

A Study Abroad Course in Globalization of Technology in Bangladesh

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Abstract

A short-term study abroad course was developed to provide a meaningful global experience to engineering students of University of Michigan-Flint. The objective of the course was to familiarize students with the technological advancements in a developing country and how it transformed engineering from a global perspective.

Introduction

The University of Michigan-Flint offering faculty-led short-term study abroad courses different disciplines in the spring or summer help students acquire global experiences. Students experiencing international travel and a new culture in a safe and powerful learning environment is invaluable and is not possible to attain in a traditional classroom setting¹. Through a short-term study abroad program, students can have an understanding of the culture they have been acquainted with².

Basic Themes of the Course

This course is basically intended to disseminate experiential learning to engineering students. The globalizing process from every sector-business to education has changed the idea of higher education systems of the world. Students are no longer confined to physical classrooms and traditional topics and old ideas. With the advancement in science and technology, the field of business has spread to the furthest corner of the world. Without the knowledge of the cultures of the people living outside the national border, no business firms and corporation can succeed. Because of this, employers are looking for employees not only expert in analytical and interpersonal skills but also familiar with economy, business and cultures of different nations all over the world. With this in mind this study abroad course was designed. Students made a trip to Bangladesh led by faculty where they participated in a short term internship in three different industries in three groups. They learnt manufacturing process and technology used in those industries along with the barriers the industry people face in third world countries like Bangladesh. They enjoyed sightseeing and foods also became familiar with different cultural norms in Bangladesh. They even played cricket which is very popular in Bangladesh and participated in a cultural function. The whole trip helped the students have an overall industrial and cultural experience of Bangladesh

Bibliography

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