
The impact of offshoring on the evolution of the IT workforce within the UK

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Abstract There is a growing concern over the offshoring of jobs to organisations in developing countries. While offshoring is not a new concept, there was less concern when it affected blue-collar jobs such as those found in manufacturing, as there was a belief that redeployment would occur into high-wage knowledge jobs. This helped both the economies of developed countries and developing nations. However, these same high-wage knowledge jobs are also now being offshored, giving rise to a growing political debate over the future of the UK IT sector. In this paper we examine some of the issues surrounding offshoring, present case studies of two organisations with different experiences and views of offshoring and investigate what it may mean to the IT workforce of the future within the UK.

Keywords offshoring, globalisation, UK IT sector, higher education, government policy.