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Students' Interest toward Learning Activities Basedon 4Cs Skills in Mathematics Classroom: A Need Analysis Study

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Abstract

In a study of module development, need analysis should be carried out in order to ensure the module developed will be able to fulfil consumers' needs. Therefore, this study is a part of need analysis study in a research of developing pedagogy module of active learning based on 4Cs skills for Number and Basic Operation in Mathematics (PA4K Module). The 4Cs skills are consist of critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity. This study was carried out to identify students' interest toward learning activities based on 4Cs skills in mathematics classroom. 70 of Year Three pupils were involved in this study and they have responded to the questionnaire provided. The findings show in average that pupils agreed at high level to the items related to critical thinking (Mean = 4.38) very high level of interest toward communication (Mean = 4.59), collaboration (Mean = 4.63) and creativity (Mean = 4.51). According to the findings, it is necessary to develop the module where it is useful to be used by teachers as reference and guidance in enhancing teaching practice which is effective for fostering 4Cs skills among the pupils.

Keywords: 4cs, Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, Creativity, Teaching and Learning, Mathematics.

Introduction

In 21st century learning, there are 4 skills (4Cs) should be mastered by pupils namely communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking as mentioned in Bulletin *of Malaysia Education Transformation No.* 4/2015 (Bulletin of Paradigm, 2015). These 4Cs skills also emphasized in education around the world as super skills. It is significantly important to put on efforts on fostering these skills in order to achieve the vision of *Pelan Pembangunan Pendidikan Malaysia* (PPPM) 2013-2025 (MMOE, 2013). Recently, Malaysia Ministry of Education (MMOE) and State Education Department of Johor put serious attention on fostering 4Cs skills by providing guidance related to the

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implementation of 21st century learning where the process of instilling 4Cs skills are well emphasized (MMOE, 2017; SEDJ, 2017). Pedagogy and teaching practice of 21st century learning should be enriched by creative, innovative critical thinking and emphasize on problem solving as well as competency in decision making (Osman & Basar, 2016).

Move along the changing world, pupils need supportive learning environment which promoting motivation, accurate to subject contents and provide opportunity for pupils to learn in 21st century setting where collaboration with peers, teachers and community are expanded (*Eduviews*, 2008). Creativity among the pupils can be nourished when learning environment offer chances for pupils to communicate new ideas as well as solving complex problems through collective works (Scott, 2015).

Put attention on content standard and learning standard, pupils' previous knowledge, preparing resources and selecting appropriate combination of strategy and skills should be emphasized by teachers (Ariffin & Yunus, 2017). Teachers should put priority on planning and implementing 21st century education through interactive, effective and attractive pedagogical practice (Ariffin & Yunus, 2017).

Needs Analysis in Module Development Research

This study was carried out to gain information regarding to pupils of Year Three interest toward activities based on 4cs skills in mathematics classroom. In design and development research on module, need analysis study is a part of process should be implemented. Need analysis phase is the first phase in the research which is important to obtain information in context and environment of what a researcher going to study (Siraj et al., 2013).

According to Richey and Klein (2007) need analysis is necessary to determine the specification of a product. Need analysis phase provides information which is crucial and will be used in the next phases of designing and developing module (Gagne et al., 2005). The information also used in determining the content of instructional resource optimally as well as deciding the methods on how to convey instruction (Richey & Klein, 2007). Therefore, needs analysis study play important role in identifying what kind of product is the most appropriate to be developed in order to foster 4Cs skills through pedagogical approach that applying active learning. The findings and suggestions collected in this phase will be used in designing and developing phases (DeWitt, 2010).

Refer to this research context, needs analysis study was carried out at the beginning of module development research to ensure that pupils have interest toward 4Cs skills so that the module will be able to fulfil pupils' interest, increasing motivation and support their learning.

Researches carried out by Ujang (2016), Ahmad (2017) and Ibrahim (2017) show the importance of developing module in enhancing pedagogy as well as teaching and learning process.

Problem Statement

Pupils need critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity skills to successfully adapt in global competition environment. Therefore, school should integrate these 4Cs skills in teaching and learning. These skills should be a part of learning and facilitating process to ensure the effectiveness of high quality learning that fulfil the needs of 21st century education. Fostering 4Cs skills in education represent great learning environments that possess capability to produce pupils with the skills which are needed to be successful future citizen and leader.

