



Generic Skill in Co-curriculum in Order to Produce High Quality Graduate

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received: 28 May 2016;

Received in revised form:

1 July 2016;

Accepted: 5 July 2016;

Keywords

Generic Skills,
Co-curriculum Activities,
High Quality Graduate.

ABSTRACT

Implementation of generic skill in co-curriculum activities among student is to enable the country to realize National Education Philosophy in the context of producing student balanced in term of physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual and social which will be more competitive in the advent of a borderless world. Therefore, the direction of this writing is to unravel the relationship between curriculums with generic skills in producing high-quality graduates.

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Introduction

The objective of Malaysia education system is to produce a balanced and harmonious individual in terms of physical, emotional, spiritual and intellectual through the implementation of the curriculum and co-curricular activities. In higher education, co-curriculum is formed was intended to build intellectual and expand the ability to think, to describe, to formulate and produce brilliant ideas by students [21]. Co-Curricular activities have open an opportunity for the student to increase the knowledge, to measure and to practice the skill that has been learning in the class [11].

Co-Curricular activities are the right platform for improving generic skills such as team skills, communication skills, problem-solving skills and others among students in higher education [1]. It is also supported by [6], where generic skills are one of the efforts to produce graduates who are knowledgeable, skilled, innovative, confident, ethical, educated, well-trained and have the proper job.

Generic skills are one of added value that every graduate should have so that there will increase the graduate employability and quality human capital formation is achieved. The study was carried out by [4], found that student involvement in curricular activities has a give significant impact on increasing of students' generic skills that have help in forming their personalities.

To produce high-quality graduates, the university must include generic skills training to encourage the development of these skills among students. The generic skill is the important element the for student, it will helping them in becoming a student that have a variety of skill, able to become more innovative, creative and have a moral excellence so that it can be used in real life[21]. In higher education program, especially at the university today, focused more on preparing students to work professionally using the generic skills that are applied through the co-curricular.

According to [5], stated that most of the industry believe the generic skills are an essential skill in working field where

the industry needs workers who are creative, flexible and high interpersonal skills.

Co-curriculum

In the process of teaching and learning, there are two concepts that are often associated which is curriculum and co-curriculum. Co-Curriculum is formal education obtained from the learning and teaching in the classroom while the curriculum is not formal education which is all student involved in extra-curricular activities or activities outside the classroom. Co-curricular activities are an outdoor activity or the work co-curriculum which is providing learning experiences to students. [14]. The importance of co-curricular activities are equivalent to the importance of activities in the classroom because of its role as a contributor in complement and strengthen the effectiveness of teaching and learning in the classroom

According to [16], states that co-curricular activities are a learning chain in experiencing the continuous extension of learning in the classroom and is part of the university curriculum that should be followed by students. Curricular activity is any activity that planned a continuation of the teaching and learning the process in the classroom that gives students the opportunity to increase, strengthen and practice the knowledge, skills and values that they learn. Co-curricular activities include activities that involve sports activities, association or club that more toward to the subject and culture, and also societies [19].

As required under the National Education Philosophy, co-curriculum has become an important medium and methods in teaching and learning activities (P&P),so that a person can take advantage in established their knowledge towards individual excellence and in the same time they able to contribute to society and country.

Generic Skills

Generic skills are general skills related to quality, capabilities, and features that allow someone to function and contribute are effectively in solving problems that they face, communicate, thinking creatively and critically, and act as an

effective team member [13]. Generic skills are the necessary skills for the graduates which it a skill that not only focuses on the things they learned in their field. Generic skills can be described as the skills that have to exist inside person or skill that only gain from trained such interpersonal skills, communication, problem-solving, using mathematical ideas and techniques and many others skills.

Generic skills involve cognitive elements related to non-academic skills such as communication skills, critical thinking and problem-solving skills, teamwork skills, learning and information management skills, entrepreneurship, ethics and moral professional and leadership skills. Generic skills can be classified as soft skills, key skills, common skills, essential skills, employability skills, basic skills, necessary skills, competencies skills, and transferable skills [23].

All of these elements are important elements which are must be mastered by all students to enable them to become well-rounded students, with critical and innovative thinking and moral excellence in the actual reality of life after graduate. Research made by [20] shows the generic skills should be applied in the teaching and learning of the subject, and should be exposed from the early admission of students.

