



The Influence of Co-curricular Activities on Student's Communication Skill

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ABSTRACT

Co-curricular activities can form the development of intellectual, emotional, social and moral of the students. Skill of communication skill also can be honed through the involvement of students in co-curricular activities. Therefore, the study is about the influence of co-curricular activities on student's communication skill. The result of the study is from the analysis of data that was got from reading material like journals of previous researches and books.

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Introduction

Co-curricular activities can be defined as any school-based student activities that give students an opportunity to blend the various aspects of their academic learning with personal actions [4]. Co-curricular activities, as the name implies, are those, not directly related with the prescribed curriculum and may include; sports, athletics, scouting, clubbing, excursions debates and various hobbies to bring social and physical adjustments in the child. The basic idea behind such activities in educational institutions is to build up students' character and personality as well as to train their minds in order to facilitate academic achievements of the child [2].

Co-curricular activities are considered to be very effective in cultivate a balance of mental and spiritual development, physical and social students. Nowadays, co-curricular activities at higher education institutions have been part of the education system in Malaysia. It has become are obligated activity for all students in all public and private institutions. Co-curricular activities give chance and direction to students to get involved in worthwhile activities. Co-curricular activities are considered important as a tool to fulfil the wishes of the national education policy is made; unity among students of various races [22]

Each student must join a uniformed body, a sport or game and a club or association in school. Among the objectives of co-curricular activities held in school is to give students experience that will help them to achieve a perfect life. Co-curricular is a complement to the requirements and needs of the curriculum where it provides multiple opportunities for students to add, measure and practice the skills, knowledge and values that they have learned in the classroom learning.

When people are joining co-curricular activities, their communication skill also will be affected. According Schran & Robert (1971), communication may be deemed to be something done. When an individual is learning

communications, this indicates that a person learns about people and how they relate to each other

Type of communication

In general, communication is the process of delivering or transfer messages from one person to another. Communication can be defined as the process of the transfer of information, feelings, ideas, and thoughts of an individual to an individual or group of individuals. Communication is the process of creating understanding other people's messages delivered and both have an understanding of shared together. Concept of communication by [16], he stated that communication in response events that require at least two objects or dual action. Then communication occurs when objects and events mutually influence each other. Communication can divide to two types. They are verbal and nonverbal communication.

Verbal Communication

Verbal communication is a conversation or conversations and writing that aims to deliver a message from one party to another party who receives a message that will process the message was received. It is also not limited to "face to face" only, even for virtual communication such as chat and e-mail are also categorized as verbal communication because the same goal which is to deliver a message [13]. Actually a lot of co-curricular activities that can be attributed with oral communication skills, which are skills associated with speech, debate, dialogue and many others. All of these skills should be mastered by students is to make sure they are really skilled and competent. Verbal communication can influence other people. That is, if a student is good at using the oral communication skills, will undoubtedly be capture other's willingness to continue to listen to every message delivered. In fact, by using the appropriate verbal skills and wisely, the person can be measured her or his personality.

Non-Verbal Communication

Apart from verbal communication, non-verbal communication can also influence other people. Non-verbal communication is body language, facial, character and

behavior as well as costumes or apparel of. As everybody knows, non-verbal communication is the indispensable part of interpersonal communication [15]. Condon John thought that nonverbal communication is relevant to psychology, sociology and physiology, its contents are extensive. Condon summarizes twenty-four types of nonverbal behaviors, which already drew scholars' attention; Including: gestures, facial expressions, posture, costume and hair style, walking posture, proxemics, touching behavior, eye gaze and contact, architectural design and home decoration, signs and symbols, body odor, paralanguage, color, make-up, conception about time, silence, etc. (Wang, 2009). Through the co-curricular activities can also help improve non-verbal communication

Communication Skill

Demand from industry to fresh graduates who want to find work is not only of academic excellence but also have excellence in terms of soft skills. Among the soft skills that must be possessed by graduates are: -

1. Communication skills;
2. Teamwork Skills;
3. Lifelong Learning skills;
4. Leadership skills;
5. Critical skills;
6. Entrepreneurship skills; and
7. Skills Professional Ethics and Values.

