QUALITY ISSUE AS A PART OF PBE (PRODUCTION BASED EDUCATION) SYSTEM IN POLMAN

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Abstract

As an institution of vocational high education, Bandung State Polytechnic for Manufacturing (POLMAN) implements certain portion of practical program to build students skill competencies. For those, product media are created from structured exercises and combined with external inquiries from collaboration with industrial parties, through a system called Production Based Education (PBE). Like usual production activity, there are number of tasks and actions in its order handling that are gaining quality as one of production objective. As a part of PBE, involving the students in controlling the quality product they made is aimed to make them concern to this issue and prevent potential problems in real business point of view that influence customer satisfaction at the end. This might also related with technical specification, schedule, study program, and which or what students competency should get. The students should have the culture in obeying the rules related with quality in the system such as product inspection, do the quality check of final product like previous quality concept, verify the form they used, record the data etc. Besides, they are introduced to the basic of Quality Assurance where the students have to carry out incoming and outgoing check in every process they are assigned. This will prevent the product suitability failure and avoid the rejection and would be very beneficially for all involved parties in education and production as well; either students, lecturers and institution.

Keywords: quality, PBE, production based education

1. Introduction

As an institution of vocational high education, Bandung State Polytechnic for Manufacturing (POLMAN) implements certain portion of practical program in its laboratories to build students skill competencies, like in the learning factory concept that integrating a set of intellectual and physical learning activities in the manufacturing process as a series of theoretical framework units and real field practicum[1]. For these practical sessions, product media are created from structured exercises and combined with external inquiries from collaboration with industrial parties, through a system called Production Based Education (PBE). Such approach is also in line with the aim for better prepare engineering students to function efficiently and adjust readily within the framework of the factories in the real world [2]. Industrial atmosphere within an educational institution can be created by replicating an industrial site plan in its workshop that could improve students' productive competences[3]. This collaboration concept is also a model of education program that aimed to provide workforces with new competencies and qualifications that suit for the new manufacturing generation[4].

Like in usual production activity, PBE order handling for customer runs comprehensively with all necessary tasks and actions needed. Figure-1 generally mentioned how all these activities flow, starts from customer's inquiry till deliver the goods. Comparing with six steps in TF-6M model that consists of receive the given order, analyze, express the readiness, execute the order, incorporate quality control and submit the order[3]; PBE -as a system- carry out the business by involving the whole parties in organization. Managerial aspect for instance, there are number of tasks related to document of quotation, negotiation, contract agreement, term of payment etc; whereas from technical aspect in addition to fabrication and machining process is included as well in the quality issue manufacturer's duty which is supported by related procedures and work instructions.

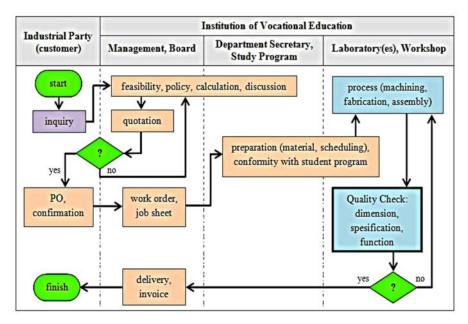


Figure-1: General Order Handling In PBE

As a part of PBE, involving the students in controlling the quality product they made is aimed to make them concern to this issue, besides preventing potential problems in real business point of view such as what, when and how the products should be delivered in proper way that could influence customer satisfaction at the end. Quality is always related with technical specification of products, schedule that stated in the planned and agreed contract, and study program to consider student assignment level in order to fit on which or what competency they should get.

2. Methodology

The students should have the culture in obeying the rules related with quality in the PBE system such as product inspection as a very basic thing, verify the form they have to used, record the data etc. Following Figure-2 then elaborates the Quality Check from previous figure into more detail that is mentioning the number of activities where production participants should contribute. Developed from Quality Check of final product like in previous quality concept, they are introduced to the basic of Quality Assurance where the students have to carry out incoming and outgoing check in every station or process. For Polman case, there is an option whether the product is just component or an assembly unit that Check List Form is needed. Further, in each process there will be decided conditionally whether outgoing check is possible to carry out, otherwise it has to be done by CMM or other special measuring equipment in certain Laboratory or Section.

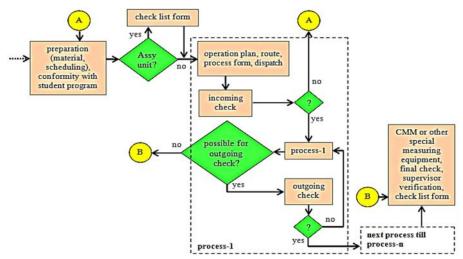


Figure-2: Incoming and Outgoing Check in Each Process

3. Discussion

3.1. Inspection and Quality Control

Inspection is the most common method of attaining standardization, uniformity and quality of workmanship. It is the cost art of controlling the product quality after comparison with the established standards and specifications, as well as an indispensable tool of modern manufacturing process[5]. Polman students get the lesson of inspection session in semester 1 or 2, depend on which study program. In this session they basic measurement using various equipment such as caliper, micrometer, block gauge and profile projector; therefore they are capable to do product inspection or quality control in general scope.

