

AY: 2020-21



LETTER OF COMPLETION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Employability Training Project

To Whom It May Concern,

We are a team of researchers in development and labour economics – Dr Erin Kelley from the World Bank, Dr Gregory Lane from American University and Dr Gaurav Chiplunkar from the University of Virginia. We collaborated with **Patuck Gala College of Commerce & Management** to explore mutually beneficial academic research about labour force participation of final year university students.

The purpose of this research was to investigate how to boost labour force participation among Indian youth. The main hypothesis we tested was whether providing more support to young adults through a soft skills and employability training program, achieves this objective. To this end, we partnered with Talerang who trained students in their final year of college on specific work-readiness skills.

- We engaged with a total of **27** students from the **BCOM, BBI, BMS** streams.
- During the course of the program, multiple activities were conducted with these students, including: i. an orientation (to familiarize students with the objectives of the program and take registration), ii. baseline survey (where we collected information on students' job aspirations and preferences), iii. a one-day training workshop (on interview training, work-readiness, and CV building skills delivered by trained professionals from Talerang), iv. weekly check-ins (an optional task for students to learn more about current affairs and report writing, which also enabled the research team to stay informed of students' progress with job search), and lastly, v. a final feedback session. Students who completed all these sessions have already received a digital certificate from our team.
- Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, safety of the students and our team was central in our planning and logistics. Thus, all components of the program were delivered virtually via SMSes/WhatsApp messages, phone calls, Zoom/Google Meet video calls and over email.

The activities conducted over the last 3 months were in line with the research team's hypotheses of increasing the likelihood of appropriate placements for students. These hypotheses will be validated as the research team rigorously analyses the collected data in the next few months. A report of the final findings will be shared with the college.

We thank the college for their continued cooperation and their assistance in facilitating this research study.

Sincerely,

Erin Kelley

Economist, World Bank



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We are a team of researchers in development and labor economics - Erin Kelley from the World Bank, Gregory Lane from American University and Gaurav Chiplunkar from the University of Virginia. We collaborated with **Patuck Gala College of Commerce & Management** to explore mutually beneficial academic research about labour force participation of final year university students.

The purpose of this research was to investigate how to boost labor force participation among Indian youth. The main hypothesis we tested was whether providing more support to young adults through a soft skills and employability training program, achieves this objective. To this end, we partnered with Talerang who trained students in their final year of college on specific work-readiness skills.

- We engaged with a total of 37 students from the BBI, BMS, BCOM streams.
- During the course of the program, multiple activities were conducted with these students, including: i. an orientation (to familiarize students with the objectives of the program and take registration), ii. baseline survey (where we collected information on students' job aspirations and preferences), iii. a one day training workshop (on CV building skills delivered by trained professionals from Talerang), iv. a weekly job feed (a curated list of jobs tailored to students' preferences and interests), and lastly, v. a final feedback session.
- The college was instrumental in providing us with logistical support, including but not limited to - access to computer labs and weekly coordination with students.

The activities conducted over the last 5 months were in line with the research team's hypotheses of increasing the likelihood of appropriate placements for students. These hypotheses will be validated as the research team rigorously analyzes the collected data in the next few months. A report of the final findings will be shared with the college.

We thank the college for their continued cooperation and their assistance in facilitating this research study.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin Kelley".

Erin Kelley
Economist, World Bank

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Meeta".

I/c Principal
Patuck - Gala College of
Commerce & Management
Santacruz (E), Mumbai-400 055