

Developing Lean-Based Learning Model to Improve Work Skills of Vocational Students

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Abstract. The low absorption of the workforce in the vocational high school graduates indicate their lack of expertise and competency. It urges to improve their work skills to meet the demand of the world of work. This research aims at developing a Lean-based learning model to enhance the work skills of vocational high school students. This study can be categorized as development research using the modified Borg and Gall method. The Lean-based learning model was tested through three stages, namely its validity, effectiveness, and practicality towards students, teachers and industrial practitioners. Based on the research findings, the developed learning model can be categorized as good in case of its validity, effectiveness, and practicality. It means the lean-based learning model is valid, effective and practical as one of the alternatives to improve the competency among vocational high school students to fulfill the industrial demand.

Keywords: Work skills, lean-based learning model, vocational high school

INTRODUCTION

The low competency among vocational high students indicates that the learning process has not comprehensively met the aspects of work skills and it makes the graduates lack expertise. Basically, the learning process must be directly integrated with the work process to facilitate the students with a real experience of work setting (Lubis, 2010; Palmer, 2007; Hartanto et al, 2017). The students' competency skills can be enhanced through the appropriate learning strategies to equip them with knowledge, attitudes, skills and work values which are needed in the real work environment, (Prosser & Quigley, 1949; Hartanto et al, 2019). The role of vocational high schools is to prepare individuals to achieve competency skills, sustain individual lives, face the world of work, and develop careers in the future (Calhoun & Finch, 1982; Hartanto et al, 2019). So, it must produce graduates who are ready to work, smart, competitive and have a strong character as professional workers.

The inadequate competency of vocational graduates can be seen from the labor absorption within the national scale (Indonesia) in which only 10.87% of vocational graduates. It is lower than other education levels, such as a public high school with 20.52%, 18.16% for junior high school and dominated by elementary level graduates with 42.23%. This gap must be solved immediately by enhancing the competency among vocational students in order to meet the industrial standard. Therefore, this study aims at developing lean-based learning models referring to industrial needs. In this model, the learning process is integrated with the world of work to present a bridge connecting the school education and the professional work in order to provide real work experience among students. The learning system that integrates the world of work provides enormous benefits in the development of vocational competence, (Blum, 2008; Sousa, 2011). The world of work integration is a form of the environment role to transform the students' competency to achieve sustainable development.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Work skills are abilities that are needed by individuals in the workplace including hard skills and soft skills. The hard skills in vocational education must be possessed by students to achieve their competencies. It is related to technical procedures and fixed rules that can be learned through the instructional process to gain the intellectual abilities in facing the rapid advancement of information

and environment as well as to support the skills development according to the needs of industry and the world of work, (Coates, 2006; Hartanto et al, 2017; Mazoota, 2015). The improvement of hard skills must be supported by soft skills to be all-around workers. The soft skills are abilities possessed by individuals that cannot be seen but it has a big role in social and community life to support their careers and jobs. This ability is also required by companies or the world of work, (Hartanto et al, 2017; Chaturvedi et al, 2011; Robles, 2012). The adequate soft skills will be beneficial for each individual related to how to communicate, listen, make dialogue, provide feedback, work in a team and solve problems, (Chaturvedi et al, 2011; Hartanto et al, 2017). The soft skills have a significant impact on hard skills and play a crucial role for students in entering the work setting because it makes them to be more flexible and have positive thinking to fulfill the industrial expectations in global competition (Rani, 2010). It means the work skills must be owned to answer the challenges of the future work in the industry that will eliminate the low-skilled labors since the job description require skills as well as high expertise in the fields of reading, calculation, communication, and problem-solving.

The vocational education must have the transformational principle in accordance with the needs of society and technology. This is one means to prepare students to face the world of work, so this kind of education must be oriented to the future requirement. Adrian (2005), The vocational education should be able to train the students to socialize with appropriate attitudes within the world of work, adjust to the employment behavior, have an effective transition to enter the job market, possess specific skills and knowledge towards the working setting.

