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Balancing Act: Cadet Adaptation in the Port & Shipping Management Study Program at Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Pelayaran (STIP) Jakarta

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Abstract

This research paper delves into the intricate process of adaptation undertaken by cadets enrolled in the Port & Shipping Management Study Program at Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Pelayaran (STIP) Jakarta. These cadets are subject to a rigorous Maritime Education and Boarding Learning System, which combines elements of semi-military and fully vocational training to prepare them for maritime industry roles, with a particular emphasis on the Port and Shipping sector. Employing a descriptive qualitative methodology, this study aims to unravel the strategies and challenges faced by cadets as they strive to maintain a delicate balance between the demanding aspects of their daily life. This equilibrium includes the rigorous academic commitments of the Port & Shipping Management Program, the disciplined and structured lifestyle imposed by the Maritime Education and Boarding Learning System, and the imperative of cultivating a smart approach to their studies. Through a thorough examination of the cadets' experiences, as conveyed through interviews and document analysis, this research paper aims to elucidate the psychological and behavioural intricacies of cadet life. It explores how they navigate through the challenges, adapt to the demanding environment, and ultimately prepare themselves for fulfilling careers within the maritime industry. The findings of this study will provide valuable insights into the educational and psychological dynamics involved in cadet adaptation. These insights may have significant implications for improving the curriculum, support systems, and overall quality of education provided in the Port & Shipping Management Study Program at STIP Jakarta.

Keyword: *Boarding Learning System, Cadet Adaptation, Maritime Education, Port & Shipping Management*

INTRODUCTION

The maritime industry plays a pivotal role in global trade, connecting nations and facilitating the movement of goods and people across the world's oceans (McKinley et al., 2020). In this industry, the efficient and safe management of ports and shipping operations is of paramount importance. To ensure a steady supply of skilled professionals for this sector, educational institutions such as Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Pelayaran (STIP) Jakarta offer specialized programs in Port & Shipping Management. These programs are designed to prepare cadets for the complex and demanding roles within the maritime industry, with a specific focus on the intricacies of port and shipping operations.

However, the preparation of cadets for careers in the maritime industry is not a straightforward task. It involves a multifaceted process that combines rigorous academic training, the development of maritime skills, and the cultivation of a disciplined and structured lifestyle (Balkin, 2006; Chircop, 2015). Cadets pursuing education in Port & Shipping Management at STIP Jakarta are exposed to a unique educational system known as the Maritime Education and Boarding Learning System, which amalgamates elements of semi-military and fully vocational training. This distinctive system is meticulously designed to equip cadets with the knowledge and skills required for success in the maritime industry, where they will be entrusted with managing the intricate operations of ports and shipping.

As such, this research paper seeks to explore the nuanced process of adaptation undertaken by cadets enrolled in the Port & Shipping Management Study Program at STIP Jakarta. This adaptation encompasses the delicate balancing act that these cadets must maintain between their demanding academic commitments, the structured lifestyle imposed by the Maritime Education and Boarding Learning System, and the necessity of adopting a smart approach to their studies. To unravel the strategies and challenges faced by these cadets during this intricate adaptation process, this study employs a descriptive qualitative methodology. The maritime industry is a dynamic and essential part of the global economy. Ports are the gateways through which goods from various industries are imported and exported, and the shipping sector ensures that these goods are transported safely and efficiently. The management of ports and shipping operations requires a high level of expertise and professionalism to meet the industry's demands (Cicek et al., 2019). Therefore, it is imperative to prepare future professionals who can take on these critical roles effectively.

STIP Jakarta is a renowned maritime education institution in Indonesia, providing specialized programs for students aspiring to work in the maritime industry. Among its various courses, the Port & Shipping Management Study Program stands out as a significant contributor to the development of skilled professionals for the maritime sector. Cadets in

this program are groomed to become future leaders, responsible for managing the intricate processes that underpin the functioning of ports and shipping operations. One of the distinguishing features of the education at STIP Jakarta is the Maritime Education and Boarding Learning System. This unique system combines elements of semi-military and fully vocational training to prepare cadets for the realities of the maritime industry. Cadets are not only required to excel academically but also develop the physical and mental discipline necessary for life at sea (Mankabady, 1986). This encompasses elements such as maintaining a highly structured daily routine, physical fitness, and adherence to a code of conduct that mirrors the maritime profession's discipline.

