

## **PLANT TOUR: A TOOL FOR ACADEMIC ENHANCEMENT AND LEARNING FOR PRODUCTION OPERATION MANAGEMENT COURSE**

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Plant Tour as an extracurricular activity for students taking up Production Operation Management has been in effect since 2004. While it became an institutional out of school activity since 2008, no study has been conducted to determine its effectiveness. This study determined the significant impact on the learning enhancement in the implementation of Plant Tour, the extent of how Plant Tour can be linked to student enhancement and improved learning process, and a description of how Plant Tour is being implemented by the school in terms of: schedule timing, types of firm visited, and location of the manufacturing firm. This study is an action research method that used qualitative and quantitative approaches. There were fifty respondents from the students of MGT 32. Results of the study revealed that in both pre-test and post-test with regards to the student perceptions, the Plant Tour as an institutional extracurricular activity for Production Operation Management meets their expectation that it has a positive impact on their learning enhancement and academic improvement. This means that the Plant Tour can increase motivation, interest and enthusiasm on students for the subject matter. The institution should continue its progress and implementation. With regards to students perception in the implementation of Plan Tour, the students were not too satisfied about the timing or schedule of the plant tour. The respondents recommended that instead of having the Plant Tour during the preliminary period, it should be moved to the early part of the final period for them to fully understand the theoretical concepts before going to the plants. Careful and comprehensive planning process should be undertaken as early as the start of first semester. On the other hand, there was great improvement in the perception on the services of the tour agency which conducted the Plant Tour.