

A Policy Study on University Student Club Activities for Employment

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The aim of this research study is to explore some policy measures on university student club activities for employment. Following the IMF economic crisis, the importance of career and vocational guidance became more broadly recognized, especially at universities and colleges because of their high graduate unemployment rate. In this research, student club activities are studied as a means of exploring employment opportunities and preparing students for their future career paths.

Document analysis including previous research articles was conducted to identify recommendations for national policymaking on students club activities helping students explore career and secure employment opportunities. A questionnaire survey was conducted to investigate current status of university student club activities and to confirm the feasibility of policy recommendations on career club activities. A conference of career guidance specialists and experts was held to formulate policy measures on university student career club activities including career guidance programs, university support systems, and national and community support systems.

This research study has finally identified 3 categories of policy measures on student career club activities which can be utilized in a Korean

situation. The first category is about career club program contents and activity methods. These include the following;

1) Below is a list of themes which have been identified as most desirable for student career club activity programs;

- (1) Exploration of work and jobs
- (2) Self knowledge exploration
- (3) Individual career plan
- (4) Field trip and work experience
- (5) Foreign language training for jobs
- (6) ICT training
- (7) Interview techniques and resume workshop
- (8) Entrepreneurship workshop

2) Below is a list of methods which have been identified as most desirable for student career club activities;

- (1) Participation in expert seminars
- (2) Students' meetings and discussions
- (3) Dialogue and interaction with alumni at work
- (4) Participation in job search workshops conducted by companies
- (5) Work observation and experience
- (6) Intramural and extramural activities of career clubs
- (7) Working holidays in foreign countries

The second category is about university support systems for career club activities. These are as follows;

- (1) Appointing advisers for career club activities
- (2) Certifying career club activity programs
- (3) Simplifying the registration procedure of career clubs
- (4) Providing enough space for clubs
- (5) Establishing career centers to provide information
- (6) The provision of career counseling services by certified experts

- (7) Providing career club activity programs
- (8) Providing information on technical licenses and certificates
- (9) Guidance on community work experience programs
- (10) Administrative and financial support systems for career club activities

The third category is about national and community support systems for career club activities. These are as follows;

- (1) Providing volunteer community services and work experience opportunities
- (2) Allowing study visits to enterprises and communities
- (3) Providing work observation and experience opportunities at industrial sites
- (4) Establishing job search workshops organized by industrial associations/professional associations
- (5) Introducing award competitions for career skill development
- (6) Establishing public career guidance centers
- (7) Establishing public institutes for guiding overseas training and employment
- (8) Reinforcing the career guidance function of professional organizations and associations

The creation of a collaborative network system involving universities, the community/state, employers' associations, research institutes and the government is recommended for the implementation of the new policy measures mentioned above on university career club activities.