

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to find out training strategies employed by Technical Training Institutions in enhancing gainful employment of clothing and textile graduates within Meru County, Kenya. The objective of the study to find out the instructional strategies employed by technical training institutes in preparedness of securing gainful employment, to investigate the competency requirement of the employer from a diploma holder in clothing and textile technology industry, to examine the relevance of the curriculum to the job market and examine the challenges faced by Diploma holders who enter into gainful employment. The researcher used a survey research to carry out the study from HoDs in Clothing Departments in the following institutes; Meru Technical, Nkabune Technical, Kiirua Technical and twenty entrepreneurs (employers of clothing graduate) and hundred graduates in clothing, who are out in the field, who are not well known to the researcher since it is a snow ball study. The study employed a combination of purposive and snowball sampling techniques to draw up the sample for Technical Institutes, Entrepreneurs and Diploma graduates respectable. The research used both primary and secondary tools to collect the necessary information; the researcher came up with well constructed questions and an interview schedule that was directly connected to the research solution. The study used questionnaires for Diploma Graduates and Employers of CT graduates, while interview were scheduled for Clothing Heads of Department within sampled Institutes in Meru County to collect data. Piloting was done to determine the validity and reliability of the research instruments. Qualitative data from interview guides was analyzed through interview transcription and thematic analysis. The quantitative data from the questionnaires was analyzed through the statistical packages of social sciences that enabled the researcher to come up with accurate information, The data collected from responded were presented in tables, charts and graphs. The researcher interpreted the results through the responses comments. From the findings the researcher draw a very strong conclusion that clothing graduates needs to be familiar with activities in the industry, use computerized machines and modern equipment of current technology. Curriculum to be revised in order to match the job market demand, specialization of career should be highly considered when revising the syllabus and taxes of clothing products that hinder graduates not start their own businesses to be fairly charged in clothing industry. The research intended to benefit the researcher, Curriculum Implementers, Curriculum Planners, Heads of Department in Clothing, Lecturers, Trainees, Ministry of Education and employers [Entrepreneurs] in Clothing industries.