

# Did PDCA Cycle, Service Quality and Innovation Capability Influence Private Universities Performance?

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## ABSTRACT

The main objective of this research is to analyze the practical and strategic effects of the implementation of the plan, do, check, action (PDCA) cycle on innovation capabilities, work productivity, and service quality of private universities. The number of incoming and valid questionnaires was 143 respondents. Data processing using the SEM method with SmartPLS 3.0 software. From the results of data analysis, it can be seen that all hypotheses are accepted, indicating that the implementation of the PDCA cycle concept has a positive and significant effect on innovation capabilities, work productivity, and service quality. Innovation capabilities and employee work productivity also have a positive and significant effect on service quality. Another important point is that innovation capability and work productivity have a positive and significant effect as a mediator on the influence relationship between the PDCA cycle and service quality. This study proposes a model to improve the service quality of private universities through increasing and strengthening the application of the PDCA cycle concept through innovation capabilities and work productivity as a mediator.

**Keywords:** Innovation capability, PDCA cycle, service quality, Universities Performance

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## INTRODUCTION

The main problem of the quality of education lies in the problem of educational processing. Furthermore, the smoothness of educational processing is supported by an educational component consisting of students, educational staff, curriculum, pre-learning facilities, and also the surrounding community. And the problem of the quality of education also includes the problem of equal distribution of the quality of private universities. Responding to the problems of higher education in Indonesia, generally observers, academics, the education care community, experts and researchers generally admit that there are three main notes faced by Indonesian universities; First is the quality of the teaching staff. The number of doctors and university professors is still minimal. Second, the world of student affairs for expression and innovation in developing knowledge, so far, several campuses still lack facilities, teaching and learning facilities, thus limiting the space for students to develop their interests, talents and knowledge. Third, the academic demands of students and lecturers are too dense. Students lack time to improve skills outside campus and organizations, lecturers lack time and opportunities to research and write scientific papers.

According to Bahdin (2020) and Basri (2020) the performance and quality of higher education research in Indonesia has decreased. Data from the World Economic Forum states that only two Indonesian universities are included in the world list. Based on the index of innovation and higher education in the world, Indonesia is only in the lower half of the class. The innovation index in 2014, Indonesia was only able to perch at number 31. Further away from number one and being in the middle of the world countries. Publications that are carried out a lot of plagiarism. Internal scientific publications are still under Malaysia. Our 10 largest universities are still less publicized than one university in Malaysia. Thousands of campuses whose number of international publications are 0. Indonesian higher education accreditation is also still at level C, private universities dominate. On the other hand,

Higher education has a problem with the number of professors, irregularities in the appointment of professors, the shortage of professors should be overcome by opening professors' opportunities according to the required slots. There is no standardization of salaries for lecturers, the obligations of lecturers are only regulated, while their salary rights have never been regulated. The Greatest Challenge of Higher Education is Quality. It is a shared responsibility, especially for all stakeholders of higher education in the country. The challenges in the world of higher education in Indonesia in the future will indeed be heavier, because it is required to be able to answer so many problems at once. Whether it is the challenges that arise as an implication of the ongoing globalization process, or the challenges resulting from the emergence of various problems faced by the nation and the state. The problems and challenges of improving quality are not only caused by the demands of scientific development, but also in relation to the function of higher education institutions. who are required to be able to play the role of an agent of change? In the effort to develop quality higher education institutions, it is necessary to have a strategic plan that is patterned and integrated, and an adequate budget is also needed so that the implementation of the Tri Dharma of Higher Education can be carried out optimally. must continue to organize and improve themselves so that the implementation of the Tri Dharma Perguruan Tinggi activities, which include education, research and community service activities, can be more synergistic and optimally carried out. These efforts must also be supported by adequate facilities, infrastructure and enhancements. Education is something that must be owned by every individual to reach a level and the opportunity to get education is the right of everyone so that everyone can get the education they should. Education is never separated from all countries because education is the main way to advance the lives of the nation's next generation. According to Albatch (1989), higher education is very important because it is where individuals are forged into professionals in many fields,

