



Student Involvement in Co-Curricular Activities towards Leadership Skills

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ABSTRACT

Co-curricular activities are seen as the best medium to develop leadership skills which can be learned, trained and upgraded from time to time through the extensive involvement of students in co-curricular activities. Through involvement in various activities, leadership skills can be applied and trained in the students whether realized or not. This article is about student involvement, co-curricular activities and leadership skills. The result of the study is from analysis of data from reading material like journals of previous researches and books.

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Introduction

Generally education is a process that forms human abilities and attitudes and can be divided into formal and informal education. Formal education derived from the results of teaching and learning in the classroom, while informal education is applied when students are involved in extra-curricular activities or activities outside the classroom. This assertion is supported by [2] which state that the curriculum is the activities conducted outside the classroom and outside of formal education. Co-curricular activities are programs that associated with the curriculum in a regular classroom. It refers to activities, programs, and learning experiences that complement what students are learning in school.

Co-curricular activities help to bring out all round development of the students, outside the subjects for examination schedule [20]. According to [21], co-curricular activities can provide experience of mental development, talent, social, physical, and spiritual students. Student involvement in co-curricular activities are important based the notion that all students should have a balance of mental, talent, social, physical, and spiritual. A Co-curricular activity is also considered as an activity or program-focused support on non-academic activities. Furthermore, it has helped in shaping the personality of a student such as respect for others, teamwork, and leadership skills [29]. It is also help in the movement of educational work and a learning experience. This is because the academic skills alone are not a guarantee for graduate's students to gain employment as a result of fierce competition in the job market today [12].

According to [7] stated that student involvement is the amount of physical and psychological energy that the student devotes to the academic experience" (p. 297). Astin asserted that the more time and effort students invest in the learning process, the more engaged they will be in their own education, thereby increasing the amount they learn during college. Astin's theory of involvement assumes that simply exposing students to course material or a co-curricular activity is unlikely to produce the desired learning goals; students must be active participants in the learning process. [15] stated that student should be involved in both academic and co-curricular

activities as much as possible to maximize cognitive and affective growth.

Development of leadership skills among students can be implemented through the process of teaching and learning curriculum subjects in higher education. The industry requires that graduates have leadership skills [24]. Thus, apart from learning technical skills, students at institutions higher education should also be exposed to the leadership skills. According to [30], the development of leadership skills among students can be done through the curriculum. This is because through teaching and learning, curriculum students can develop their potential. In the context of leadership skills through the curriculum, co-curricular activities can provide initial training to students of relevant aspects of personality, community and leadership. Ability to lead to the uniform pervaded through activities, clubs, and sports associations [19]. This opinion was supported by [1], which states that the knowledge learned through the leadership and management of the education system to be felt and experienced by students for leading and managing closely related to human life. Therefore, if the student is given the opportunity and the chance to manage the association or club, then as indirectly the students will have the ability to manage and lead others members with leaderships skills, good psychological methods, policies and specific strategies.

Student involvement in co-curricular activities is important to ensure that the purpose of the activities and curriculum goals can be achieved. As we can see, in abroad co-curricular activities are also emphasized in the teaching and learning. For example, Kingston International College in Australia provides a range of co-curricular activities to be accompanied by their own students on semester break. This means that the learning process occurs over a period of time even on holidays. As indirectly students can improve their skills, knowledge which cannot be learned in the classroom during the holidays without feeling stressed while avoiding students spend the holidays with unproductive activities [17], Students can gain leadership skills of co-curricular activities throughout the curriculum. Besides that students are taught to be leaders that able to communicate well, make decisions,

solve problems, work in teams, to comply with the rules and ethics and instilling positive values such as discipline [27].

Co-curricular activities

Curriculum is said to complement the curriculum and can assist the development potential of the individual described [9]. Among the aspects of development that emphasized leadership skills through a curriculum is set [25] assisted that extra-curricular activities can provide early training in terms of leadership, character and community among students.

Curriculum is part of the basic curriculum that involves an activity [13]. Some of the activities such as educational courses and activities in association are considered as co-curricular sports and games in addition to the subjects taught in the classroom. As required by the National Education Philosophy (NEP), curriculum has been used as a medium and an important method in a variety of teaching and learning (P & P) to a person who was able to take advantage of knowledge towards excellence and able to contribute to society and the state. Thus the filling is not only focused on curriculum alone - eye. Co-curricular activities and are able to provide a variety of opportunities for students to add an initiative, evaluating and practicing skills, knowledge and values that have been learned in the session P & P which takes place in the classroom [32].

Co-curricular activities are basically conducted outside the classroom. The activities carried out in schools as through co-curricular activities make one can socialize with friends, build characters themselves, can add self-confidence in doing things, and learn to be independent. According to [22], the curriculum is designed and educational activities implemented after formal lessons both in and outside the classroom, unfounded and advanced education sessions.