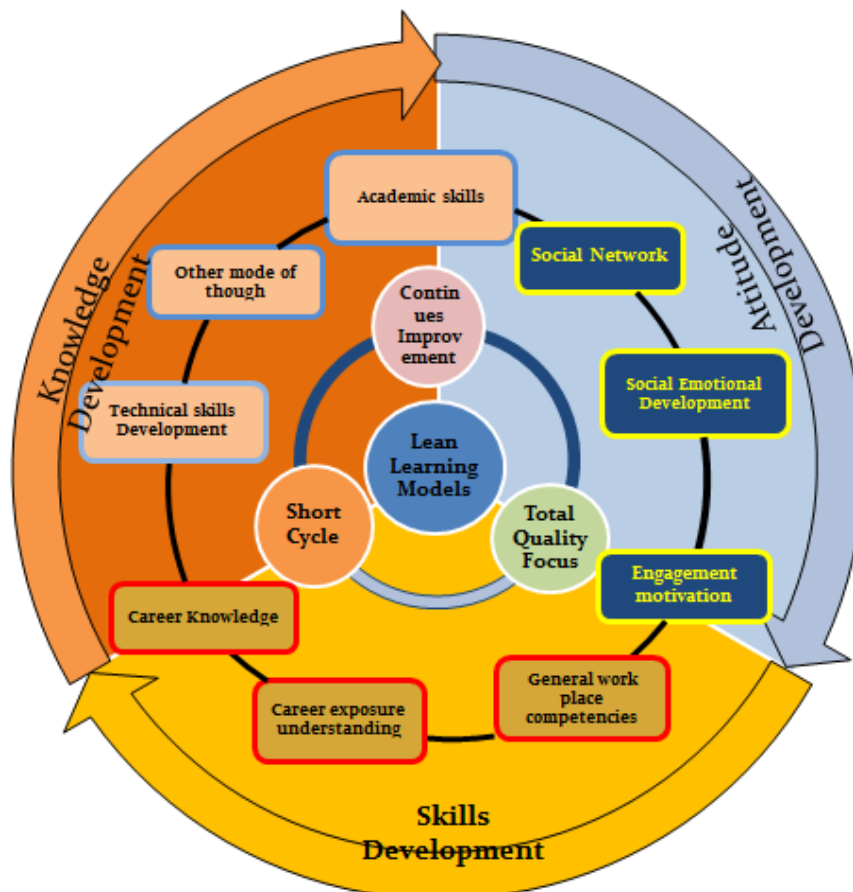


Figure 1. Lean-Based Learning Models

To prepare students to face the world of work, it should be supported with the right learning process by integrating learning with the world of work or industry. One of the appropriate principles is the application of lean systems. Lean manufacturing is a system used in companies and production

processes to achieve maximum profits in case of its effectiveness and productivity through continuous development (Liker and Meier, 2006; Anna et al, 2015; Hartanto et al, 2019). Lean is a continuous effort to eliminate waste and increase value-added products for customers (Gaspersz, 2007). It is called lean because the process must be run using less material, less investment, less inventory, less space, and fewer people (Lonnie, 2010). The implementation of lean manufacturing is outlined in five steps by thoroughly analyzing an entire process including value identification; value streams identification; value stream flow creation; pull system application; excellence orientation (Sundar et al, 2014).

Meanwhile, the learning model is a plan that is used to form a curriculum or long-term learning plan, design learning materials, and guide the classroom learning process (Joyce and Calhoun, 2009; Hartanto et al, 2019). The lean-based learning model provides a solution to realize work skills development among vocational high school students (seen in Figure 1). School learning must be integrated with the world of work to be able to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes in accordance with the objectives of vocational education. Since intelligence and creativity are not genetically determined, and both can be modified by the environment and school (Hartanto et al, 2019; Sousa, 2011). The effectiveness of vocational education will be achieved if the learning is done with similar condition as the actual work setting (Prossers & Quigley, 1949; Hartanto et al, 2019).