various kinds of knowledge are produced and developed, and at the same time various kinds of national dynamics begin. Therefore, countries in the world pay special attention to continuously improving the quality of their higher education institutions. Not only that, but various efforts have also been made to increase the competitiveness of higher education not only at the national level, but also at the international level. Gutmann (1999) argues that this effort is impossible to run optimally if it is not supported by a good system. In other words, the higher education system plays an important role and has a big influence on the institutions it supervises. In general, the measurement of the quality of world higher education is carried out at the institutional or tertiary level. For example, the Times Higher Education (THE), QS World University Rankings, and Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) are institutions that annually rank world universities. The 100 best universities in the world are still dominated by Western countries such as the United States, Canada, England, Sweden, Belgium, Germany, Australia, the Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, and Switzerland. In Indonesia, many younger generations have started to lose their jobs because they are not able to compete in the world of work. In addition, many foreign companies and foreign workers are more professional than domestic workers.

According to Purwanto (2020) and Sunarsi (2020) one of the fundamental problems faced by tertiary institutions is the problem of relevance and quality which has not been satisfactory. Higher education has not yet become an important factor capable of giving birth to entrepreneurs with an orientation of job creating and independence. Uneducated unemployment from educational outcomes continues to increase, community service problems where the tertiary institution is located are felt to be less responsive and contribute to community problems. Higher education is also not fully able to produce graduates who have noble morals and strong character. Intra and inter-campus anarchism is like forming a circle of violence, we have encountered many anarchic demonstrations carried out by student groups. Of course, there are also many achievements that have been achieved, but the echo of this problem is more resonant than a series of achievements. Seeing this, we are always required to find the root of the problem. Whether the root of the problem lies in the curriculum and literature provided that is not coordinated, institutional accreditation is not measurable, educators who have not been accredited, or other problems. In this case, at least we note the various fundamental obstacles that exist in the world of higher education, namely: first, the low quality of educators. This problem is a crucial issue that must be addressed immediately, because it will have a significant impact on the resulting graduates. One of the things that will be affected is Indonesia's human development index (HDI), which has been considered low so far. Related to this, serious attention is needed in order to improve the quality of educators. Lecturers must continuously update their abilities and knowledge, in accordance with the ongoing developments in science and technology. Second, the inadequate educational facilities. Until now, there are still many higher education institutions that do not have complete educational facilities, so the learning process and graduate outcomes are less than optimal. It should be remembered that without adequate and relevant facilities, educational outcomes will not be optimal. This generally occurs in various faculties that require teaching aids and practical tools in the learning process such as the medical

faculty, the engineering faculty, the animal husbandry faculty, the agriculture faculty, etc. Third, the issue of educational effectiveness. The effectiveness of education is closely related to the quality of human resources produced by higher education. However, the very worrying fact is that in Indonesia, up to now there are still many ineffective implementation of higher education, so that only a few Indonesian tertiary institutions are ranked as the top higher education at the world level and even the Asian level. This fact shows how bad the quality of higher education is in higher education in Indonesia, and of course this has implications for the human resources produced. Fourth, the high cost of education. As we all know, until now people still have to bear a lot of money, so that only the well-off people can pay for their children's education at this level of education. Although the Government provides scholarships for students from disadvantaged families, the numbers are only a few. The final impact of this reality is injustice in obtaining the right to education. Fifth, the problem of educated unemployment. Uneducated unemployment is related to the quality of higher education. The large number of higher education graduates who are unable to immediately enter the world of work, let alone create their own jobs, is a crucial problem in higher education in Indonesia. Based on observations, educated unemployment in Indonesia has continued to increase since the last few years, while the number of uneducated unemployed has decreased. With the increase in the number of intellectual unemployed, the task of the government to create jobs will also be increasingly difficult. And sixth, the link and match between higher education and the need for human resources in the workforce. Higher education seems to run on its own pace, while the real conditions in the field have not been properly paid attention to. Finally, higher education is not able to become an important factor in efforts to improve community welfare. Higher education has not been able to fully produce human resources that are acceptable in the existing work field, and higher education has not been able to produce entrepreneurs who have courage and independence.

