

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Apprenticeship

An apprenticeship is a structured training program that combines practical work experience with academic learning. This program allows participants to acquire hands-on skills, industry-specific knowledge, and professional expertise under the guidance of experienced mentors. The primary goal of an apprenticeship is to bridge the gap between theoretical education and its real-world application. It provides participants with the opportunity to better prepare themselves for professional challenges. In this way, an apprenticeship becomes a crucial component of vocational education systems in producing competent and competitive workforces.

State Polytechnic of Bengkalis, established in 2001, is the only state polytechnic in Riau Province. The institution offers a variety of vocational programs across eight departments: Naval Architecture, Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Language, Business Administration, Information Technology, and Maritime Studies. The curriculum at the State Polytechnic of Bengkalis emphasizes practical learning, with 60% of activities devoted to practice and 40% to theory. Each week, students participate in 22 to 32 hours of lessons designed to meet industry standards. To graduate, students are required to complete two main obligations: an apprenticeship program and a final thesis.

The apprenticeship program is designed to take place in professional environments that align with students' academic backgrounds. Within the Language Department of the State Polytechnic of Bengkalis, there are two study programs: the Bachelor's degree (DIV) in English for Business and Professional Communication and the Diploma (DIII) in English. As a graduation requirement, students must complete an apprenticeship, which provides them with practical training opportunities in their area of expertise. This program also aims to develop technical, professional, and scientific skills needed in the workplace. Furthermore,

students are trained to build a sense of responsibility, a strong work ethic, and adaptability, especially in the business sector.

The author chose PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper (PT RAPP) as the apprenticeship location due to its status as one of the largest companies in Indonesia with extensive international partnerships. During the apprenticeship, the author was placed at the APRIL Learning Institute (ALI), specifically in the Board Mill Department. The APRIL Learning Institute is known as a professional development center offering innovative training programs. This placement was highly relevant to the author's field of study, namely English for Business and Professional Communication. By selecting PT RAPP, the author aimed to learn best practices in human resource development and gain hands-on experience in a large corporate environment.

The apprenticeship program took place from September 12, 2024, to January 12, 2025, providing the author with four months to learn and contribute. During this time, the author was involved in various activities such as designing training materials, translating technical modules, and engaging in business communication. These activities offered the author the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge gained at university to real-world practices. Additionally, the author learned the importance of effective communication and human resource management within an industrial setting. This experience enabled the author to understand how academic theories and skills can be integrated to enhance workplace performance in a major company.

Through this apprenticeship, the author gained valuable experience that supported professional skill development. The author also acquired deeper insights into the application of theoretical knowledge in real work environments, particularly in human resource development. This program not only improved the author's technical skills but also fostered a strong work ethic, responsibility, and adaptability. The contributions made during this apprenticeship allowed the author to positively impact the quality and competence of employees at PT RAPP. This experience serves as an essential foundation for the author to face challenges and opportunities in the professional world in the future.

1.2 Purpose Of Apprenticeship

The purpose of the Internship program conducted at April Learning Institute PT. Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper are:

1. To connect academic knowledge with real-world application, enabling students to gain practical experience.
2. To develop hands-on skills and industry-specific knowledge essential for professional success.
3. To align with the State Polytechnic of Bengkalis focus on vocational education, ensuring students are workforce-ready.
4. To cultivate responsibility, adaptability, and a strong work ethic in students, preparing them for professional challenges.
5. To allow students in the Language Department to apply skills in business communication, training design, and technical translation.
6. To prepare students to meet industry demands by combining academic foundations with workplace practices.
7. To empower students with the tools and experiences needed to seamlessly transition into their professional careers.

1.3 Significance of Apprenticeship

The practical work carried out is very beneficial for several parties such as students, companies and Politeknik Negeri Bengkalis:

1. For Student

Internships have significance in opening up better career opportunities, helping them develop self-confidence and interpersonal skills, as well as providing opportunities to build a professional network that can open up future employment opportunities.

2. For Companies

Internships provide benefits such as gaining fresh ideas from the younger generation, strengthening channels for recruiting potential employees, and increasing productivity and efficiency through the contributions of student interns. In addition, companies that offer internship programs can also enhance their reputation as companies that care about professional development and are

committed to human resource development.

3. For State Polytechnic of Bengkalis

Internships have significance in strengthening relationships with industry, providing valuable feedback for curriculum improvement, as well as increasing student satisfaction by providing them with real-world experience relevant to their academic studies.

1.4 Job and Length of the Apprenticeship

Practical Work activities are carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Practical Work implementation regulations. The period of practical work is 4 (four) months, starting from September 9th to January 15th, 2025. The schedule for the implementation of practical work at PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper is as follows:

Table 1. 1 Office Hours Schedule

No.	Day	Office Hours	Breaks
1.	Monday to Friday	08.15-17.00	12.00-13.30
2.	Saturday	08.00-12.00	-
3.	Sunday	Holiday	-

This practical work activity was carried out at PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper (Mill) Jl. Lintas Timur, Pangkalan Kerinci, Pelalawan Regency, Riau 28300, Indonesia, Tel: +62-761-491-000, Fax: +62-761-491-846. The activities carried out by the author during practical work are in the April Learning Institute Unit, Board Mill Section.