It clearly shows that communication skills are the skills needed to meet the industry's demand. Around 90% of employer was asked employees to take on more responsibility, use a broader set of skills and work harder than employees in the past (Peter D. Hart Research Associates, 2009). They awaited graduates to dominate skills in communication, self-directed learning, information literacy, critical thinking, and self-awareness (Peter D. Hart Research Associates, 2005; Kreber, 2006). To prepare for this workplace reality, employers expected higher education to provide students with knowledge and skills in a specific field and the experience of applying this new information in productive ways (Association of American College and Universities [AACU], 2010)

What the important thing in communication is conversation. Conversation can be call as 'heart' of communication. Conversation is the foremost way we communicate. Via conversation societies develop relationships, share information and promote our ideas. All the other ways we communicate – interviews, presentations, networking meetings, and even written documents – are conversations of some kind. Organizations are networks of conversations. Conversations are the way we create shared meaning [3].

Students who have good communication skills are students who can communicate well with teachers, friends in the group, generating ideas and opinions, write well during examinations, and can present the results of studies properly during do the required tasks along their period of study [24].

In Malaysia, communication skill involves effective in Malay and English in different contexts with different communication participants. In Soft Skills Development Module for Institutions of Higher Education [25] description of skill for communication is :- (refer in table 1)

Communication skills are essential for graduates as it is between the needs of the skills required by employers [23].

Table 1. Skill of communication [25]

Stage	Skill of Communication
CS1	Ability to deliver ideas clearly, effectively and confidently, both orally and in writing.
CS2	Ability to practice active listening skills and provide feedback.
CS3	Ability to make presentations clearly, confidently and appropriately with the level of the listener

How Co-Curricular Influence the Communication Skill

The co-curricular activities, as the name indicates, are those, not precisely related with the prescribed curriculum and include; sports, athletics, scouting, cubing, various hobbies, excursions literary societies, dramatics and debates to bring social and physical tunings in the student. The elementary idea behind such activities in educational institutions is the reinforcement of the student character and personality as well as training of their mind that may facilitate academic achievements and self-esteem of the student [9].

The process of education is not something static or one time measure rather, continuous and lifelong endeavor that can be divided in two parts; curricular activities and co-curricular activities [6]. These are also well-known as a source of enrichment and vitalization of the school curriculum, mainly through the fostering of hobbies, interests, etc. these activities are no longer looked upon as extras but as an integral part of the school program [4].

Co-curricular activities are probable to be more student-centered than are regular classes. Such activities include, but are not limited to, athletic programs, clubs, student councils, student publications, assemblies, advisory and homeroom groups, interest groups, social events, camps, as well as artistic, dramatic, and musical organizations under the guidance of school leaders. On all stages, several important characteristics separate co-curricular activities, in theory if not always in practice, from formal classwork. Partaking in co-curricular activities grants many essential outlets for students in today's world. It provides them with challenges, alternative resources, and life-long learning experiences [2].

In co-curricular activities, students undertake responsible positions of leadership; students' spontaneous interests and immediate needs determine affiliations and experiences; and the teacher-supervisor is often a mentor or guide rather than an instructor. The list comprises people skills, the ability to accept responsibility and follow directions, good presentation of self and high personal ideals. These are marketable skills, skills that are cultured as a result of co-curricular participation. Co-curricular activities play a fundamental role. They expand school climate, teach valuable lessons in leadership, and serve as a creative outlet that cannot be gained merely inside the classroom. Still, an experience in co-curricular activities does seem to have a positive effect on academic achievement and social knowledge. Not only do students who participate in co-curricular activities do better academically, but they also develop other aspects of their personalities in the process [17].

In a study conducted by [19], the results obtained are found competences of communication skills among students taking the subject curriculum are high. Mastery of communication skills can be acquired through participation in co-curricular subjects. Communication skills are important to make students more competent. Students who are active in co-curricular activities and engage in this activity can communicate well because they often apply communication skills in every activity they engage in co-curricular.

Furthermore, to achieve the goal in co-curricular involvement, communication skills need to be used [19].

Communication skills can only be acquired when the individual through his own experience with trying to interact with the surrounding community in conveying a message [10]. In their co-curricular activities, students have the opportunity to interact with fellow and lecturer. This allows students to communicate and listen to the information presented very well. This opinion is supported by Ahmad et. al (2005), who said co-curricular activities can develop communication skills among students who follow and those skills can potentially help them when they work in the future.

Educationists say that co-curricular and extra-curricular activities support children build their personality, for psychologists it sublimates their instincts and gives express to their pent-up feelings, and sociologists maintain that it helps them in the words of Dunhill (1961). Excel achievement in co-curricular activities not only gives pleasure to the students but it also infuses a sense of pride in their school.

