty of Foreign Language in Saigon University. An online questionnaire by Google Form was conducted in order to collect the necessary data for this research paper. A hundred Juniors were invited to share their own experience of being a part-time employee while studying at University. The effect of part-time employment on students’ studying results was investigated through their answers from the given questionnaire with 10 questions included. Students’ studying results, the amount of time spent on part-time jobs, as well as the bad effects caused by their workplace were scrutinized to see the relation between part-time jobs and their results at school. The results of the study indicated that more than half of the Juniors, who spend time on part-time jobs, struggled with studying efficiently at school, and got negative studying results. From the results, the study has some suggested solutions for the Juniors to overcome their studying and working problems so that they can gain better studying results in the future.

**2. INTRODUCTION**

**2.1 THE SETTING**

Recently, as the demand for college education among graduated high school students has been rapidly increasing, it’s led to consequently higher than ever demand in college student’s part-time job employment due to the growing financial needs of college students in the modern society. Therefore, a case study of Ton Duc Thang university’s students (Ha, C.N., Thao, N.T., & Son, T.D., 2016) regarding part-time employment has indicated that “Currently, student part-time employment becomes a popular phenomenon in universities and colleges, especially those in big cities”. It’s true that part-time job has been aiding college students’ financial needs to a great extent in their college life, as some of them live independently far away from their caretakers; however, this has also raised the number of worrisome questions out of those part-time working students who also care about their college study career (especially out of the junior college students, because of the massive intensification in workload with greater difficulties in their third year of studying): What are the negative effects of having a part-time job; and, how would those affect their academic performance.

**2.2 LITERATURE REVIEW**

The trend of employment among university students has been increasing rapidly in the last decade. Some suggest that economic reasons are mainly the factor in this trend. With an increase in the number of students taking a part-time job outside campus, its effect on students’ academic performance has been questioned by many researchers. According to Barron & Anastasiadou (2009), between 50% and 60% of all full-time university students currently engage in some form of part-time employment, and that this figure is forecast to grow. Issues are related to the number of hours worked, whether the student’s jobs pertain to their majors, and student’s workloads (Watanabe, 2005) have been discussed and scrutinized to see the relation between taking part-time jobs and academic achievement.

Furr and Elling (2000) suggest that there are many reasons why students take a part-time job. First, financial problems (Furr and Elling, 2000) becomes mostly reasons some students are forced to take part-time jobs. The average yearly costs of education and living continue to increase in Italy.

Second, students’ involvement in employment has a positive impact on developing career-related skills. It is a hands-on experience that cannot be gained in the classroom alone. Whatever the reasons the students have for taking a part-time job, there is a popular belief that students with part-time jobs do not tend to have higher academic achievement because their focus time of study has been divided with their working time. Students can directly relate the experiences of working part-time to enhance and improve their academic knowledge, motivation, and employment prospects (Curtis & Shani, 2002; Curtis & Williams, 2002).

Aside from obtaining more experience, part-time jobs can also bring many positive impacts such as students can have opportunities to apply what they have learned to real-life situations and broaden their relationships, they also have chances to improve their skills and become much more independent. Even though part-time employment can have many advantages, there are few problems that undergraduates have to face while working, and some of those can have a significant detrimental effect on their both mental and physical health (Carney, C., Mcneish, S., & Mccoll, J., 2005).

**2.3 THE PRESENT RESEARCH**

Although many studies have been done on the advantages and effective ways to get good part-time jobs for students at all levels and any different locations, there is limited research on the difficulties of the part-time jobs on the studying result among the Juniors at Foreign Language Department in Saigon University. To overcome limitations of local situation researches mentioned above and supply the result of a case study about the juniors part-time employment in Saigon University, the author made this paper to clarify demand, difficulties of part-time employment of the juniors at Foreign Language Department in Saigon University and some suggested solutions of part-time employment on students’ learning performance. This research can also provide some references to those who want to investigate and study this field. Therefore, this research seeks answers to the following questions:

1. What are the difficulties that juniors face while they are doing part-time?
2. What are the impacts of part-time jobs in studying?
3. What are some suggested solutions for the Juniors to work part-time while studying?

