

## **EXPLORING THE IMPORTANCE OF EMPLOYABLE SKILLS AS PERCEIVED BY OJT ENGINEERING STUDENTS AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

This study aims to determine the importance of soft and hard skills as perceived by OJT engineering students and industrial partners, and analyze the skills gap between them. The study provides a better picture of what soft and hard skills that the industry needs and future graduates are expected to perform. A survey was conducted to engineering students of Pangasinan State University who were enrolled in OJT and supervisors of the engineering students in their respective industry partners. The survey-questionnaire were distributed to the respondents two weeks before the internship ended. The findings revealed that industry and student respondents agree on teamwork, leadership and communication are the most important soft skills. Results on technical skills revealed that, the industry responded positively on the areas of engineering skills and knowledge, formulation and solution of technical/engineering problems and designing a system/process to meet client needs. Thus, the needs to improve the skill of our engineering student is evident. The results of the study provide useful information for universities in designing better curriculum in meeting the increasing demands of industry skill needs.

**Keywords:** Soft skills, Hard Skills, OJT, Importance, Skill Gaps.