As shown in Figure-1 previously, Quality Check placed as centralized inspection procedure for the finished product, which is done in certain section called QC Lab. In this Lab a small group of students are assigned alternately to support Lecture or Supervisor In Charge. Such student group usually be on duty for one week, do the quality check for finished components before deliver to the customer. They have to fill the QC sheet form in order to determine if its dimensions are correct according to defined drawing.

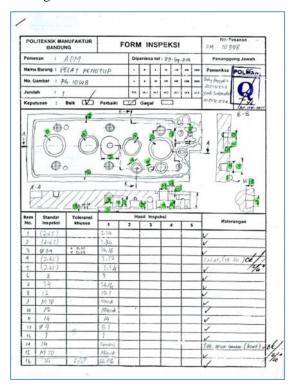


Figure-3: QC Sheet Example

Figure-3 is an example of such filled QC sheet. It is shown that the measuring product or item could be sketched on such sheet with several essential marked points and dimensions that have to be checked. The actual result of its measurements then written down and verify whether passed or not. Actually, the advantages of this kind of inspection are better in quality checkup and closed supervision without any workers pressure, but on the other hand it needs more handling, increases production control and from economical business point of view- higher cost of inspection due to numerous sets of inspections and skilled inspectors[5].

3.2. Quality Assurance

Without leaving out product inspection culture as an important basic thing, the system then developed rather to Combined Inspection, between Floor and Centralized, which is in line with the Quality Assurance concept. However, inspection and testing are the most common methods of Quality Control (QC), and are widely used in education to determine whether standards are being met. Quality Assurance (QA) is different from QC. It is before and during the event process concerned to prevent faults occurring in the first place[6].

Developed from just do the quality check on final product by centralized place of inspectors, the part of responsibility of product quality is taken over to the executors, in this case, the students. They are introduced to the system where they have to carry out incoming and outgoing check in every station or process they work. Before start processing they have to ensure whether received material or premachined component from previous process is acceptable, and after executing the job they do so, whereas these inspection results have to be written or recorded and validated on the Process Form that attached with related technical drawing, as shown on Figure-4.

There could be of course the exception(s), in a condition that outgoing check is not possible to carry out by the direct workforce, for CNC machined part that had 3 dimensional contour for instance. In this case it has to be done by certain section like QC Lab with its CMM or other more sophisticated facility.

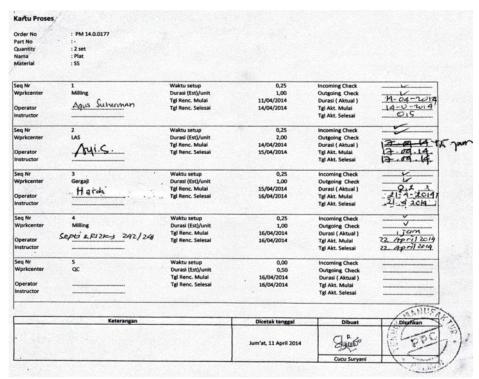


Figure-4: Process Form Example

QA is a matter of the workforce responsibility, usually working in quality circles or teams, rather than the inspector. Staff can give their best only when they feel that they are trusted and their views listened to[6]. With these 'additional' tasks and such condition students will have more authority on their work and pushed their capability up, and this can be achieved by doing it right every time, consistently. It also strengthen the old view and ism that 'next process is our customer'.

3.3. Toward the Total Quality Management

Total Quality Management (TQM) could be defined as an effective system for integrating the quality development, quality maintenance and quality improvement efforts of the various groups in an organization so as to enable production and service at the most economical level which allow for full customer satisfaction. It may be classified as a 'Management Tool' for many industries outstanding improvement in product quality design and reduction in operating costs and losses[5]. TQM programs do not have to use the initials TQM. Many organizations pursue the philosophy under their own brand name. Total quality control, total quality service, continuous improvement, strategic quality management, systematic improvement, quality first, quality initiatives, are some of the many titles used to describe what TQM is[6]. In PBE, the quality commitment seem could be developed more than till Quality Assurance only. There must be spirit from everyone in the instituon for system improvement continuously. TQM dictates that everything and everybody in the organization is involved in the enterprise of continuous improvement. The management in TQM likewise means everyone, because everyone in the institution, whatever their status, position or role, is the manager of their own responsibilities[6]. Though, one of TQM keyword in quality issue is 'integrating' all efforts at organizational scope. Therefore with good willingness of all parties the whole good ideas should be well communicated, harmonized and bundled.