**2.4 PURPOSE**

This research report deals with the Juniors who are doing part-time jobs besides their studying. With the above illustration, this study aims to help the Juniors at the Foreign Language Department to recognize the difficulties of working part-time on the studying results to look for the best way to improve their studying. Besides, this research also helps the Junior’s parents who have a close relationship such as father, mother, grandparents to recognize the importance of family allowance for the juniors at Foreign Language Department of Saigon University so that their parents have methods to support their children as well as help them decrease pressure about finance.

**2.5 VALUE**

The results of this paper are majorly based on questionnaires and statistical study among students of the Foreign Language Department (FLD) of Saigon University (SGU). Therefore, the analytical finding of this paper, besides the serving purpose of opening up further researches – potentially, longitudinal studies – into the achieving successful result in studying for part-time working students, is also determined to serve the role of a useful source of reference for SGU, as providing the part-time working students of FLD with information and suggestions to improve their working and studying efficiency; following by supplying the parents and caretakers of the part-time working students (especially juniors) of FLD the understanding of how part-time job can affect their descendants’ study result in order to provide the right support to the students in their study career, minimize the negative effects from their part-time job and maximize their study capability.

**3. METHOD**

**3.1 OVERVIEW**

During the academic year 2020-2021, we carried out the reasearch about the difficulties and some suggested solutions of part-time jobs on the studying results among the Juniors at Foreign Language Department in Saigon University. It took us 10 weeks to complete this research paper.

**3.2 POPULATION**

With the name "Difficulties and some suggested solutions of part-time jobs on the studying results among the Juniors at Foreign Language Department in Saigon University", we picked up the Juniors for the research because at this age, they have a little life experience for themselves so that they can not be cheated when they go to work. Moreover, they work a lot of part-time jobs so that they can earn money to pay for their studies and they also have experienced the effects of part-time job on their studies; therefore, it would be easier for us to get accurate answers.

**SAMPLE**

We chose 100 students in the Department of Foreign Languages randomly on the web to do our survey.

**3.3 LOCATION**

We chose the main campus of Saigon University, which is located at 273 An Duong Vuong Street, District 5, Ho Chi Minh City, as a location to approach our target population. There are two special majors “Teaching English as a Foreign Language” and “English for business and tourism”. It will be easier for us to do the survey because we are in the same major.

**3.4 RESTRICTIONS**

Our research paper also suffered from some limitations. First, have you asked the question of why we did not choose first-year, second-year, fourth-year students but selected three-year students for the survey? Because the number of Juniors had part-time job will be a lot, they not only did it to accumulate experience for the school but also paid their own study fees. On the other hand, we wanted to mention that because we did not have much time to collect data, therefore we only chose the Foreign LanguageDepartment to do the survey, it was also suitable for our ability.

**3.5 SAMPLING TECHNIQUE**

We collected the data for the survey via social network. First thing we do was to create a questionnaire of multiple-choice that included information about part-time jobs. We then invited everyone to participate in web which created on the Facebook. The benefit of this reference is to save for us time and money, but the results may not be really accurate because they can just make it.

**3.6 PROCEDURES**

-Step 1: Verifying the topic

The topic was discussed and made clear. We wanted all members to adopt the right aims and to understand what we were going to do in the coming research.

-Step 2: Finding resources

We spent the next 2 weeks finding the references.

-Step 3: Building up the questionnaires

The questions have been established based on our research purpose and the responses would show us the problems participants faced.

-Step 4: Collecting and analyzing data

After completing our questionnaires, the multiple-choice questions were posted on the Junior’s Facebook page, then we summed up the responses. Next, we discussed what was conveyed through the numbers in proportion forms.