The problem is the extent of the influence of the application of the PDCA on innovation capabilities, work productivity, and service quality of employees to customers. Where the three variables above are important components for efforts to improve the sustainable competitiveness of private universities. Several previous studies analyzed the effect of applying the PDCA cycle on service quality, the effect of the PDCA cycle on work productivity, and the effect of the PDCA cycle on innovation capabilities. However, no research has been found that comprehensively analyzes the effect of implementing the PDCA cycle on service quality through innovation capabilities and employee work productivity as a single research model. Therefore, this *research gap* is considered important and critical to be analyzed more deeply so that in turn, comprehensive knowledge is obtained and has an impact on policymaking by the leaders of private universities.

#### LITERATURE REVIEW AND HYPOTHESES DEVELOPMENT

As mentioned earlier, the PDCA cycle is a safety net towards the effectiveness and efficiency of the production process. Not only that, the PDCA cycle is a stimulant for the emergence of organizational competitive advantages such as innovation, productivity, and performance (MN Dudin et al., 2017).

### PDCA (Plan-Do-Check-Action)

PDCA is a model for making continuous improvements by planning, doing, checking, and taking action (Heizer & Render, 2005). The PDCA cycle is generally used to test and implement changes to improve the performance of a product, process, or system in the future. PDCA is very suitable for use for small-scale continuous improvement activities to shorten the work cycle, eliminate waste in the workplace, and productivity.

First, Plan: identifying and analyzing problems. At this stage, you can use some useful tools such as Drill Down, Cause and Effect Diagram, and 5 Whys to help you find out what the problem is. Once you have identified it, you can map the process. Furthermore, you can describe all other information needed to assist you in issuing a solution. According to Prasetyawati (2014) the steps in planning for improvement include: (1) determining priority problems, (2) setting targets, (3) looking for causes of problems, (4) arrange corrective steps (Prasetyawati, 2014).

Second, do: Develop and test potential solutions. This phase has several activities including issuing possible solutions. Choosing the best solution. (can use Impact Analysis techniques). Implement temporary solutions in small-scale case examples first (trial) At this stage, your actions have not been fully implemented. Maximum implementation occurs at the stage *Act*. According to Prasetyawati (2014), at the stage *Do* steps or improvement implementation activities are carried out.

Third, Check: Measuring how effective the previous solution was tested and analyzing whether the step could be improved. In this phase you will measure how effective the temporary solution you have made, then you can collect information from all parties concerned to work together to make the solution even better. If you still don't see clear results, you can try to repeat the *Do* stage to re-check again. After you are satisfied with what you have achieved, then you can move on to the next stage (final). According to Prasetyawati (2014), at the stage, *Check* activity evaluation steps or activities are carried out.

Fourth, Act: Implementing the improved solution thoroughly. In this process, the solution implementation is carried out thoroughly. However, the use of PDCA does not end here, if using PDCA as a form of initiation of continuous improvement, the process can repeat this cycle by returning to the initial stage (*plan*) and repeating all these stages in sequence so that the system achieves stability and increases gradually. According to Prasetyawati (2014), at this stage of the *Act* standardization steps or activities are carried out.

### Innovation Capability

Anning-Dorson (2016) suggests that innovation in service companies can come from multiple sources and service companies seek innovation from within their operations; from the market (external environment) and customers (Anning-Dorson, 2016). Innovation is the practical application of an idea into a new product or process. Innovation is a condition in goods and services, even ideas that are considered new (Mansury & Love, 2008). The innovation capability is considered a valuable asset for the company to provide and maintain a competitive advantage and in the implementation of all strategies. It is structured through the main processes in the company (Lawson & Samson, 2001). The innovation capability facilitates companies to introduce new products quickly and adopt new systems, but it is important factor in to feed ongoing competition. Innovation performance can be described as a combination of assets and resources. Therefore, a wide range of resources, assets, and

capabilities is needed to drive through success in a rapidly changing environment (Raja Pathirana & Hui, 2018b). According to Rajapathirana & Hui (2017) innovation capability is defined as (1) the capacity to develop new products that meet market needs; (2) the capacity to apply appropriate process technology to produce these new products; (3) the capacity to develop and adopt new products and processing technology to meet future needs; (4) and the capacity to respond to deliberate technology activities and unforeseen opportunities created by competitors.

