

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Apprenticeship

Internships are a form of student assignment outside of the campus environment that provide students with the opportunity to gain firsthand exposure to the systems and work environment within an agency or company. These activities serve as a platform for students to engage directly in workplace activities and observe the company's operational processes in action. Internships provide students with the opportunity to gain work experience, understand the flow of activities, and witness the implementation of work systems in real-world settings.

Bengkalis State Polytechnic is a vocational education institution established by the Bengkalis Regency Government to meet the need for skilled workers in the maritime, engineering, and other supporting industrial sectors. As an effort to improve the quality of human resources in strategic areas, this institution initially operated under the management of the local government. Through the development of facilities, curriculum, and governance, in 2008 Polbeng was recognized nationally and officially granted the status of a state polytechnic based on the Decree of the Minister of National Education. This change in status opened up wider opportunities for Polbeng to improve the quality of education, add study programs relevant to job market needs, and increase its contribution to the development of the regional economy and industry. Bengkalis State Polytechnic is located at Jalan Bathin Alam, Sungai Alam, Bengkalis District, Bengkalis Regency, Riau.

The Business Administration Department is one of several departments at Bengkalis State Polytechnic that plays a vital role in helping students develop skills in administration, management, and business communication. Through systematic education, this department aims to produce graduates who are not only proficient in theory but also able to apply this knowledge in the real world. The Business Administration Department, particularly the International Business Administration Study Program, is designed with a concept that adapts to industry needs, ensuring students are prepared to face the challenges of the professional world.

To apply the knowledge they have learned during their studies, students are required to undertake internships, which serve as a means of strengthening their professional skills. Internships are crucial because they allow students to experience worlace conditions, operational processes, and the dynamics of the industrial world. Through these experiences, students can develop technical skills, work attitudes, and the necessary knowledge.

In this regard, students need to be placed in companies that have a regular, professional work environment that is relevant to their field of study. Determining the location of the Internship is a crucial part of supporting the smooth running of activities so that learning objectives can be achieved optimally. The chosen location is also expected to provide a real understanding of the work systems and operational activities that take place in the company. Based on these considerations, PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper (PT RAPP), located in Pangkalan Kerinci, Pelalawan Regency, Riau, was chosen as the location for the Internship.

PT RAPP is a large-scale company with well-organized operational management and work systems, supported by a professional work environment. This company is considered capable of providing experiences that are tailored to students' learning needs due to its broad scope of activities. Through the implementation of Internships at PT RAPP, students have the opportunity to directly understand the work processes within the company environment, from work flow, task division, to coordination between departments. Thus, students can observe the implementation of work procedures and gain insight into the company's administrative and operational activities.

Students have the opportunity to learn about the company's professional work culture, such as time management, responsibility for tasks, and employee etiquette. This experience helps students adapt to a real-world work environment. The work environment at PT RAPP demonstrates strong coordination between divisions, with each department having clear roles and responsibilities to ensure the smooth operation of the company.

During the internship, students perform administrative and operational tasks under the direction of a field supervisor. This assignment fosters accuracy, discipline, and the ability to follow work procedures. Students are also required to prepare an internship report describing their activities, experiences, and the company's working conditions and systems. This report serves as documentation and evaluation of the benefits of the internship, preparing students for the future world of work (Admin APRIL, 2015).

1.2 Purpose of Apprenticeship

Internships are mandatory for students at Bengkalis State Polytechnic as part of their final project. To achieve optimal results, students need to understand the goals and benefits of these internships.

1.2.1 Purpose of Apprenticeship

Knowing the specifications of activities carried out during the Internship at PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper, Stakeholder Relations Department.

1. Knowing the agenda of activities carried out during the Internship at PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper, Stakeholder Relations Department
2. To identify the targets and objectives of the activities expected during the implementation of the Internship at PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper, Stakeholder Relations Department.
3. To develop practical knowledge of the software and hardware used during the Internship at PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper, Stakeholder Relations Department.
4. Knowing the required data, documents produced, and obstacles experienced during the implementation the apprenticeship in Stakeholder Relations Department at PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper.

1.2.2 Benefits of Apprenticeship

The internship program provides benefits for several parties, namely students, companies, and Bengkalis State Polytechnic.

1. For students, internships provide an opportunity to apply the knowledge and concepts they've learned in class to real-world work. They also allow them to build networks and gain valuable experience, which can help them develop their careers and strengthen their resumes.
2. For companies, internships serve as a means of establishing partnerships with educational institutions, particularly vocational colleges. Companies can better understand the qualities of students as potential employees, in terms of their abilities, attitudes, and work ethic. This provides companies with the opportunity to recruit potential, dedicated, and credible employees. Furthermore, the presence of student interns contributes to the smooth running of company operations.
3. For Bengkalis State Polytechnic, internships provide crucial feedback on the curriculum's alignment with industry needs. This input is invaluable for developing learning systems to be more relevant to the worlace. Internships also strengthen collaborative relationships between the university and companies, allowing graduate quality to continuously improve through the real-world experience students gain during the internship program.

1.3 Significance of Apprenticeship

The apprenticeship program is an essential part of students' academic learning because it connects theoretical knowledge with practical experience in the worlace. Through the apprenticeship, students have the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills they have gained during their studies in a professional environment. In addition, the program helps students develop technical and interpersonal skills, understand worlace culture, and prepare for their future careers. Therefore, the apprenticeship plays an important role in supporting students' academic and professional development.