HOW CAN WOMEN BE ENCOURAGED TO WORK IN MARITIME PROFESSIONS? - POSSIBILITIES FOR FLEXIBLE POST-GRADUATE STUDIES

Ninna Roos, Senior Lecturer
Faculty of Logistics and Maritime Management
Satakunta University of Applied Sciences
Suojantie 2, 26101 Rauma, Finland
e-mail: ninna.roos@samk.fi, http://www.samk.fi

Keywords: women, maritime industry, education & training

INTRODUCTION

Maritime industry has traditionally been strongly dominated by men. Accordingly International Transport Worker’s Federation world’s maritime workforce still consist only 2% of women. There is need to improve this statistics and encourage women to build maritime career alongside with men, both at sea and on shipping related professions. Many prejudices and a lack of awareness about working in the field of shipping can affect women’s willingness to seek into work places maritime sector. There can be many limiting issues for women, for instance many maritime related jobs ashore require experience from sea. (1) Not all possible professions available in maritime industry may be obvious for a young female who is making her career plans. A function of the socio-economic climate and social culture within different state have an influence to the seafarer manpower requirements. This can lead to diverse requirements for access into different shore-based sectors and seafarer have difficult to enter these positions due to the qualification level required. (2)

Promoting maritime professions

Agenda of several international organisations, governmental agencies and private organisations have been to promote the progress of women in maritime sector during the several decades. In order to attract women in the industry, also schools and educational institutions should have policies to help women understand and know about maritime professions. There is need for improvement of career awareness and preparedness. Planning of the future studies and profession start in early stage and young people need to have sufficient information and knowledge enough about different possibilities developing their careers before high school or college level, so that they are able to choose and concentrate on wanted courses in good time. For example in Finland, some high schools are offering advanced maritime courses in their curriculums.

Study about women´s career in marine professions

This paper presents a survey conducted about women’s role in maritime professions and career possibilities, using both experiences of students of Master programme in Maritime Management in Satakunta University of Applied Sciences and interviews of graduated bachelor and master alumni’s from the same University. This paper describes the current situation about the women’s interest to seek their way to the maritime industry as well as presents possibilities how women can be encouraged to plan their career path first at sea on vessels and later on, how can they make good use their valuable work experience at sea in shore-based organizations.

In this study the reasons for aluminis seeking into maritime profession are mostly explained by family’s sea going careers and traditions. Also a general interest towards maritime profession affects on willingness to seek the profession of the seafaring. Results of the survey relieved that the reasons for further studies for women interviewed were inclination to self-development and improving their career possibilities in labour market.
Post-graduate studies

This article introduces the post-graduate studies that take into account student’s sea going experience and can be accomplished at the same time when working and can support the progress of personal career.

This Master programme has been especially tailored to meet women’s demand for a work in a land-based organization. Approximately 10 per cent of the graduates are women which is a lot more than women in general in maritime profession. The statistic survey reveals which has been conducted that the motivation among women students in master programme is higher and percentage of graduating students is especially high. Flexibility of the study programme has especially benefited women’s participation and fast graduation. Reasons for this will be reported in the article and more closely surveyed in the interviews.

REFERENCES


2. European Community of Shipowners Association & European Transport Worker’s Federation. The mapping of career paths in the maritime industry. pp. 148-150.