Leadership skills

Malaysia Ministry of Higher Education has identified eight core curriculums of courses which are Sports, Culture, Initiatives and Innovation, Public Speaking, Volunteerism, Community Service, Entrepreneurship and the last of Leadership. Leadership skills is including in one of the eight cores that are related on involvement of student in co-curricular activities.

Leadership element can be fostered in students while they attend activities outside the classroom [11]. Through outdoor activities, students learn how to organize, foster teamwork and communication skills among students. Students will also able to master the skills in identify the problems and help in find the solutions, pay attention skills, listen, explain, reflection, confrontation, interpret, provide an information, make conclusions and closer ties to fellow human beings, skills elaborate, adopt and control the behavior [23]. Therefore, to ensure that students can become leaders in the field of career organization then the student must have leadership skills.

Leadership skills are important because students will be faced with the organizational structure of leadership in the future or even all walks of life. A leader among the students is absolutely necessary to be appointed during the work activities carried out to ensure that the activities carried out successfully reach the goal. The obvious leadership skills can be instilled in students through involvement in extra-curricular activities. This is in line with [14], which states that an individual is able to lead through involvement in co-curricular activities because it is an activity organized and designed with the goal to be achieved.

Development of leadership skills through this curriculum was echoed by [4], through their research related to development of leadership skills through curricular modules at Polytechnic Malaysia. In their research, they had found that extra-curricular activities able to develop leadership skills that will be useful to help students when they pursue careers. They also pointed out

that, extra-curricular activities were accompanied by students in polytechnics in Malaysia such as technical skills to play hockey in the subject of co-curricular sports and games that introduce students with specific skills based on the type of co-curricular activities while managed to develop leadership skills among student's polytechnics.

Furthermore leadership skills can help students to expand their potential as a student so useful to put into practice when entering the workforce. Leadership skills can clearly be developed among the students of higher education institutions through their involvement in co-curriculum based on the studies that have been made by previous researchers. Thus, each institution of higher education should play a role in ensuring that each student participates in any extra-curricular activities. If this can be realized in each university or a center of higher learning, the issues related to human capital are not competitive can be overcome.

Important of student involvement in Co-curricular activities towards leadership skills

Student involvement refers to the quantity and quality of the physical and psychological energy that students invest in the college experience. Involvement takes many forms, such as absorption in academic work, participation in co-curricular activities, and interaction with faculty and other institutional personnel. According to the theory, the greater the student's involvement in college, the greater will be the amount of student learning and personal development" [6]. Involvement in student clubs and organizations significantly and positively influenced students' leadership and public-speaking skills [5]. Students who were involved demonstrated greater leadership skills, are more thoughtful in their ethical decisions, and were better able to articulate the benefits from their involvement [8].

Co-curricular activities are considered to be very effective in fostering a balance mental and spiritual development, physical and social development of students. Co-curricular activities give direction to students to get involved in worthwhile activities. Participation in these activities, it is expected that with the skills learned through these activities can foster a lifestyle (life style) healthy. Co-curricular activities can also strengthen the interaction between the students and at the same time fostering integration between the next instill decency, independent, craft work, disciplined and obedient to the law which can form students to become useful citizens [31]. Based on observation it was found that co-curricular activities seek to develop leadership skills in students that will help them in future careers. Through the experience gained in activities, students are allowing to preparing themselves for the demands in the fields of economy, politics, the workplace and the labor market

According [26], the government's move to promote the implementation and student involvement in co-curricular activities is a positive step for the younger generation should have consistency in academic and co-curricular activities and personality skills. Most employers now prefer workers who have the ability to interact, leadership, competent, prudent steeper and can work as a team. Involvement in co-curricular activities to improve its level of independence and self-confidence while reducing negative feelings such as depression, anxiety disorders and [18]. Curriculum is a channel that encourages the development of talent and creativity of the students [3] that designed to enhance students' interest in the subject. It also can nourish the potential of individuals in a particular field to meet the National Education Philosophy (NEP) which requires that talent and potential in a person's pupils increased to the maximum level. Student involvement in extra-curricular activities is also an exercise in preparation for the world of work.

Conclusion

According to the definition, we can conclude that the co-curricular is every activity carried out outside the classroom under the supervision of supervisors or otherwise. Co-curricular activities also are open and free to anyone who wants to be involved with such an activity. In addition, the co-curricular also is an anchor to the knowledge and skills that have been taught in the classroom. Development of leadership skills in co-curricular activities can form effective communication skills, a credible and charismatic and has a broad skill yourself. Based on the importance of leadership skills in students, it is only right that students take the initiative to develop themselves by growing in self-awareness as well as trying to master a range of other skills through co-curricular activities. [25] states that co-curricular activities can provide initial training in terms of leadership, character and community among students. Leadership can be trained through activities uniforms, associations, clubs and sports [28]. When a student is involved in extracurricular activities, they will be exposed to the attitude of the leadership of a group or organization [13].

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