Teamwork skills

Teamwork skills are one of the elements contained in the generic skills. According to [21], stated that teamwork skills refer to a group of individuals in the organization that works together in performing their duties to achieve the goals groups. This is because; each group member has its own ability, expertise, different skills and knowledge which are interdependent. Team members will closely interact, share information, make decisions and take responsibility together to perform the tasks assigned [21]. In the context of co-curricular activities, cooperation in the completing the task in the group work tasks are easier implemented and the quality of work will be much better [3].

Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills

According to [9] states that critical thinking as the skills to interpret and evaluate something that is observed and the information received as well as arguments acquired in a communication. Many experts in critical thinking tend to defines critical thinking is needed to solve a problem in academics and in life [12]. Problem-solving skills are the skills that require all student to solve a given problem carefully and students must be actively involved in small groups [1]. According to [12], stated that the problem-solving skills are an ambitious goal, which shows students can overcome the obstacles that come with using strategy and evaluation against the decision made. Through elements of critical thinking skills and solve problems, someone could solve problems and make decisions with critical thinking, creative and innovative. In the context of studies in educational institutions, critical thinking and problem solving reflects the ability of students to identify issues and propose solutions while carrying out the analysis, review, and selection of materials in performing the tasks assigned [12].

Communication Skills

Communication is a form of communication that involve the exchange of ideas, opinions, information, communication and performances by individuals or public through verbal or non-verbal, which aims to achieve organizational goals. Students that have good communication skills are students who can communicate well with teachers, friends in the group, producing ideas and opinions, write well during examinations,

and can present the results of studies with good while carrying out the necessary tasks during their studies [12].

Continuous Learning and Information Management

Lifelong learning is the implementation of various learning activities that can be followed throughout life with the aim of improving knowledge, skills and individual skills and thus, contribute to society and working environment [21].

Entrepreneurial Skills

The entrepreneurial skills are the interest, commitment, and effort in exploring opportunities and developing awareness of risks and have the creativity and innovation that translates to business. The objective of entrepreneurship education is to develop students' potential to be more creative, initiative and wise in making decisions [22]. In entrepreneurial skills, there are the characteristics of entrepreneurship which is a need to be established; requirement in leadership, creative, confident, have interlace relationship, initiative, risk-taking, imagination and the ability to analyze [22].

Ethical and Moral Professional

Ethics is an important aspect and useful to students in higher education that somehow will become a leader of the country and also will leading the agency, institution, and organizations in various fields, especially in the government and private sector [11]. According to [18], bad and good human behavior, something that can be made and should be made and also encouragement that makes a person follow something whether in the right or wrong direction.

Leadership Skills

In the context of leadership skills through the curriculum and co-curricular activities can help in providing initial training to students, which is related to aspects of personality, society and leadership [17]. Leadership can be trained through uniforms activities, associations, clubs, and sports. According to [10] when students get involved in extracurricular activities, they will be exposed to the attitude of the leadership of a group or organization.

Generic Skill in Co-curriculum Activities

The academic excellence is undeniable to be one of the important elements in becoming an excellent graduate, but to become excellent graduates without any other added value is not enough. According to [15],states that to achieve the National Education Philosophy, especially in the context of producing students balanced in terms of physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual and social, co-curriculum is the most efficient platform which ultimately will create highly skilled human resource. Generic skills are a skill that very important and must be taken seriously for individuals who have good technical skills. Without having generic skills is considered to be of low quality [5]. Students should be actively involved in extra-curricular activities to produce a high-quality human capital and able to meet the characteristics required [7]. To produce graduates who have a high quality of human capital in context fulfill the customers or stakeholders, the generic skill is an appropriate indicator to be used [8].

Conclusion

As a conclusion, the generic skills can be implemented through the implementation of in co-curriculum. According to [2], states that an educational institution can become as exciting and fun place for students with the existence of extra-curricular for the opportunity to highlight their talent and skills in these curricular activities. Generic skills that can be learned by students is communication skills, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, teamwork skills, learning and information management skills, entrepreneurship, ethics and

moral professional and leadership skills. Generic skills that dominated student is an asset for them to be competitive either when they applying for a job or after having a status of workers. Thus, higher education institutions should be prepared to provide an element of the generic skills to students in co-curricular activities to produce students graduate that skilled, well-equipped, and quality, in addition to improving the quality of academic skills.

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