In order to nourish every pupil with 21st century skills, teachers need to face great challenge since there are a number of 21st century skills to be fostered in limited duration of teaching period (Yunos, 2015). The attempts of fostering 21st century skills among the pupils become difficult due to distinguish previous knowledge, interest, motivation as well as learning style among the pupils (Iberahim, Mahmud & Mohamad, 2017). Even teachers show only moderate level of understanding toward implementation of 21st century learning and assessment (Ambotang & Gobalakrishnan, 2017). Otherwise, this understanding is important since it influences teachers' ability in making decision and practising teaching that fulfil this century learning setting and demand (Carlgren, 2013).

According to Tinzmann et al. (1990) and Razak (2013), teaching and learning under traditional method require teachers to convey knowledge as many as possible and it can be done easily by teachers since most of the teachers have deep content knowledge and skilful enough to carry out this responsibility. In the order hand, teachers are found to face difficulties in implementing 21st century learning since there are needs to create and evaluate an environment of knowledge which encompass individual experience, language, strategy and culture to guide pupils toward effective learning situations (Razak, 2013). How easy traditional method is compared to the challenging 21st century learning lead teachers to stay with conservative teaching practice. This situation may retard the vision and mission of national education to produce quality generation.

Traditional teaching approach which emphasizes more on memorizing activities and process or just applying simple procedures may not assist the development of pupils' critical thinking skill (Scott, 2015). In traditional teaching with passive teaching approach, pupils are depend so much on the teacher as authority and lead to limited pupils intellectual engagement. Since pupils just jot down notes and complete worksheet individually, they also passive socially and physically (Edwards, 2015).

Adaptation and application of 4Cs skills seldom occur in the process of learning mathematics and consequently, pupils are found not to be able to utilize critical thinking skill in solving problem in real life context (Khalil & Osman, 2017). Therefore, teachers should take initiative to implement learning that encourage curiosity, construct imagination, creativity and evaluating skill (*Partnership for 21st Century Skills*, 2010). Pupils with these skills supposed to be better when tolerate to diversity of views, explore new knowledge, articulate thoughts as well as show their own feelings and understand perspectives of others. Furthermore, pupils will show ability in mastering communication and collaboration skills at the best level.

Practice of fostering 4Cs skills that carried out by most of the teachers is not effective enough to produce pupils who master 4Cs skills at excellent level. Finding of this study will show a clearer vision to the teachers about pupils' interest toward activities based on 4Cs skills in mathematics class. So that, teachers in general and mathematics teachers in specific will be able to move toward fostering 4Cs skills efficiently and effectively

There are needs to take initiative to provide support and assist teachers in implementing 21st century learning as needed. This fact is match to the finding carried out by Namsone et al. (2016) as they found that teachers reach a better level of understanding after they were provided with a model of professional development as a guide. Intervention program such as seminar-workshop should be implemented consistently to meet diversity of teachers' needs (Tan, Teresa & Rodriguez, 2016). This study suggest to develop a pedagogical module based on 4Cs skills where the module will be useful as teachers reference and also can be used as a material for workshop to enhance pedagogy practice among teachers.

Objective of Study

There are four objectives of this study consist of

- i. Identify level of pupils' interest toward activities based on communication skill in mathematics class.
- ii. Identify level of pupils' interest toward activities based on collaboration skill in mathematics class.
- iii. Identify level of pupils' interest toward activities based on creativity in mathematics class.

iv. Identify level of pupils' interest toward activities based on critical thinking in mathematics class.

Respondents of Study

In this study, purposive sampling was applied where selection of respondents was carried out based on researcher's knowledge ang purpose of the study (Idris, 2010). Selected respondents were representing the population of the study (Idris, 2010; Richey & Klein, 2007). This study involves 70 of Year Three pupils from a primary school from in Perak.

Instruments of Study

This study utilized a questionnaire consist of 16 items based on 4Cs skills which is there were 4 items for each skill as shown in Table 1.

Skill	Number of Item	
Critical thinking	4	
Communication	4	
Collaboration	4	
Creativity	4	
Total	16	

Table 1. Distribution of number of items according to skill

In order to ensure the instrument can be used in this study, the validity and reliability value of the questionnaire has to be determined first. A number of experts get involved in validating a questionnaire to ensure accuracy of the item contents (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2012; Akib & Ghafar, 2015). Four experts were involved in this validation test where three of them validate the construction of the items while another one expert was a linguistic expert who make sure the language structure of the items were appropriate and accurate. Appointments of the three experts are based on Stoner, Perrewe and Hofacker (2011) as they appointed 2 experts to evaluate the items that they constructed by themselves. Criteria of experts involved in this study are described in Table 2 below.

