



The Role of Student Learning Centers in Fostering Entrepreneurial Mindsets

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ABSTRACT

Directorate of Academic and Directorate of Institutional, Directorate-General of Higher Education has launched Soft Skills Developing Program awarded on a competitive basis to the circle of higher education. In this period of intense competition, the development of hard skills should be in line with that of soft skills in higher education as an institution that turns out steadfast and excellent human resources. To instill soft skills needs some exemplars, ranging from university leaders, lecturers, and supporting staffs as the front liners who have direct contacts with students. If students are accustomed to be treated well and respected, sooner or later they will be good servants in society. This is meant by a simple transmission. The alternative transmissions of soft skills, among others, are through 1) teaching method called Student Centre Learning (SCL) implemented in teaching process by three ways, namely, Lecture role model, Message of the week, and Hidden curriculum; 2) Student Extracurricular Activity Units covering spirituality, art, sports, and so on. As the domain of emotional quotient, soft skills have an important role in entrepreneurial spirit. Entrepreneurial spirit has nothing to do with academic intelligence, with the skill to get the job done perfectly, but entrepreneurial spirit is a dynamic spirit to turn a challenge into an opportunity.

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1. INTRODUCTION

An entrepreneur is someone capable of creating a new business and typically faces risks and uncertainties in achieving success. An entrepreneur must be able to identify various opportunities and devote all available resources to turning those opportunities into something profitable. Choosing to become an entrepreneur is one of the most promising alternatives for the future, especially for the younger generation or millennials, considering the current high rate of educated unemployment. To realize this, entrepreneurial training for the younger generation must be continuously conducted by anyone who cares about the welfare of society, in order to produce as many new entrepreneurs as possible. This will help reduce the rate of educated unemployment and boost Indonesia's economic growth.

Soft skills refer to personal attributes or personality traits, as well as communication abilities, needed to succeed in a job. The soft skills possessed by an individual depend on how they communicate with the people around them. Soft skills cannot be obtained through formal education but are developed through greater interaction with others and sensitivity to the environment. Soft skills, particularly communication abilities, are inherent and not learned through formal methods. In entrepreneurship, soft skills are a crucial aspect that significantly determines a person's success as an entrepreneur.

This research was previously conducted by Utomo (2010), who explained the importance of soft skills in entrepreneurship. Utomo discussed the necessity of soft skills and interpersonal skills (people skills) that an entrepreneur must possess. According to Utomo (2010), competence enables someone to compete when entering the workforce or the business world. Meanwhile, Diandra (2019) explained that business practitioners must understand and apply entrepreneurial knowledge in business with all the necessary skills and mental preparation. Along with the rapid technological advancements today and the fierce competition in the business world, university graduates must be able to compete competitively as entrepreneurs to succeed in their ventures. The current issue is that efforts made by education practitioners to foster the entrepreneurial mindset, attitude, and behavior among students are not yet optimal. According to Diandra (2019), entrepreneurship education and an entrepreneurial mindset can create competitive value and advantages for business practitioners. Entrepreneurial soft skills can be learned, shaped, and taught, particularly in the field of entrepreneurship (Hasan, R. 2018).

2. METHODOLOGY

This research employs a non-research method, as the researcher merely gathers information from various sources such as books, journals, and the internet, along with expert opinions. This study discusses the strategy for enhancing the soft skills of students at the Academy of Metrology and Instrumentation in entrepreneurship. The review is conducted from a literature perspective and then analyzed. In this research, the discussion is explained through a literature review.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Soft skills are essential abilities that students must possess in entrepreneurship. These skills work hand-in-hand with technical abilities, or hard skills, and can be personally developed. There are several strategies to improve soft skills among students at the Academy of Metrology and Instrumentation, including: 1. Training Analytical Thinking. To enhance soft skills in entrepreneurship, students must be trained to read current situations

and predict future outcomes in business. This skill is crucial for identifying opportunities and minimizing risks (Astamoen, 2005). 2. Training Problem-Solving Skills. In addressing entrepreneurial issues, students must be able to solve problems effectively. Utilizing tools like SWOT analysis ensures that decisions are made thoughtfully, minimizing the chances of mistakes that could hinder business growth (Utomo, 2010). These skills are closely tied to analytical thinking.

Other strategies include: 3. Improving Communication Skills. Communication is fundamental for entrepreneurial success, as it is the means through which networking and negotiations occur. As Diandra (2019) notes, effective communication is especially critical in the current industrial revolution 5.0. Without this ability, entrepreneurs will face difficulties achieving their business goals. 4. Training Negotiation Skills. Being able to negotiate effectively is essential in reaching agreements that benefit the business. Entrepreneurs must be adept at negotiating to secure mutually beneficial deals (Diandra, 2019). Both communication and negotiation are vital tools for growing a business and building lasting partnerships.

Finally, other crucial strategies include: 5. Providing Time Management Training. Entrepreneurs must manage their time wisely despite flexible schedules. According to Hasan (2018), good time management enables them to balance meetings, tasks, and other obligations outside of the office. 6. Developing Leadership Skills. Leadership is indispensable in entrepreneurship, as it provides the necessary direction for business activities. Entrepreneurs who exhibit strong leadership traits are more likely to succeed (Kuswara, 2010). 7. Instilling Responsibility and Commitment. A high level of responsibility and commitment ensures that entrepreneurs uphold promises, maintain contracts, and develop strong business relationships. These traits are critical for long-term business success (Astamoen, 2005).

4. CONCLUSION

Strategies to enhance soft skills in entrepreneurship among students at the Academy of Metrology and Instrumentation can be implemented in various ways, including training students to think analytically, training them to solve problems accurately, improving their communication skills, training students to negotiate effectively, providing time management training, fostering leadership skills, and instilling a strong sense of responsibility and commitment in developing a business through entrepreneurial practice. The soft skills of students in entrepreneurship need to be enhanced through entrepreneurial practice, as soft skills are critical to the success of students in entrepreneurship, in addition to hard skills.

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