

Workshop Safety Management Amongst Students and Teachers at Vocational Secondary Schools

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Abstract

The main purpose of this journal is to identify the management of the level of safety regulations amongst students and teachers. This journal aims to explore the dimensions such as teachers' management of workshop and safety practices followed by the students in vocational secondary schools. So, we as educators need to be responsible to ensure that students are educated with good management of safety practices. When we teach safety, this means that we are not just communicate information or knowledge about safety, but we also need to change the attitude of a person physically and mentally.

Keywords: practice, management, workshop safety.

1.0 Introduction

Vocational Secondary School is one of the branches in which they will release the potential of technical talent from technical field. It is an asset which will lead Malaysia towards a more tech. To produce the potential of this future professional, highly skilled technical training is desirable. In producing students who are highly skilled, they typically use the practical training workshop more frequent for their technical practices. This is to strengthen the knowledge acquired by students before they enter the real working world. But the aspect of safety must be taken into priority in order to answer to the government so that more skilled manpower can be produced. Workshop safety is the aspect that should be the main focus in doing practical work in the workshop. It should be concerned not only when doing practical work but also at any time when students are in the workshop. Safety can be regarded as a habit or as a form of positive attitude. It will not be obtained by itself but the human himself has to form his own whether to consider it as a priority or not. According to Abu Bakar (1994) in NorFariza (2002), safety rules in the workshop or workplace should be practiced from time to time. To avoid accidents and mishaps, one must be aware and responsible.

2.0 The Importance of Workshop Safety

The teaching and learning about safety in the workshop should always be practised to ensure that the students do not take it for granted, said Siti Atiqah (2008), awareness of safety practices in the workshop should be emphasized to students, because there is a Malay proverb which means that we can never know when will unfortunate incidents occur. Thus, the students should make every effort to avoid any accident in the workshop. According to Siti Atiqah (2008), workshop safety are aspects that should be the main focus in doing practical work in the workshop where it should be concerned equally not only when doing practical work but also at any time when students are in the workshop.

Safety is defined as a condition free from injury, fear, pain or loss which requires appropriate action by all parties. Most accidents are caused by human own carelessness and rarely occurs by itself. Although some efforts have been made, but workshop accidents still happen especially when carrying out practical work in the workshop. Accidents that occur can normally cause burns, limb deformities and loss of life. This will make the school that at first plays the role as the place to gain knowledge becomes a place that does not have safety guarantee. To ensure that a school is safe institution for the students to gain knowledge and skills, a study must be conducted to know how far the students practise safety in the workshop. In addition, the Ministry of Education and the school must constantly identify the safety weaknesses in the implementation of existing safety practices. Accidents involving the use of tools and machines can be prevented if they are properly managed and maintained from time to time. Safety is usually associated with danger. Since childhood we have been reminded to protect ourselves, other people and objects in our environment. This left a very deep influence in ourselves. As such, it is apparent that awareness of the importance of safety has been a part of our lives. Accidents can be avoided or reduced if students are always aware of safety precautions.

According to Siti Atiqah (2008), Safety in school workshop is very important to avoid the process of teaching and learning being disrupted and reduced in terms of its effectiveness and this demands the cooperation of teachers and students. Usually, the teacher will provide sufficient information and explanation on safety practices and actions to be taken before a practical work being carried out. According to Siti Atiqah (2008), safety should be prioritized by teachers for any accidents that occur in the school are the responsibility of the teachers who are at the place of incidents. Not only that, workshop safety and tools also need to be considered so as not to be blamed in the future. According to Siti Atiqah (2008), Safety also means the situation is protected

from physical, social, financial, political, mood, work, psychology, education and other matters involving damage or mishap. According to Siti Atiqah (2008), When doing the activity or work in the workshop, safety aspects that need to be monitored is safety, machinery, equipment and other colleagues. According to Siti Atiqah (2008), safety regulations and workplace safety laws shall be known, studied, and observed for safety is the responsibility of each student. To comply with safety rules in the workshop, any risks involving casualties or senses or damage to equipment and machines, can be avoided.

According to Crow and Crow (1980), teachers should be able to lead, guide and move the students to build the desired attitude. While engaging in activities or work in a workshop, safety aspects that need to be monitored is safety, machinery, equipment and other workers. Safety regulations and workplace safety laws shall be known, studied, and observed for safety is the responsibility of each student.

Awareness of the safety priority is not only for our us, but also for friends who are working together, the environment and security of property. Awareness of the safety will only arise if the students themselves care to know and understand the use of tools that are available in the workshop. Safety in the workshop will be more complicated if there are too many students using the space or existing facilities and equipment at one time. Narrow spaces occupied by a big number of students would worsen the workshop activities and hence the workshop safety.

