

## **Hospitality and Tourism Management Graduates' Perceptions and Attitudes of a Career in the Hospitality Industry**

A.C.I.D. Karunaratne

*Department of Public Administration, Uva Wellassa University, Badulla, Sri Lanka*

Sri Lankan hospitality industry is surpassing a thriving era than ever before. In the key development contour of the sector, human resource development has been identified as a foremost prerequisite in the hotel sector. There is currently a severe dearth of employees in the tourism and hotel sector in relation to catering the authorities' targets. Tertiary academic stakeholders are currently crossing the threshold to fulfil the essentials fabricating graduates in Hospitality and Tourism Management. Yet, very less number of bachelor holders are working in the hospitality industry as a paradigm. In order to recruit and retain desirable personnel in today's competitive labor market, it is important for employers to understand demands and perceptions of the workforce. The purpose of this empirical study is to identify the perceptions and attitudes of Hospitality and Tourism Management graduates towards a career in the hospitality industry. Sample was undertaken with most recent graduating cluster who are ready to start their career after the academics of four years special bachelor degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management from two national universities of Sri Lanka. Graduates' perceptions were identified by means of variouse dimensions utilizing a structured questionnaire and graduates were asked to rate each. Discovering interests, attitudes and perceptions of the recruitment pool, employers will be able to gain competitive advantages and develop successful human resource strategies knowing what graduates looking for. Meantime, Universities and vocational institutes would cultivate sustaining protocols to produce graduates who are physically and mentally fit with the industry careers.

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