

Minutes of a meeting with some members of the garment sector, Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, *Empretec*, and Carnegie School of Home Economics at the Carnegie School of Home Economics, High Street, Georgetown.

Present were:

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| 1. Ms. Patricia Helwig | Despat's Creative Craft |
| 2. Ms. Simone Browne Demonick | Designer/Empretec |
| 3. Ms. Yonette Mure | Yon's Club Fashion |
| 4. Ms. Roxanne King | Roxie's Fashion |
| 5. Ms. Felicia Forde | Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce |
| 6. Norma Washington | Carnegie School of Home Economics |
| 7. Penny Harris | Carnegie School of Home Economics |
| 8. Myrna Lee | Carnegie School of Home Economics |
| 9. Petal Meredith | Empretec |

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Forde.

Ms. Harris stated that some of the courses offered by Carnegie School of Home Economics that relate to the garment sector are:

Evening

Elementary dress making 1	- 20 hrs
Elementary dress making 2	- 20hrs
Intermediate dressmaking	- 20hrs
Advance dressmaking	-20hrs

Full Time

Garment construction	-2yrs
Household Management (Clothing & Textiles)	-2yrs

Five students graduated last year from the garment construction course, however currently no one is enrolled in the program this year.

The Curriculum

Some aspects of the Garment Construction course are:

- Stitching
- Learning the Basics in textiles
- Tied-dying
- Fabric decorating

In addition, students are required to do an attachment at a factory in the first year and an attachment at a designer in the second year.

In Elementary Dress Making 1, students are required to complete a skirt. In Elementary Dress Making 2, students are required to complete a shirt

Some of the issues identified by the garment sector

- The length of the Household Management program maybe too long.
- Registration process may be flawed since personnel at Carnegie are registering more students than the limit (20) and teachers cannot teach more than 20 students at once.
- Another designer thought that the classes were rushed and did not include certain technical aspect such as dye fixing.
- The garment construction course may be too broad, students cannot specialize in any one area, for example, tied-dying or sewing or cutting, instead they are compelled to go through the entire two-year program.
- There is some confusion regarding the purpose/objective of the courses offered, for example, which courses are intended to qualify a student to work in a specific job area and which are meant to be just an enhancement to what is already known. As a result, employers may have too high expectations of the graduates, resulting in belief that Carnegie did not adequately prepare the student. Carnegie may need to sensitise students and employers about the purpose of various certificates.
- The Principal reported that students complained that when they are sent on work attachments in the industry, they are often given menial tasks to carry out and are not taught the necessary skills; so little is gained from work attachments.
- The issue of the use of machines during training was raised, Ms. Washington noted that instructors are responsible for ensuring that machines are available from the School's Administration Division for classes, but sometimes timely notice is not given to the Administration Division resulting in the machines being unavailable for courses.
- Carnegie uses the system of patterns to cut fabric. The level of technology utilized can be described as basic. Currently there are no cutting machines, hemming machines, etc.
- The instructors are drawn from skilled professionals in the industry.

Some issues identified by Carnegie

Getting feedback from the industry is a big problem. Carnegie cannot get proper feedback because the businesses do not respond to the calls for meetings and the evaluation forms that are sent out with students are not properly filled out, evaluation done onsite are often not objective and are not done effectively.

- It was revealed that the instructors receive GYD 500.00 per hr and graduates receive GYD 800.00 per hr, in addition to a travel allowance of GYD 300.00.
- The Principal stated that most instructors are trained teachers, except for two course areas.

The Principal identified the following needs:

- Training for instructors
- New equipment
- Improvement in remuneration for staff
- A revision of the current curriculum

Commitments made by Carnegie

- Carnegie agreed to consider revising the content of the course in garment construction based on input from this meeting and submissions that are to be made later.
- Re-examine its certificates
- Better inform student about the purpose and limitation of the courses offered.

The meeting agreed that the members of the garment sector would make suggestions regarding what should be included in the Curriculum and suggestions for improvement to the courses offered. This will be done over the next two weeks and submitted by November 21, 2005. The Commerce Division will assimilate the information and submit it to Carnegie by November 28, 2005. A follow-up meeting with this sector and Carnegie would be done on Monday, December 5, 2005. Carnegie also agreed to submit to the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce, the names of garment sector enterprises that have accepted work-study students.