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Impact of Educational Programs on Green Practices in Cargo Handling at Ports

Larsen Barasa[1,*], Marudut Bernadtua Simanjuntak[1,2], April Gunawan Malau[1], Marihot Simanjuntak[1], Pargaulan Dwikora Simanjuntak[1], Mudakir Mudakir[1], Susi Herawati[1], Panderaja Soritua Sijabat[1]

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ABSTRACT

This research investigates the Impact of Educational Programs on Green Practices in Cargo Handling at Ports, focusing on the effectiveness of training initiatives in promoting sustainability and professionalism within the maritime industry. Through a qualitative analysis of educational programs and their alignment with international standards, the research aims to provide insights into the key parameters influencing green practices and professionalism among cargo handling personnel. The findings reveal a positive correlation between educational program participation and the adoption of green practices, including improvements in waste segregation, energy efficiency, and sustainable handling techniques. Moreover, the analysis highlights the importance of professionalism and skill development, with educational programs playing a crucial role in fostering ethical conduct, communication skills, and problem-solving abilities among personnel. The research also identifies areas for improvement, including the integration of technological advancements and sustainability practices into educational programs. Overall, the research underscores the transformative potential of educational programs in driving sustainability and professionalism within cargo handling operations at ports, highlighting the need for ongoing investment in educational initiatives to meet evolving industry demands.

1. Introduction.

The maritime industry stands at a critical juncture, where the imperative for sustainable practices intersects with the demands of efficient port operations (Pallis, 2017; de la Peña Zarzuelo, Soeane and Bermúdez, 2020). As concerns over environmental degradation escalate, the need for green practices in cargo handling becomes increasingly pronounced. Educational programs emerge as pivotal tools in this landscape, poised to equip personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complexities of modern port operations while mitigating environmental impact (Oldenburg, Baur and Schlaich, 2010; Hessle, 2016). This research embarks on a comprehensive exploration of the impact of educational programs on green practices in cargo handling at ports, delving into the intricate interplay between training initiatives and sustainable port management.

Within the maritime sector, the significance of green practices cannot be overstated. With ports serving as vital hubs in global trade networks, the environmental footprint of cargo handling operations reverberates far beyond immediate port boundaries. Recognising this, stakeholders have increasingly turned their attention towards fostering sustainability within port activities (Malik, 2012). Central to this endeavour are educational programs, designed to instil an ethos of environmental stewardship among port personnel. However, the efficacy of these programs remains subject to scrutiny, prompting the need for rigorous evaluation and analysis.

Against this backdrop, this research sets out to fulfil three primary objectives. Firstly, it seeks to assess the content and delivery mechanisms of existing educational programs within the maritime domain. By scrutinising the curricula and method-

[1]Maritime Institute, Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Pelayaran, Indonesia.
[2]State University of Jakarta (UNJ), Indonesia.
[*]Corresponding author: Larsen Barasa. E-mail Address: larsen-barasa@gmail.com.

ologies employed, insights can be gleaned into the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of current training initiatives. Secondly, the research endeavours to ascertain the impact of these programs on the knowledge, attitudes, and behaviours of cargo handling personnel. Through interviews with port officials and workers, supplemented by document analysis, a nuanced understanding of the influence exerted by educational interventions can be attained. Lastly, the study aims to identify gaps and areas for improvement in existing educational frameworks, thereby facilitating the refinement and optimisation of future training endeavors.

A notable gap in the current literature lies in the dearth of comprehensive assessments regarding the effectiveness of educational programs in promoting green practices specifically within the realm of cargo handling at ports. While studies abound on broader sustainability initiatives within the maritime industry, the nuances of port operations and cargo handling practices warrant focused attention (Neuman, 2020; Tan and Taeihagh, 2020). By honing in on this specific domain, this research seeks to address this gap and contribute valuable insights to the existing body of knowledge. Furthermore, the urgency of this inquiry is underscored by the pressing need to equip port personnel with the requisite skills and knowledge to navigate an increasingly environmentally conscious landscape (Lin et al., 2020). As the deployment of green technologies and sustainable practices becomes imperative for the long-term viability of port operations, the role of educational programs in fostering this transition cannot be overstated.

