**Perceptions of Malaysian Polytechnics on the Implementation of Lean Manufacturing Practices in Higher Education**

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**Abstract.** Competition in today's higher education sector is growing increasingly ferocious throughout the world. Higher education institutions must exhibit the highest quality and performance in order to be successful. Recognizing the benefits of lean implementation in the industrial industry, higher education institutions are not far behind. Malaysian Polytechnics are also in the process of using lean to boost their management and academic programmes. Furthermore, organisations have utilised lean as a method to enhance capacity, reduce and/or remove non-value tasks, and provide value to services and products for customers, clients, and students. Although lean manufacturing is a well-established idea, applying lean concepts to higher education institutions, particularly Malaysian Polytechnics, is a relatively new invention in the literature. As a result, the purpose of this study was to analyse current Lean in higher education institutions in order to enable researchers and practitioners obtain a better understanding of how to adopt Lean. This research advocated that institutions that employ Lean implement and justify changes using the PDCA cycle. When used as intended, this is a rigorous, scientific technique of experimentation that allows institutions to generate hypotheses and test them in order to understand how to advance fast and continually toward their desired future state. As a result of past research, higher education institutions should apply Lean in the academic and managerial fields in their respective institutions. It is especially important at Malaysian polytechnics to adapt and execute the lean approach in order to improve quality and efficiency.

# *Keywords: Higher education; Lean; Polytechnics*