The adaptation of cadets to this comprehensive system is an intricate process, and it forms the crux of our research. Cadets are required to balance the demanding academic aspects of the Port & Shipping Management Program with the rigours of the Maritime Education and Boarding Learning System. In addition, they must develop a smart approach to their studies, given the industry's dynamic nature and the evolving challenges that they will face in their careers. This adaptation process involves not only the acquisition of knowledge and skills but also the development of specific behavioural and psychological attributes. Cadets must learn to function effectively in a structured, disciplined environment and cultivate the resilience to overcome the challenges that the maritime industry presents (Mankabady, 1986; Trenkner, 2009). Therefore, our research aims to delve into the intricacies of this adaptation, uncovering the strategies cadets employ and the challenges they encounter as they strive to strike a balance between these diverse aspects of their lives.

The significance of this research lies in the insights it can provide to both educators and the maritime industry. Understanding the cadet adaptation process can inform improvements in the curriculum of the Port & Shipping Management Study Program at STIP Jakarta. It can also help in the development of support systems that facilitate cadet success, as well as in enhancing the overall quality of education provided (IMO, 2018). Moreover, the findings of this research can offer valuable insights to the maritime industry itself, as it seeks to nurture a new generation of professionals who are not only academically prepared but also capable of navigating the complex and demanding environment of ports and shipping operations effectively. The Port & Shipping Management Study Program at STIP Jakarta, coupled with the Maritime Education and Boarding Learning System, provides a unique and challenging educational experience for cadets. This research delves into the adaptation process undertaken by these cadets, aiming to unravel the strategies and challenges they face as they strive to maintain a delicate balance between the demanding aspects of their daily life (Young, 1995). The research explores how cadets navigate these challenges, adapt

to the demanding environment, and ultimately prepare themselves for fulfilling careers within the maritime industry.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employs a descriptive qualitative research method to delve into the complex process of cadet adaptation in the Port & Shipping Management Study Program at Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Pelayaran (STIP) Jakarta. Qualitative research is chosen for its ability to provide a comprehensive understanding of the lived experiences and perspectives of individuals, in this case, the cadets (Padgett, 2016; Young, 1995). The primary objective of this research method is to uncover the strategies and challenges faced by the cadets as they navigate the demanding and unique environment of their education and training (SEP, n.d.). The choice of a descriptive qualitative research method for this study allows for a deep exploration of the adaptation process undertaken by cadets in the Port & Shipping Management Study Program at STIP Jakarta. Through document analysis, this research aims to uncover the strategies and challenges faced by these cadets in balancing their academic commitments, the structured lifestyle of the Maritime Education and Boarding Learning System, and the dynamic nature of the maritime industry. Ethical considerations and measures to enhance validity and reliability have been taken into account to ensure the integrity of the research findings (Merriam & Grenier, 2019). While this research method has its limitations, it is well-suited to provide a rich and nuanced understanding of the cadet adaptation process, which is integral to their future success in the maritime industry.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research conducted in the Port & Shipping Management Study Program at Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Pelayaran (STIP) Jakarta delved into the process of adaptation undertaken by cadets within this unique educational and training environment. The aim was to uncover the strategies and challenges faced by these cadets as they balanced their rigorous academic commitments, the structured lifestyle of the Maritime Education and Boarding Learning System, and the ever-evolving nature of the maritime industry. The research utilised interviews and document analysis to gain insight into the experiences of the cadets. The findings can be summarised in the following key areas:

1. Academic Commitments:

Cadets in the Port & Shipping Management Study Program at STIP Jakarta are subjected to demanding academic schedules that cover a broad range of subjects, from maritime law to port operations (Harrison, 2009; Mankabady, 1986; Richardson et al., 2012). The research revealed that cadets adopt various strategies to manage their academic

commitments effectively. These strategies include time management, collaboration with peers, and seeking support from instructors. Many cadets emphasised the importance of developing strong study habits and staying updated with industry trends and regulations.

2. Structured Lifestyle:

The Maritime Education and Boarding Learning System at STIP Jakarta imposes a highly structured and disciplined lifestyle on cadets. This includes adherence to a strict daily routine, physical fitness requirements, and a code of conduct that mirrors the professionalism expected in the maritime industry (WEINTRIT, 2005; Young, 1995). Cadets learn to maintain discipline and structure in their daily lives, which are vital skills for their future careers. They adapt by cultivating a strong work ethic and respecting authority.

3. Smart Approaches to Studies:

Given the dynamic nature of the maritime industry, cadets need to develop a smart approach to their studies. This involves staying updated with industry developments and understanding the practical aspects of port and shipping operations. The research found that many cadets actively seek internships and practical experience to gain hands-on knowledge. They also engage in extracurricular activities related to the maritime industry to expand their understanding and network with industry professionals.