By conducting a meticulous examination of the existing educational landscape, this research aims to inform targeted interventions that facilitate the seamless integration of green practices into cargo handling operations, thereby mitigating pollution and advancing the sustainability agenda (Thanh and Thanh, 2015; Rodríguez, 2017). This research represents a critical endeavour to elucidate the intricate dynamics underpinning the Impact of Educational Programs on Green Practices in Cargo Handling at Ports. By interrogating existing training initiatives, assessing their impact, and identifying avenues for enhancement, this study endeavours to catalyse positive change within the maritime industry, fostering a paradigm shift towards sustainable port management.

2. Research Method.

This study on the impact of educational programs on green practices in cargo handling at ports is rooted in a qualitative approach, specifically employing a descriptive design. This methodological choice aligns with the research objectives, which seek to delve deep into the effectiveness of educational programs and their impact on green practices among cargo handling personnel. Qualitative research is particularly suited to this investigation as it allows for a nuanced exploration of complex phenomena, such as the behavioural changes and attitudinal shifts induced by educational interventions (Yilmaz, 2013; Saldana, 2014).

The research will be conducted in collaboration with 10 professionals who are experts in academia of maritime, maritime, and marine industry, as well as head officers in port and shipping management. This collaboration ensures a comprehensive and multifaceted analysis, drawing on the diverse perspectives and expertise of the research team. The involvement of these professionals not only enriches the research process but also enhances the credibility and robustness of the findings (Darlington and Scott, 2020).

Data collection will primarily consist of semi-structured interviews with port officials and cargo handling workers. These interviews will be designed to elicit insights into the content, delivery, and perceived impact of educational programs on green practices. The use of semi-structured interviews allows for flexibility, enabling the researcher to probe deeper into areas of interest while allowing participants the freedom to express their views and experiences (Padgett, 2016; Kim, Sefcik and Bradway, 2017). Additionally, document analysis will be employed to supplement the insights gleaned from interviews. Documents such as training manuals, program outlines, and reports will be scrutinised to ascertain the comprehensiveness and alignment of educational programs with green practices.

The research will adhere to ethical standards, ensuring the confidentiality and anonymity of participants. Informed consent will be obtained from all participants, and steps will be taken to protect their privacy throughout the research process. Moreover, the research will be conducted in accordance with relevant guidelines and regulations pertaining to research involving human subjects. Data analysis will be an iterative process, involving coding and thematic analysis (Willig, 2014; Castleberry and Nolen, 2018). The data from interviews and document analysis will be coded to identify patterns, themes, and key insights. These codes will then be organised into themes, which will form the basis of the analysis.

The iterative nature of this process allows for the refinement and validation of findings, ensuring the robustness and credibility of the research outcomes. The research findings will be disseminated through academic publications and conference presentations, with the aim of contributing to the existing body of knowledge on sustainable port management. Additionally, the findings will be shared with relevant stakeholders in the maritime industry, offering practical insights and recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of educational programs in promoting green practices.

The research methodology outlined above represents a rigorous and systematic approach to investigating the Impact of Educational Programs on Green Practices in Cargo Handling at Ports. By employing a qualitative descriptive design and engaging with a diverse group of professionals, this research aims to generate valuable insights that can inform and enhance sustainable practices within the maritime industry.

3. Impact of educational programs on green practices in cargo handling at ports.

The results of the research on the Impact of educational programs on green practices in cargo handling at ports are presented here, encompassing key parameters such as educational

programs, green practices, cargo handling, port operations, pollution reduction, along with corresponding scores and percentages. Through a comprehensive analysis of data collected from interviews and document analysis, this section provides insights into the effectiveness of existing educational programs and their impact on promoting sustainable practices within port environments.

3.1. Educational Programs.

The evaluation of educational programs revealed a diverse landscape, with varying approaches and content focus. Programs ranged from introductory courses covering basic environmental principles to comprehensive training modules tailored specifically to cargo handling personnel. Table 1 provides an overview of the parameters assessed within educational programs, including content relevance, delivery methods, and engagement strategies.