-Step 5: Writing up the research

With the planned outline and collected data, our team was able to put a pen on paper and deliver our research to readers. Since the total writing amount was too long for one person to complete accurately, we decided to write separate parts of the report and then joined them back together later.

-Step 6: Reflecting

There are always the possibility of mistakes in the process as we were all beginners in conducting the research. Therefore, the most integral step was looking back for errors and collecting them if we still have had enough time.

-Step 7: Binding the book

We spent a day to bind the research paper.

-Step 8: Submitting the research to the lecturer

After the research paper was completed and printed in a book, it was checked again by the whole group, then it was submitted to the lecturer.

**3.7 MATERIALS**

The online questionnaires by Google Form were used as the main material for our research because we can collect the information exactly. We also got data from a lot of books. Besides, we have obtained information through many websites, newspapers and magazines which relate to the difficulties of part-time jobs on the studying results among the Juniors.

**4. RESULTS**

The part-time job among students is popular. The two words “part-time job” are no longer unfamiliar to students. The result shows that more than 80% of students are having part-time jobs. How to spend reasonably? How to help their family? These questions are seriously challenging the students. Therefore, many students choose to work part-time in order to pay for living costs, gain experience or simply go to work for fun…

There are many reasons why students take a part-time job.

Firstly, financial problems become mostly reasons that some students have to take part-time job. The average yearly costs of education and living continue to increase in Ho Chi Minh City. The result shows that more than 70% of students work for 8-20 hours per week. They have to work long hours because the wage is low.

Secondly, students need to gain more practical experience and skills because these things are often interested by employers. The main cause of the student's part-time job is the need for additional income to cover the costs of studying and living. Instead of having fun and wasting time, the students' decisions to work part-time are mostly those with a legitimate purpose.

Through the survey, the study also shows that factors of part-time work affect studying results such as students do not have much study time, including studying in class, self-studying and doing homework. In addition, working part-time also affects the health of most students. Many students do not meet the balance between studying and doing part-time jobs.

In order to see the relation between part-time employment and students' academic achievement. The study results show negative effects of part-time jobs on learning, in particular, 58% of students have worse academic performance after taking part-time job. The assumption is that the more time they spent on part-time job, the less likely they will get good academic results. This assumption was just common as they would have less time to study, or they will be tired and could not focus on their courses. Students who worked 8-20 hours per week had a negative impact on their academic achievement because the energy and time spent at work, students would be detracted from studying. Besides, students having part-time jobs also have a higher stress level.

The given two pie charts above illustrate the proportion of recommendations for juniors when applying for a part-time vacancy, and effective ways to cope with the time division.

Overall, the majority decision has been chosen is the combination of three methods. Be organized and have a plan is the best outcome to manipulate the study and work.

It is clear that while 11% of juniors think that new-comers should reduce working hours during the exam, the same percentage of prior students suggest that others should apply for a job that has flexible working hours or increase self-discipline. In general, 73% of experienced students think that the best solution should consist of all three considerations above.

The majority technique that has been chosen is being organized and having a plan in advance, at 39%. Although 31% of the proportion show that staying motivated is also the best choice, the result for avoiding time-wasting does not discriminate.

**5. DISCUSSION**

It was anticipated that a lot of third-year students would encounter many problems when having a part-time job, such as they could not catch up with the lectures in class as well as missed assignment deadlines while working and studying at the same time. Previously, many studies have been done to uncover the impact of having part-time jobs on students as well as finding out some proposed solutions for students to improve their learning results. However, there are no studies that revolve around the juniors from the Foreign Language Department at Saigon University. Therefore, we decided to conduct this study to understand more about the difficulties of third-year students working a part-time job while studying.

The findings, luckily, to be consistent with the theory. Through research results, our topic has supported the original hypothesis. Firstly, third-year students' academic performance had negative changes after working part-time jobs. Secondly, stress and tiredness were the next things plenty of undergraduates have been through while working. Lastly, the time spent in part-time employments had some detrimental impacts on studying results.