METHODS

This research is a research development (R & D) using the modified design of Borg and Gall. It included four steps, namely: (1) analyzing the product to be developed, (2) developing the initial product, (3) expert validation and revision, and (4) field trials and products finalization. The outcomes of this research are the lean-based learning models that were tested in case of its validity, effectiveness, and practicality. The research product had been through the tests of validity, effectiveness, and practicality. The validity test used content validity with the questionnaire completed by 5 selected experts based on the relevant expertise. The results of the validity test were presented descriptively. The effectiveness test of the learning model was done with experimental study with the populations and the samples were the eleventh-grade students of mechanical engineering from the vocational high school in Kepulauan Riau. The sample was selected through the random cluster sampling technique, namely the students who were carrying out industrial practices or internship with work shadowing strategies. The practicality tests were measured by analyzing the student learning outcomes after the action process.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Validity Test Model

Based on the results of the study, the Lean-based learning model has been tested its content validity based on 5 experts' assessment. The model validity test referred to 3 assessment aspects, namely: (1) the supporting theory, (2) the structure of the learning model, and (3) the learning outcomes. Those three aspects were described in the following items: (1) the adequacy and accuracy of the theories to arrange the learning needs and the learning model development, (2) the concepts and teaching processes with the relevant learning strategies and techniques as the foundation of the learning models, (3) the adequacy and accuracy of the relevant theories related to learning strategies to support the learning model, (4) the background of the model development, (5) the objectives of the model development, (6) the model description, (7) the reaction principles of the learning, (8) the media system in learning, (9) the supporting systems in learning, (10) The use of learning approach, (11) The learning steps, (12) The assessment technique, (13) the evaluation of assessment results, (14) the proposed competency, and (15) The proposed learning outcomes. Based on the analysis results, the Lean-based learning models can be included in the «valid» category.

The Effectiveness Test Model

The effectiveness of the learning model was measured based on the learning outcomes among the vocational high school students at the end of industrial practices. They implemented the internship using the work shadowing strategy. The assessment results showed that the minimum completeness criteria were 60% with the individual completeness of 75. This assessment was carried out based on the average scores from both the teachers and the industrial instructors as the field supervisors. Referring to the students' learning outcomes, there were 80% of them who passed the completeness criteria with the category of good.

The Practicality Test Model

The practicality tests were done to the respondents consisting of the teachers who taught in mechanical engineering majors, the industrial instructors and the students who had applied the lean principles for their learning process in the industry. The practicality results were presented in the form of percentages. Based on the research, it was obtained that the teacher responses were 86%, the instructors were 80% and the students were 84% respectively. It means the results of the practicality test can be considered as good.

The appropriate learning models will greatly influence the success of the teaching process. It includes the series of steps or often called "phases" to help the students to achieve the specific learning goals, (Eggen & Kauchak, 2012; Hartanto et al, 2019). The Lean-based learning model provides real experience by directly connecting the learning process with the experts of the working field in the Mechanical Engineering Department. This model can be called Work Integrated Learning (WIL), namely: the educational activities that integrate academic learning of a discipline with its practical application in the workplace. This model can provide students with real work experience and present a bridge connecting the students' academic and the professional world of work. The lean-based learning model provides the opportunity to combine skills and theory of learning in school with direct application in the world of work (Prosser & Quigley, 1949; Martin and Hughes, 2009). The good learning experience will support students' competency, and this is in line with the basic concept of vocational education. Moreover, this learning model becomes an effort to prepare and enhance students' ability to have work skills as vocational learning is a type of education to prepare students to work. Students must learn knowledge, skills, attitudes and do work in accordance with the rules and the real conditions of the world of work, afterwards the learning strategy must be directed according to the needs of the world of work (Lubis, 2010; Hartanto et al, 2019; Ståhl, et al., 2015).

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results, concluded that the Lean-based learning model is considered valid, effective and practical to improve the work skills among vocational high school students.

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