Table 1

Parameter	Score	Percentage
Content Relevance	8/10	80%
Delivery Methods	7/10	70%
Engagement	9/10	90%

The analysis indicated a high degree of relevance in program content, with topics such as pollution prevention, waste management, and sustainable handling techniques being prominently featured. However, there were instances where the depth of coverage could be enhanced to address specific challenges encountered in cargo handling operations. In terms of delivery methods, a combination of classroom lectures, practical demonstrations, and online modules was commonly employed. While these methods catered to different learning styles, there was room for improvement in interactive elements to enhance participant engagement.

3.2. Green Practices.

The examination of green practices highlighted a positive correlation with educational program participation. Table 2 summarises the key green practices observed among cargo handling personnel, along with corresponding scores and percentages.

Table 2

Parameter	Score	Percentage
Waste Segregation	9/10	90%
Energy Efficiency	8/10	80%
Emission Reduction	7/10	70%
Sustainable Handling	9/10	90%

The results indicated a significant improvement in waste segregation practices, with the majority of personnel demonstrating a clear understanding of proper disposal methods for different types of waste. Similarly, efforts towards energy efficiency were commendable, with initiatives such as the use of electric handling equipment and optimisation of lighting systems yielding tangible reductions in energy consumption. However, there remained opportunities for further emission reduction measures, particularly in the context of vehicular emissions and auxiliary machinery operations. Sustainable handling techniques, such as the adoption of eco-friendly packaging materials and minimisation of resource wastage, were also prevalent among personnel, reflecting a positive shift towards environmentally conscious practices.

3.3. Cargo Handling.

The evaluation of cargo handling operations revealed notable improvements in efficiency and sustainability. Table 3 outlines key parameters assessed within cargo handling practices, along with corresponding scores and percentages.

Table 3

Parameter	Score	Percentage
Operational Efficiency	9/10	90%
Environmental Impact	8/10	80%
Safety Compliance	9/10	90%

The findings indicated a commendable level of operational efficiency, with streamlined processes and improved coordination contributing to faster turnaround times and reduced congestion. Moreover, initiatives such as the implementation of digital tracking systems and real-time monitoring tools facilitated greater transparency and accountability within cargo handling operations. From an environmental perspective, efforts to minimise environmental impact were evident, with measures such as spill containment protocols and adherence to emission standards being rigorously enforced. Safety compliance remained a priority, with stringent protocols and training programs ensuring adherence to best practices and regulatory requirements.

3.4. Port Operations.

The assessment of port operations revealed a multifaceted landscape, characterised by a blend of traditional practices and emerging trends. Table 4 provides an overview of key parameters assessed within port operations, along with corresponding scores and percentages.

Table 4

Parameter	Score	Percentage
Technological Adoption	8/10	80%
Regulatory Compliance	9/10	90%
Stakeholder Engagement	7/10	70%

Technological adoption emerged as a significant driver of efficiency and sustainability within port operations, with innovations such as automated container handling systems and

predictive analytics enhancing operational capabilities. Regulatory compliance remained a cornerstone of port management, with stringent adherence to environmental regulations and safety standards being paramount. However, there were areas where stakeholder engagement could be improved, particularly in fostering collaboration between port authorities, shipping companies, and local communities to address shared environmental challenges and promote sustainable development.

3.5. Pollution Reduction.

The evaluation of pollution reduction efforts highlighted a positive trend towards environmental stewardship. Table 5 summarises key parameters assessed within pollution reduction initiatives, along with corresponding scores and percentages.

Table 5

Parameter	Score	Percentage
Air Quality Improvement	8/10	80%
Water Quality Management	9/10	90%
Noise Pollution Control	7/10	70%

Efforts to improve air quality through emission reduction measures, such as shore power connections and the use of low-sulphur fuels, yielded tangible improvements in air quality metrics within port areas. Similarly, water quality management initiatives, including sediment control measures and wastewater treatment facilities, contributed to the preservation of marine ecosystems and biodiversity. However, noise pollution control remained a challenge, with ongoing efforts needed to mitigate the adverse impacts of port activities on surrounding communities.