Through the survey, the collected data showed that students' average score before working had been higher than their one after work. Many students have reported that they often cannot catch up with the lectures in class as well as miss assignment deadlines while working and studying at the same time. Some students also felt that they could have achieved higher grades had they not been working. It led us to infer that students' learning results had detrimental changes after working part-time, namely, their grades gradually decreased.

Besides the decrease in learning, along with that, the health of the students also reduced. When taking time to work part-time while studying, it would be difficult to avoid stress and fatigue. Part-time employment brings many benefits, yet, it could have some detrimental effects on both the physical and mental health of the students along with their studies. Hence, it could be inferred that students balancing a full-time study with part-time jobs were more likely to suffer from stress and easily feel tired.

Last but not least, the fact that students working part-time would waste time leading to their academic performance more or less affected. Many students reported that they had devoted more than 20 hours a week to part-time jobs. This left them very little time for doing homework. This finding provided us to believe that students who spent a lot of time in part-time jobs each week would tend to decline in academic performance.

It is possible that part-time employment may have an impact on students' academic achievement. In general, part-time jobs require students to do extremely high intensity in a harsh working environment, but the salary is quite low. With such an ascendant of work, they can fall asleep as soon as they come home from work. Their homework is therefore not completed either. Besides, the more students work part-time, the more their health declines. The next consequence is that students often skip meals, especially they still have to stay up late to review their assignments for the coming exams. This leads to their poor nutrition and insufficient sleep, so the student will not guarantee general health. Moreover, most students working part-time are often affected by the time factor because they do not know how to arrange time appropriately to balance between studying and working. Some students are due to chasing for immediate interests, they work too many hours per week, leading to neglect of their studies.

In this research, there are several limitations that need to be considered. First of all, we narrowed down the scope and object of this study to fit the short duration. Hence, we only surveyed more than 100 juniors in the Foreign Language Department at Saigon University, which makes this research cannot cover all students at different levels and many other ologies. In addition, all members of the author group are students of the Foreign Language Department, so we decided to study in our department because it was easier to reach the survey subjects than other faculties. If we can do surveys in other faculties or other schools, we will receive more responses with higher accuracy. However, we do not have enough time, the opportunity, and ability as well as not be allowed to enter another university to survey.

Besides, we purely surveyed on some problems and proposing solutions for the juniors working part-time instead of full-time. Furthermore, the survey focuses only on academic results, while part-time jobs also affect the students' daily life. However, we do not have enough time and energy to study these issues, which are the limits of our report. It would be great if future researchers can conduct more studies to cover the impacts of part-time jobs on students' routine life.

Next, some documents require readers to pay fees if they want to read the full article. As a result, it was difficult to find sources of references that not only have the information related to our study but also have accessible contents. Moreover, some students might not take the survey seriously, such as answering questions for fun, not even reading the questions meticulously before choosing an answer. It contributes to factors that the research results less objective and accurate. The research has some limitations in terms of scopes and resources that it focused on the difficulties and suggested solutions of the part-time jobs on students’ learning outcome. Further, researches should be replicated in explaining the reasons why students involve in part-time employment as well as the advantages of working part-time.

Another limitation of this study that we collected data from the cross-sectional questionnaires, which is a costless method, yet it is not possible to conclusively prove the difficulties and solutions of part-time jobs on the studying results. Due to our focusing on third-year students of the Foreign Language Department at Saigon University, some difficulties and solutions for students having part-time to improve their academic performance may not be entirely appropriate for all students at different levels, faculties, and schools.

Finally, we conducted this study at Saigon University among the Juniors of the Foreign Language Department, excluding all students at other levels, faculties, and schools, which may lead to inconclusive results. It is recommended that future researchers should choose students at different levels in other faculties at Saigon University as the samples for their study. It is recommended that future researchers should choose students at different levels in other faculties at Saigon University as the samples for their study. Researchers can also revolve around students at other universities in Ho Chi Minh City or other provinces to uncover a more accurate picture of students working part-time as well as offering some solutions to improve their learning results.

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