In the PBE problem of view for instance, as an example in the order handling, the quality of single product cases possibly could easily control by awesome workforce participation; but for assembly unit or project like special purpose machine, mold, dies or such things, more management tool is needed. One of the most successful methods applied in TQM is the concept of the quality plan (Schobert & Brown, 1990). A quality plan is defined as a "document setting out the specific quality practices, resources and sequence of activities relevant to a particular service" (Stebbing, 1989, p.20). Thus a quality plan is the quality assurance scheme developed for a program or project[7]. Previous Figure-2 mentioned that if the kind of job is

'assy unit' then a 'check list form' is necessary to implement. This only to say that a common technical drawing is not enough to express more specifications. Such more complicated project needs a list that contain product requirements conditionally as a 'quality plan'. In many cases, this quality plan have to be defined even from the design stage, referred to the customer requirement conditionally.

The TQM philosophy is large-scale and inspirational, but its practical implementation is small-scale and highly practical. By way of illustration, Joseph Juran talks of 'elephant-sized' and 'bite-sized' projects. He argues that the best way to tackle the 'elephant-sized' projects is to divide them up into manageable 'bite-sized' assignments. He recommends assigning one

team the task of 'cutting-up the elephant' (Juran, 1989). Regarding 'assy unit' handling approach for a job that categorized as a 'project' due to its complexity level, a Personal In Charge (PIC) could be assigned. This PIC should manage and control all necessary actions related to the job he or she assigned to, on all event across departments, as a delegated representative of higher management board. Through this project based and temporary assignment PIC has the access to 'push' all related department head in order to ensure that the project runs well. Figure-5 illustrates this authority by the blocked arrows whereas the normal arrows represent work flow and dashed arrows accommodate feedbacks from certain task of operations, if any.

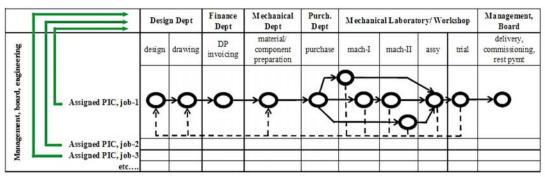


Figure-5: Illustration of Person In Charge (PIC) for Assy Job

Referred to some suggestions, external quality standards have an important role to play in helping organizations develop a TQM culture, as stated as well by British Standard Institution: "the customer needs the assurance and confidence that the supplier has the ability to provide the product or service consistently to the defined quality". Therefore, PBE through Polman adopt the ISO9000 series in order to get the soul of TQM. The philosophy behind the ISO9000 series is that quality should be built into the systems and procedures of the organization, where the emphasis is on prevention rather than cure.

To be able to meet the demands of ISO9000 an organization has to build quality in at each stage, from design through to delivery, assessment and evaluation, through a formal and rigorous management system to ensure conformity of the product to its specification[6]. This would be very beneficially for all involved parties in education and production as well; either students, lecturers and institution. Students will have the culture in obeying the rules related with

quality whereas lecturers and institution could perform better in satisfying the customers.

4. Conclusion

Integrating intellectual and physical learning activities to build students skill competencies in the manufacturing process with Iindustrial atmosphere, in Bandung State Polytechnic for Manufacturing (Polman) certain portion of practical program is implemented in laboratory workshop, through Production Based Education (PBE) system where product media are created from structured exercises combined with external inquiries from collaboration with industrial parties. Referred to product handling procedure in such system, all necessary tasks and actions are accommodated, from customer's inquiry till deliver the product, included the quality issue that students are involved in the whole process according to the competencies they should get.

As a basic method of Inspection and Quality Control, a small group of students are assigned alternately in centralized inspection to support

Lecture or Supervisor In Charge to do the quality check for finished components before deliver to the customer in order to make them concern to the quality issue, besides preventing potential problems in real business point of view that could influence customer satisfaction at the end. Developed from such quality check of final product students are introduced to the system where they have to carry out incoming and outgoing check in every station or process they work. With these tasks and condition they will have more authority on their work and could push their capability up that is in line with the Quality Assurance concept, by way of combining Floor and Centralized Inspection.

Referred to the management commitment, the ISO9000 series as an external quality standard is adopted in order to get the soul of TOM in Polman PBE. Following its philosophy, embedding quality into organization systems and procedures, the emphasis would be on prevention rather than cure. The quality then will be built at each stage, from design through to delivery, assessment and evaluation, through a formal and rigorous management system to the product conformity ensure specification. This would be very beneficially for all involved parties in education and production as well. Students will have the culture in obeying the rules related with quality whereas lecturers and institution could perform better in satisfying the customers.

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