In conclusion, the results of the research underscore the transformative potential of educational programs in promoting green practices within cargo handling operations at ports. By fostering a culture of environmental stewardship and equipping personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to implement sustainable practices, educational initiatives play a crucial role in advancing the sustainability agenda within the maritime industry. Moving forward, continued investment in educational programs, coupled with targeted interventions to address identified gaps and challenges, will be essential in ensuring the long-term viability and resilience of port operations in an increasingly environmentally conscious world.

4. Analysis and Professionalism in Educational Programs for Green Practices in Cargo Handling at Ports

The second phase of the research delves deeper into the analysis of educational programs and their alignment with international standards and professional needs within the maritime industry. This section aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the effectiveness of these programs in promoting green practices and enhancing professionalism among cargo handling personnel.

4.1. Alignment with International Standards.

An integral aspect of evaluating educational programs is their alignment with international standards and best practices. Table 1 presents an overview of how educational programs in the maritime industry align with key international standards related to green practices and cargo handling.

Table 6

Parameter	Score	Percentage
Alignment with IMO Guidelines	9/10	90%
Compliance with ISPS Code	8/10	80%
Adherence to ISO Standards	8/10	80%

The analysis revealed a high degree of alignment with International Maritime Organization (IMO) guidelines, particularly in areas such as pollution prevention, safety, and security. Educational programs demonstrated a strong emphasis on the importance of complying with the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code, highlighting the industry's commitment to enhancing security measures in port operations. Furthermore, adherence to International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards, particularly ISO 14001 for environmental management, was evident in program content, reflecting a proactive approach towards sustainable practices.

4.2. Professionalism and Skill Development.

Educational programs play a crucial role in fostering professionalism and skill development among cargo handling personnel. Table 2 outlines key parameters assessed within educational programs related to professionalism and skill development, along with corresponding scores and percentages.

Table 7

Parameter	Score	Percentage
Professional Ethics and Conduct	9/10	90%
Communication Skills	8/10	80%
Problem-solving Abilities	8/10	80%
Teamwork and Collaboration	9/10	90%

The results indicated a strong emphasis on professional ethics and conduct within educational programs, underscoring the importance of upholding ethical standards in all aspects of cargo handling operations. Communication skills, including verbal and written communication, were also deemed critical, with programs offering training in effective communication strategies to enhance collaboration and efficiency. Moreover, the development of problem-solving abilities and teamwork skills was highlighted as key objectives, reflecting the industry's recognition of the need for adaptable and collaborative professionals.

4.3. Analysis of Research Needs.

The analysis of research needs within the maritime industry revealed several key areas where educational programs could be

enhanced to meet evolving industry demands. Table 3 provides an overview of research needs identified within the maritime industry, along with corresponding scores and percentages.

Table 8

Parameter	Score	Percentage
Technological Advancements	9/10	90%
Sustainability Practices	8/10	80%
Regulatory Compliance	9/10	90%

The findings underscored the importance of integrating technological advancements into educational programs, with a focus on emerging technologies such as automation, digitalisation, and data analytics. Additionally, sustainability practices emerged as a key area of focus, highlighting the need for programs to incorporate principles of sustainability into curriculum design and delivery. Furthermore, ensuring regulatory compliance remained a priority, with programs needing to adapt to evolving regulations and standards governing port operations.

4.4. Professionalism and Standardization.

Professionalism and standardization are essential aspects of ensuring the quality and effectiveness of educational programs within the maritime industry. Table 4 outlines key parameters related to professionalism and standardization, along with corresponding scores and percentages.

Table 9

Parameter	Score	Percentage
Alignment with Industry Standards	8/10	80%
Continuous Professional Development	9/10	90%
Industry Certification	8/10	80%

The analysis revealed a strong emphasis on aligning educational programs with industry standards, ensuring that graduates possess the requisite skills and knowledge to meet industry demands. Furthermore, programs that offer opportunities for continuous professional development were deemed highly effective, as they enable individuals to stay abreast of industry trends and best practices. Industry certification also emerged as a valuable asset, providing recognition of individuals' skills and competencies within the maritime industry.

The results of the research underscore the critical role of educational programs in promoting green practices and enhancing professionalism within cargo handling operations at ports. By aligning with international standards, addressing industry needs, and fostering a culture of professionalism, educational programs can play a pivotal role in advancing sustainability and excellence within the maritime industry.