3.0 Workshop Management

Systematic management of workshop is very important to obtain the effectiveness of the teaching and learning process. Students who enter the vocational secondary schools will learn basic things in theory and in practice before moving into higher education centres offering related courses. Each workshop which is well and systematically managed will help the effectiveness of teaching and learning. This suits the teaching and learning process itself, where the work done and practiced in the workshop is a key component in the teaching and learning based on scientific, technical and skill. The principle is, all forms of activities in the workshop or special room will affect the outcome and satisfaction of the implementer and workshop users. Implementers and users of this workshop refers to the teaching staff. Management activities include planning, implementing, controlling and evaluating. Good and regular management of workshop is not only provide benefits to the teaching and learning process but it is the pride of the teachers who manage. This is because a lot of time and energy has been used for planning, organizing and maintaining a workshop. If teachers cannot control and do a good job, then problems such as damaged and insufficient tools and machines, wastage of materials, problems in storage control, compilation, accidents can happen and thus all these can cause financial provision increases and services rendered is not like what was planned initially. Workshop teachers are responsible in ensuring students practice safety precautions when they are in the workshop. This is to avoid unwanted accidents and also to ensure the smoothness of teaching and learning process. Nevertheless, students also play important role in ensuring their safety in the workshop. Workshop environment must be taken into consideration to create a comfortable environment for students or teachers. Ventilation such as opened windows and adequate lighting is to be a great concern to ensure that the work is being carried out properly. Teachers also need to ensure adequate space for students to work in accordance with the number of students there. Safety means a condition resulting from a change in human behavior or the physical environment to reduce the likelihood of further hazards and reduce accidents (House Dictionary, 1996). Hassan (1997), a large part of the safety compliance is the responsibility of all, acceptance of roles and awareness of the rules will be able to determine safe or otherwise of such an activity in order to ensure effective safety at the workshop teachers will need to identify to which extend the teachers and students practice safety management.

4.0 Challenge

The biggest challenge is that the students do not follow safety guidelines that have been made. Just imagine a workshop or laboratory in your school has protective safety equipment such as goggles, masks, gloves and a busy workshop environment where students are conducting laboratory work, there are students who are drilling and doing whatsoever, the students have to follow the safety measures that have been prepared and if the students do not follow or obey them, where actually goes wrong. It is reality that what is done by a student symbolizes his attitude towards safety.

According to Khairul Azhar (2008), Security is defined as a condition free from injury, fear, pain or loss which requires appropriate action by all parties. According to Khairul Azhar (2008), Safety in the workshop will be more complicated if the number of students is too many uses of space or facilities existing equipment at one time. Confined spaces as well as many students would exacerbate the workshop activities. Because of limited space and narrow things such as emotional disturbance, warm conditions and irregular environment can occur. According to Khairul Azhar (2008), accidents can be avoided or reduced if students always follow safety precautions. Awareness of the safety of not only yourself, but also for friends who were working, the environment and security of property.

5.0 Recommendations

Based on the survey results obtained, some recommendations to the relevant parties are to be given wise attention in particular the Ministry of Education, State Education Department, District Education Office, the school and the teachers involved.

(i) Teachers should ensure workshop equipment such as hand tools, machines and materials needed during practice are increased in terms of maintenance and managed properly so that teaching and learning is not disrupted.

(ii) The Ministry of Education should consider the taking of workshop assistant for vocational workshops for to help teachers manage workshops more effectively.

(iii) Teachers need to monitor and ensure the students follow the rules so that there is no unwanted workshop incidents can interfere during the process of teaching and learning.

(iv) The school and teachers should concern the environmental aspects of the workshop such as ventilation and noise in order to better enhance the function of the workshop.

(v) The number of the intake of students should also be considered to be compatible with the width of workshop space and equipment available for students to make practical work comfortable.

6.0 Conclusion

According to Siti Azizah Wan (2008), the rules on the safety of the workshop should be clearly explained to students so that they really understand the rules. These regulations should be displayed on every bulletin board in the workshop and the students need to be reminded from time to time. According to Siti Azizah Wan (2008), during the practical classes, teachers must supervise and monitor the activities of students carefully to ensure safety is controlled to a reasonable extent for as well as helping students practical work. According to Siti Azizah Wan (2008), students need to have sufficient knowledge of the rules and safety measures when having practical work in the workshop. Teachers need to ensure that workshop equipments such as hand tools, machines and materials needed during practice are increased in terms of maintenance and managed well so that students safety is assured. Ministry of Education should consider the taking of workshop assistant for all vocational workshops to help teachers manage the workshops more effectively. Teachers also need to regulate and ensure the students follow the rules of the workshops so that there is no undesirable incidents. Finally, the school and the teachers give a great concern towards the workshop environment, ventilation and noise in order to better enhance workshop functions.

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