[21] stated that the level of soft skills among students is high while participating in co-curricular activities. Meanwhile, communication skill is on the list of soft skills. In this platform students viewed implement the five soft skills of communication skills, problem solving skills, decision making skills, leadership skills and teamwork skills to be an important aspect of the present [21].

[29] clearly explained about the government step in promote the implementation and student participation in co-curricular activities is a positive step because 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, competent, prudent high and can work as a team. Thus, pupils and students in higher learning institutions should develop communication skills through a co-curriculum to assist in the development of individual potential. Furthermore, participation in this activity seeks to increase the level of independence and self-confidence while reducing negative feelings such as depression, anxiety and disorders [20].

Through co-curricular activities, four main competencies are identified namely self- management skill, cognitive skill, communication skill and academic excellence of the students [14]. The students those who join in the co-curricular activities are not only physically fit rather they are mentally sharp, responsive and participative regarding the various healthy activities. Here, it is justified to say that co-curricular activities must be a part and parcel of a student's academic life as it enhances his/her self-esteem and prominence in the entire society [11].

The value of Communication Skill

Co-curriculum is a very important and essential part of an education system. It is the co-curriculum aspect of the education that trains and forms the student to be holistic [1]. It was also agreed by [11] that the co-curricular feature of the education that prepares and moulds the student to be holistic. There are many divisions in education. The academic, skills, co-curriculum activities and self-esteem are all part and parcel of education [11].

In the daily life, communication is very important, especially in the delivery of news, transfers and reactions of people who receive [27]. If delivering the news or information is not true or not clear then the person receiving the information confused to answer or reacts. That means communication skills are very important to students. Greater

awareness of the importance of communication skills help students to compete better when venturing into her/his future.

Communication is a living and to live effectively one must have communication skills [28]. If the communication skills that can be mastered and practiced will help achieve excellence and the highest potential for self. Besides that, the extracurricular activities help students become more concerted and more complex thinkers (Phil et al., 2014).

Communication is important to improve the exchange and sharing of knowledge, skills and abilities that can benefit the teachers and students [18]. Indeed, the practice of communication between teachers and students is important [18]. According to Dench (1997), communication skills are very important in influencing the effectiveness of an individual's ability to handle the job. He said individuals who have communication skills are an advantage for the individual to compete in the job market that is so complex.

[7] in their study found that communication skills such as interpersonal skills, oral, and the ability to talk or interact have strong relationships or influenced by the strong leadership skills. [12], stated that the content in leadership is the essence or the main effect in the communication process because both of these skills are the power of human relationships to improve understanding and trust. Definition and concept of communication is defined as well as leadership skills and both are complementary (Conrad & Poole, 2002; Eisenberg & Goodall, 2004; O'Hair, Friedrich, & Dixon, 2002; Shockley-Zalabak, 2002).

Besides that, communication skills as same as critical thinking skills and solve problems that have to be mastered by all students in the school or high education. Communication skills across the curriculum and is often practiced every student communication skills while studying at institutions of higher education and also in everyday life. In the academic context, students often use the key elements in communication such as listening to what was being taught by instructors in the lecture attended. Students will interact orally in group discussion. Assignment or course work is often done by the students, so students need to master the skill of writing in a more scientific. Students are often asked to present the outcomes the assignment either group or individual. Therefore, students need to be sure to deal with a crowd and dare to argue to defend their findings [24]. Without communication skill, student will fail to all the things.

Conclusion

Communication skills are very important for the graduates. From the co-curricular activities is clearly can improve communication skills among students if they are actively involved. There is no doubt anymore, communication skills are the skills that should be owned by everyone. In fact, according to [26], a study was conducted by National Economic Action Council (NEAC, 2005) found that of the 12 criteria listed by 115 employers in a survey of unemployment is run by the NEAC, one of the three criteria of the top listed by the employer is good communication skill while academic achievement is ranked eighth. Thus, graduates need to equip themselves with the current market requirements, which have excellent communication skills.

Overall, communication skills are among the most important aspects of skills. Student mastery of these skills is absolutely indispensable, especially when students are involved in the work in the future. In an interview session, many employers who put the communication skill as their high demand before decide to take the graduate as their

worker. This is because employers know that employees who are not good at communicating with both likely not be able to perform its duties well, despite having an outstanding academic record. [19]

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