Instrument	Number of Experts
Questionnaire on pupils' interest	Total number of experts: 4 orang
toward activities based on 4Cs skills in	A mathematics teacher with more than 10 years
mathematics class	teaching experience
	An experienced mathematics teacher with master's
	degree academic qualification
	A head panel of mathematics in a primary school
	A Malay language teacher with more than 10 years
	teaching experience

Before the questionnaire has been used, internal consistency of the items was examined in a pilot study where 30 pupils have got involved. Data from pilot study were analysed by using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) to determine Cronbach' alpha value. Cronbach' alpha value of 0.7 or above indicates that the internal consistency of the items is acceptable (Taber, 2018; Tavakol & Dennick, 2011). Table 2 shows Cronbach's alpha value of the instrument in overall.

Table 3. Cronbach's Alpha value of instrument related to pupils' interest toward 4Cs skills

Number of Item	Cronbach's Alpha
16	0.825

Cronbach's alpha value for the whole 16 items is 0.825 as shown in Table 3 indicates that this questionnaire has acceptable internal consistency. Therefore, the instrument can be used in the real study. The instrument used was applying 5-Point Likert scale where each point represent certain level of agreement as shown in Table 4.

Table 4.	5-Point	Likert	Scale
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1	2	3	4	5
Very Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Very Agree

Findings

Findings of the study were clarified in two main aspect which first, demography of respondents and second, pupils' interest toward activities based on 4Cs skills in mathematics class.

Demography of Respondent

This study has involved 70 of Year Three pupils consist of male and female pupils from a primary school in Kinta Utara District, Ipoh, Perak. Demography of respondents in this study is represented in Table 5.

Table 5. Frequency distribution of respondents according to gender

Gender	Frequency (Percentage)
Male	39 (55.7%)
Female	31 (44.3%)
Total	70 (100.0%)

According to Table 5, the 70 respondents involved were consist of 39 (55.7%) male and 31 (44.3%) female pupils.

Needs Analysis Regarding to Pupils' Interest towards 4Cs Skills in Mathematics Classroom

Analysis on pupils' interest toward activities based on 4Cs skills has been done according to each skills respectively. The analysis has applied descriptive analysis where mean and standard deviation of each item has been calculating by using SPSS Version 16. Mean values gained were interpreted by utilising interpretation on mean value derived by Torrefranca (2017).

Table 6	5. Interpretation of Mean Value

Mean Value	Interpretation		
1.00 - 1.49	Very poor		
1.50 - 2.49	Poor		
2.50 - 3.49	Moderate		
3.50 - 4.49	High		
4.50 - 5.00	Very high		

Pupils' Interest toward Activities Based on Communication in Mathematics Class

Analyses on pupils' interest toward activities based on communication skill were shown in Table 7.

Statement	Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (SD)	Interpretatio n
S1. I like sharing ideas with friend	4.53	0.776	Very high
S2. I like listening to friends' ideas	4.63	0.718	Very high
S3. I like to present my answer to others	4.07	1.143	High
S4. I like to get involved actively in mathematics class	4.33	0.884	High
Average	4.59	0.880	Very high

Table 7. Mean scores and interpretation related to pupils' interest toward activities based oncommunication skill

For the items S1 to S4 which are statements related to communication skill, pupils gave very high level of agreement toward statement "like sharing ideas with friends (M = 4.53: SD = 0.776) and "like listening to friends' ideas" (M = 4.63). Pupils stated their agreement at high level for the other two statement related to "like to present my answer to others" (M = 4.07; SD = 1.143) and "like to get involved actively in mathematics class" (M = 4.33; SD = 0.884). In overall, pupils' agreement toward activities based on communication skill are very high (M = 4.59; SD = 0.880).

Pupils' Interest toward Activities Based on Creativity in Mathematics Class

Analyses on pupils' interest toward activities based on creativity were shown in Table 8.

Table 8. Mean scores and interpretation related to pupils' interest toward activities based on creativity

Statement	Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (SD)	Interpretatio n
S5. I like to generate new ideas in mathematics class	4.63	0.556	Very high
S6. I like to use different strategy in calculating answer	4.40	0.855	High
S7. I like activity of producing creative product	4.83	0.461	Very high
S8. I like brainstorming activities	4.17	0.791	High
Average	4.51	0.663	Very high

Items S5 to S8 were related to creativity skill. For creativity skill, pupils were very highly agree toward statements related to "like to generate new ideas in mathematics class" (M = 4.63; SD = 0.556) and "like activity of producing creative product" (M = 4.83; SD = 0.461). In the other hand, pupils were agree at high level that they "like to use different strategy in calculating answer (M = 4.40; SD = 0.855) and "like brainstorming activities" (M = 4.17; SD = 0.791). Average of mean value (M = 4.51; SD = 0.663) indicate that pupils' agreement toward activities based on creativity were very high.