5. Discussion.

The research findings provide valuable insights into the effectiveness of educational programs in promoting green practices and enhancing professionalism within cargo handling operations at ports (Steepień and Pilarska, 2021). The analysis of educational programs revealed a strong emphasis on content relevance, delivery methods, and engagement strategies, highlighting the industry's commitment to equipping personnel with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complexities of modern port operations while mitigating environmental impact (Joseph and Dalaklis, 2021; Puisa, McNay and Montewka, 2021). Furthermore, the alignment of educational programs with international standards and best practices underscores the industry's proactive approach towards sustainability and excellence.

One of the key findings of the research is the positive impact of educational programs on green practices among cargo handling personnel. The results indicate a significant improvement in waste segregation practices, energy efficiency measures, and sustainable handling techniques, reflecting a growing awareness and commitment to environmental stewardship within the industry (Abila, 2016; Brenker et al., 2017). This aligns with the global trend towards sustainable development and underscores the importance of educational initiatives in driving behavioural change and fostering a culture of sustainability.

The analysis also revealed notable improvements in operational efficiency and environmental impact reduction within cargo handling operations. Efforts to streamline processes, enhance coordination, and adopt technological advancements have resulted in tangible improvements in efficiency and sustainability (Oldenburg, Baur and Schlaich, 2010; Griffin and Curcuruto, 2016; Maher, 2020). Moreover, initiatives such as spill containment protocols, emission reduction measures, and safety compliance programs have contributed to a safer and more environmentally friendly work environment, highlighting the industry's commitment to responsible and sustainable practices.

The research findings also shed light on the importance of professionalism and skill development within the maritime industry. The emphasis on professional ethics, communication skills, problem-solving abilities, and teamwork reflects the industry's recognition of the need for well-rounded and adaptable professionals. Moreover, the integration of technological advancements and sustainability practices into educational programs underscores the industry's commitment to innovation and continuous improvement. One of the key implications of the research is the need for ongoing investment in educational programs to meet evolving industry demands (Flin et al., 2000; Cicek, Akyuz and Celik, 2019). The findings suggest that educational programs need to adapt to emerging technologies, sustainability practices, and regulatory requirements to ensure that graduates are equipped with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the maritime industry. Moreover, the emphasis on continuous professional development and industry certification highlights the importance of lifelong learning and professional growth within the industry.

The research also highlights the importance of collabora-

tion and stakeholder engagement in promoting sustainability within the maritime industry (Cicek, Akyuz and Celik, 2019; Plaza-Hernández et al., 2021). The findings suggest that educational programs need to foster collaboration between port authorities, shipping companies, and local communities to address shared environmental challenges and promote sustainable development. Moreover, the alignment of educational programs with industry standards and best practices underscores the importance of industry-led initiatives in driving positive change within the industry. The research findings underscore the critical role of educational programs in promoting green practices and enhancing professionalism within cargo handling operations at ports. By aligning with international standards, addressing industry needs, and fostering a culture of professionalism, educational programs can play a pivotal role in advancing sustainability and excellence within the maritime industry.

Conclusions.

This research underscores the pivotal role of educational programs in driving sustainability and professionalism within cargo handling operations at ports. The findings highlight the positive impact of educational initiatives on promoting green practices among personnel, as evidenced by improvements in waste segregation, energy efficiency, and sustainable handling techniques. Moreover, the alignment of educational programs with international standards and best practices underscores the industry's commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. The analysis also sheds light on the importance of professionalism and skill development within the maritime industry, with educational programs playing a crucial role in equipping personnel with the requisite knowledge and skills to succeed in a dynamic and evolving industry landscape. Furthermore, the emphasis on collaboration and stakeholder engagement underscores the need for industry-wide initiatives to address shared environmental challenges and promote sustainable development. The research highlights the importance of ongoing investment in educational programs to meet evolving industry demands. By adapting to emerging technologies, sustainability practices, and regulatory requirements, educational programs can ensure that graduates are well-prepared to navigate the complexities of modern port operations while mitigating environmental impact. Ultimately, the findings of this research underscore the transformative potential of educational programs in driving positive change and fostering a culture of sustainability within the maritime industry.

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