

Implementing the Participant-Center Learning Program for the Engineering Classes in Taiwan – A Case Study

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Abstract

Since 2005 the Harvard Business School (HBS) began to promote Harvard Case Method (HCM) to the higher education in Asian regions, including Hong Kong, Mainland China, Singapore, and Taiwan, HCM is regarded as a successful instructional model has been adopted by many management schools to meet the end. It is learned that this western-style pedagogy, a participant-centered learning program (PCLP), could benefit students with different cultural background is of concern. The purpose of this manuscript is to explore potential benefits, difficulties, and future prospective of implementing PCLP in the engineering classes in Taiwan. Quantitative data, consisting of surveys, interviews, and class observations, were gathered to address the research questions. The preliminary findings indicated that the involving senior instructors and students showed very accepting attitudes toward the PCLP in the observed engineering classes. This highly structured case method was considered better able to help students develop their learning motivation, problem solving skills, and improving study habit due to the participatory, interactive guiding process. However, challenges were also found, including adjustment to the new approach, lack of resources, and difficulty to train qualified faculties. In order to sustain and promote PCLP implementation in Asian regions, a more holistic plan, with the collaborative efforts of the universities outside Asia, is needed.

Keywords

Engineering program, global education, case method, participant-centered

Biography

JrJung Lyu is a professor in the Department of Industrial and Information Management at National Cheng Kung University and also serving as the chair of Extension Center of National Cheng Kung University. He obtained a PhD degree in industrial engineering from the University of Iowa, USA. Dr. Lyu has participated in many projects, public services, and reviewing committees since 1989. He is the founder of CQI (Center for Quality & Innovation) at National Cheng Kung University and the former President of e-Business Management Society (EBMS) since 2006. Dr. Lyu has published over 80 journal papers and earned the Personal Award of the National Quality Award, Taiwan, in 2002. He is currently appointed as the country councilor in Taiwan for ASQ, USA. His research interests include global quality management, EV development mechanism, innovative biz model development, strategic new service, etc.