4. Challenges Faced by Cadets:

While cadets employ various strategies to adapt to their demanding environment, they also face significant challenges. The research identified several common challenges:

- **Time Management:** Many cadets struggle to balance their academic commitments with the structured lifestyle imposed by the Maritime Education and Boarding Learning System. The need to maintain discipline in daily routines while also excelling in academics can be overwhelming.
- **Pressure:** The academic rigour and high expectations placed on cadets can lead to considerable pressure and stress. This pressure is exacerbated by the knowledge that their performance in this unique educational environment will significantly impact their future careers.
- **Isolation:** Cadets often experience a sense of isolation from the outside world due to the structured boarding environment. They are required to live on campus, away from their families and friends, which can lead to feelings of loneliness.
- **Adaptation to Industry Dynamics:** The ever-changing nature of the maritime industry requires cadets to continuously adapt to new regulations and technologies. Staying updated and relevant in the industry is a perpetual challenge.

Discussion

The findings of this research shed light on the intricate process of adaptation undertaken by cadets in the Port & Shipping Management Study Program at STIP Jakarta. These findings have implications for the academic community, the maritime industry, and the cadets themselves.

1. Academic Implications:

The research underscores the importance of providing support systems to help cadets manage their academic commitments effectively. Educational institutions, like STIP Jakarta, may consider offering time management workshops, mentorship programmes, and academic resources to assist cadets in their studies (IMO, 2018; SEP, n.d.). Furthermore, the curriculum could be designed to integrate practical experiences and industry-relevant content to better prepare cadets for their future careers.

2. Maritime Industry Implications:

The maritime industry can benefit from the findings of this research by recognising the challenges faced by cadets and offering internships, mentorship programmes, and industry-specific training to help them adapt to the dynamic nature of the sector (Agrifoglio et al., 2017; Cicek et al., 2019). Additionally, industry players can actively engage with educational institutions to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application.

3. Cadet Empowerment:

The findings can also empower cadets by creating awareness of the challenges they may encounter during their education and training (IMO, 2018; Young, 1995). Cadets can proactively seek support and develop strategies to manage their time, cope with pressure, and adapt to industry dynamics. The research provides them with a better understanding of the challenges they face, allowing them to prepare and adapt effectively. The adaptation of cadets in the Port & Shipping Management Study Program at STIP Jakarta is a multifaceted process that involves managing rigorous academic commitments, embracing a structured lifestyle, and adopting smart approaches to their studies. While cadets employ strategies to adapt, they also face various challenges that require attention and support from educational institutions and the maritime industry. The findings of this research can inform improvements in the education and training of future maritime professionals, ultimately contributing to the success and readiness of cadets for their careers in the maritime industry.

Implications

The research conducted on the adaptation of cadets in the Port & Shipping Management Study Program at Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Pelayaran (STIP) Jakarta has yielded

valuable insights into the challenges and strategies that these cadets encounter as they prepare for careers in the maritime industry. The implications of this research extend to various stakeholders, including educational institutions, the maritime industry, and the cadets themselves.

1. Educational Implications:

1. Curriculum Enhancement: The findings of this research underscore the need to enhance the curriculum of maritime education programs like the Port & Shipping Management Study Program. It is essential to strike a balance between rigorous academic commitments and practical industry-related training. Curricula should be updated regularly to incorporate the latest industry trends and technologies, ensuring that cadets are well-prepared for their future careers.
2. Support Systems: Educational institutions should consider establishing support systems to help cadets manage their academic and personal challenges. These support systems may include time management workshops, mentorship programmes, and academic resources. Cadets may benefit from academic advisors who can guide them through their studies and provide emotional support.
3. Practical Experience: Integrating practical experiences within the curriculum can bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. Educational institutions should collaborate with the maritime industry to offer internships, on-the-job training, and opportunities for cadets to work alongside industry professionals. This practical exposure will better prepare cadets for the dynamic and demanding nature of the maritime sector.

2. Maritime Industry Implications:

1. Industry Engagement: The maritime industry can play a pivotal role in supporting the adaptation of cadets. Companies and organisations within the industry should actively engage with educational institutions like STIP Jakarta. This involvement can take the form of mentorship programmes, guest lectures, and providing opportunities for cadets to gain practical experience. Industry players can share their knowledge and expertise to help cadets bridge the gap between education and the workplace.
2. Continuous Learning: The research findings highlight the perpetual need for cadets to adapt to changing industry dynamics. The maritime industry should invest in continuous learning and professional development opportunities for cadets and professionals alike. Providing access to courses, seminars, and workshops that focus on the latest regulations, technologies, and best practices will enable cadets to stay

updated and relevant.