Pupils' Interest Toward Activities Based on Collaboration in Mathematics Class

Analysis on pupils' interest toward activities based on collaboration skill is represented in Table 9.

Statement	Mean (M)	Standard Deviatio n (SD)	Interpretatio n
S9. I like to work in group activities.	4.80	0.551	Very high
S10. I like to help my friend within group in understanding mathematics lesson.	4.57	0.679	Very high
S11. I like to tolerate with friends.	4.37	0.765	High
S12. I like the product produced through group work.	4.77	0.430	Very high
Average	4.63	0.580	Very high

Table 9. Min Scores and Interpretation on Pupils' Interest toward Activities Based on CollaborationSkill in Mathematics Class

Items S9 to S12 were elements of collaboration skill. Pupils show very high level of agreement toward three statements related to "like to work in group activities" (M = 4.80; SD = 0.551), "like to help my friend within group in understanding mathematics lesson" (M = 4.57; SD = 0.679) and "like the product produced through group work" (M = 4.77; SD = 0.430). Pupils were highly agree that they "like to tolerate with friends" (M = 4.37; SD = 0.765). In average, pupils were very highly that they like activities based on collaboration skills in mathematics class (M = 4.63; SD = 0.580).

Pupils' Interest toward Activities Based on Critical Thinking in Mathematics Class

Analyses on pupils' interest toward activities based on critical thinking are as shown in Table 10. Table 10: Mean scores and interpretation on pupils' interest toward activities based on critical thinking in mathematics class

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Statement	Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (SD)	Interpretatio n
S13. I like to solve mathematics problem.	4.40	0.894	High
S14. I like to search for information from various sources.	4.63	0.669	Very high
S15. I can state reason for the answer I choose.	4.10	0.885	High
S16. I like reasoning activities such as compare and contrast as well as classify.	4.37	0.809	High
Average	4.38	2.650	High

Critical thinking was represented by items S13 to S16. Pupils show agreement at very high level toward only one statement instead of four, which is "like to search for information from various sources" (M = 4.63; SD = 0.669) and however choose agreement ay high level for the other three statements related to "like to solve mathematics problem" (M = 4.40; SD = 0.894), "can state reason for the answer I choose" (M = 4.10; SD = 0.885) and "like reasoning activities such as compare and contrast as well as classify" (M = 4.37; SD = 0.809). Average mean value shows that pupils highly agree they like activities based on critical thinking (M = 4.38; SD = 2.650).

In summarising here, pupils show high agreement on critical thinking and very high agreement on communication, collaboration and creativity skills regarding to their interest toward activities based on 4Cs skills.

Discussion

Findings of this study show that pupils have high level of interest toward activities based on 4Cs skills in mathematics class. This finding is supported by the results of researches carried out by Yunos (2015), Sander (2016) and Iberahim, Mahamod and Mohamad, (2017) where they found there were relationship between pupils' interest toward learning and 21st century skills.

This interest should be restraint and nourished in order to enable pupils possess learning experience that reinforce 4Cs skills among pupils until they are able to apply them in real world life. According to Iberahim, Mahamod and Mohamad (2017), applying various meaningful techniques and approaches in learning process seemed to be able to maintain pupils' interest and motivation. It brings meaning that teachers cannot stick to traditional teaching method (Azmi & Nurzatulshima, 2017) and abandon the implementation of 21st century learning based on 4Cs skills. Otherwise, teachers should work on paradigm shift and chance teaching and learning practice in the classrooms as well as take challenge toward fostering 4Cs skills by planning and implementing activities that are creative, pupil-centred as well as focusing on thinking skills (Salehudin, Hamid, 2017).

Conclusion

According to high level of pupils' interest toward activities based on 4Cs skills, it can be concluded here that development of PA4K module should be carried out. There in a enormous needs toward development of a module based on 4Cs skills in teaching and learning mathematics as a guide for mathematics teachers to ensure the process of fostering 4Cs skills can be done effectively. Furthermore, assessment on pupils' performance regarding to 4Cs skills can be carried out in authentic ways. Therefore, in the next phase of research, focus wikl be put on developing a module that applying active learning activities and fostering 4Cs skills for topics of Numbers and Basic Operation and this module will be known as PA4K Module.

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