3. Mentorship and Networking: Mentorship programmes within the maritime industry can offer valuable guidance and support to cadets. Seasoned professionals can help cadets navigate the complexities of the industry and provide insights into adaptation strategies. Additionally, networking opportunities can connect cadets with industry peers, opening doors for collaboration and career advancement.

3. Cadet Empowerment:

1. Awareness and Preparation: The research findings provide cadets with a better understanding of the challenges they may encounter during their education and training. This awareness can empower cadets to prepare and adapt effectively. Cadets should actively seek support from educational institutions, instructors, and industry professionals to navigate these challenges.
2. Time Management: Cadets should focus on developing strong time management skills to balance their academic commitments and the structured lifestyle imposed by the Maritime Education and Boarding Learning System. Effective time management can reduce stress and enhance overall performance.
3. Resilience: The maritime industry can be demanding, and cadets must cultivate resilience to cope with the pressures they face. Cadets should build a resilient mindset and seek support when needed to overcome challenges and setbacks.

The adaptation of cadets in the Port & Shipping Management Study Program at STIP Jakarta is a multifaceted process that requires careful consideration and support from educational institutions, the maritime industry, and the cadets themselves. By implementing the recommendations and taking into account the implications of this research, it is possible to enhance the educational experience and prepare cadets more effectively for their careers in the maritime sector. Educational institutions should continually refine their curricula, offer support systems, and provide practical experiences. These measures will help cadets strike a balance between academic commitments and industry-specific training. The maritime industry can contribute to cadet success by actively engaging with educational institutions, offering continuous learning opportunities, and providing mentorship and networking avenues. Cadets, in turn, should be proactive in seeking support, developing time management skills, and cultivating resilience to adapt to the demands of their chosen profession.

Ultimately, the findings of this research serve as a foundation for improving the quality of education and training for future maritime professionals. The adaptation of cadets is a critical

step in preparing them for the dynamic and demanding environment of the maritime industry, and it is a process that can be enriched through collaboration, support, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

CONCLUSION

This research has provided valuable insights into the adaptation process of cadets enrolled in the Port & Shipping Management Study Program at Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Pelayaran (STIP) Jakarta. The cadets undergo a unique and rigorous educational experience, which combines demanding academic commitments, a highly structured lifestyle imposed by the Maritime Education and Boarding Learning System, and the need to develop smart approaches to their studies. This intricate adaptation process is integral to their preparation for successful careers in the maritime industry, particularly in port and shipping management. The research has revealed several key findings. Cadets employ various strategies to manage their academic commitments effectively, including time management, collaboration, and seeking support from instructors. They also emphasise the importance of developing strong study habits and staying updated with industry trends. The structured lifestyle imposed on cadets cultivates discipline and a strong work ethic, which are essential attributes for their future roles in the maritime sector.

However, the cadets also face significant challenges during their adaptation journey. Time management can be a struggle, as they must balance academic demands with the structured routine of the Maritime Education and Boarding Learning System. The pressure to excel academically and meet high expectations can lead to stress. Cadets may also experience a sense of isolation due to the boarding nature of their education. Additionally, adapting to the ever-evolving dynamics of the maritime industry presents a perpetual challenge. The implications of this research extend to educational institutions, the maritime industry, and the cadets themselves. Educational institutions should consider enhancing their curricula by striking a balance between academic rigour and practical industry-related training. Support systems, such as time management workshops and mentorship programmes, can help cadets navigate their challenges. The integration of practical experiences within the curriculum can bridge the gap between theory and application.

The maritime industry can play a crucial role in supporting cadet adaptation by engaging with educational institutions, offering continuous learning opportunities, and providing mentorship and networking avenues. Cadets should proactively seek support, develop time management skills, and cultivate resilience to cope with the industry's demands.

In conclusion, the adaptation of cadets in the Port & Shipping Management Study Program is a complex process that requires collaboration and commitment from various stakeholders. By implementing the recommendations and considering the implications of this research, the quality of education and training for future maritime professionals can be significantly improved. Cadets, as the future leaders of the maritime industry, will be better prepared to excel in their roles and contribute to the success of the sector, thanks to a well-informed and supportive ecosystem.

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