### Work Productivity

Managing a project and managing operations and production are closely related to the term productivity. The productivity indicators cannot be separated from the input (*input*) and output (*output*). What is meant by *input* in productivity can be in the form of resources used such as capital, labor, materials (materials), and energy, while the *output* can be in the form of the number of product units or the income generated. A measure of productivity is usually expressed by a ratio that compares the *output* to the *input* used in the production process (*output per input unit*).

Productivity is a concept that describes the relationship between the results (the number of goods and or services produced) and the sources (the amount of labor, capital, land, energy, etc.) to produce these results (Greenberg, 1973). Meanwhile, according to (Van, 2009) states that simply productivity is a computational comparison between the amount produced and the amount of each source used during production. The sources referred to can be land, raw and auxiliary materials, machinery and tools, labor. Furthermore, in more detail, (Mansury & Love, 2008) argues that productivity can be interpreted as a concrete result (product) produced by individuals or groups, during a certain time unit in a work process. In this case, the higher the product produced in a shorter time, it can be said that the level of productivity has a high value and vice versa. The following are some of the factors that affect the productivity of an organization, namely: technical factors, production factors, organizational factors, personnel factors, financial (financial) factors, management factors, government factors, location factors. In general, according to Sinungan (2000), productivity measurement is in four types, namely: First, the quality of work which can be seen in terms of work accuracy and tidiness, speed of work completion, skills, and work skills. Second, the quantity of work that can be seen from the quantitative ability to achieve targets or work results for new jobs. Third, compliance with the standards set by the company which can be seen from the ability and reliability in carrying out its duties both in implementing regulations and initiatives and discipline. Fourth, efficiency in work which can be seen from the ability to use time in completing the work set by the company (Greenberg, 1973; Sinungan, 2005). Measuring work productivity as a means to analyze and encourage production efficiency. Another benefit is to determine targets and uses, in practical terms as a standard in the payment of employee wages. To measure productivity, two types of human working hours can be used, namely the working hours that must be paid and the working hours that must be used for work.

### Service Quality

The era of globalization and the rapid development of information technology has had a tremendous impact on economic activity. Changes occurred that was fast-paced and had implications for the domestic and international

economy. Competition from various industrial sectors has become increasingly sharp, requiring management expertise to deal with the changes that occur. So that the company can continue to grow and develop, the company must always increase its competitive advantage. Nowadays quality is an important issue in the business world, many companies pay more attention to the quality of goods and services produced. Quality is one of the company's operating objectives and the responsibility the company carries. Especially in the service or service sector, companies will consider policies regarding the importance of service quality. The higher the level of service quality, the higher the customer satisfaction. Quality of service is a performance that can be offered by one person to another. This performance can be in the form of intangible actions and does not result in ownership of any goods and to anyone (Kotler & Lee, 2008). The main point is that service is an action taken by a seller to the buyer/consumer to meet the needs and desires of consumers. This behavior aims at achieving customer satisfaction. A service can be performed when consumers choose a product or after completing a product purchase transaction. Good quality service will also have a good impact on the company because it will be a loyal customer and provide benefits for the company. Service quality in this study uses five indicators adapted from (Parasuraman *et al.*, 1988), namely: (1) ease of ordering products, (2) fast and responsive in responding to consumer needs, (3) being responsible for product quality, (4) ease of returning products that are not following consumer desires, (5) products are easy to find in the market.

#### **The Effect of the Application of the PDCA Cycle on Innovation Capabilities, Work Productivity, and Service Quality**

The PDCA cycle was proposed by (Shewhart, 1931, 1939), and is generally used as a problem-solving model in the context of quality management (Deming, 2000). According to this framework, the quality of improvement will be effective if the improvement starts with a plan (P), good activities required to achieve the plan are implemented (i.e., completed, D), results are checked (C) understand the causes of the results, and action (A) is taken. to improve the process (Dahlgaard *et al.*, 1995). This study focuses on the PDCA cycle because this model is a gradual problem-solving model (Choo *et al.*, 2007). Commonly used problem-solving process models consist of: (1) problem definition; (2) problem analysis; (3) generation and selection of solutions, (4) testing and evaluation of solutions; and (5) development of new routines (MacDuffie, 1997). In particular, problems are identified and analyzed during the planning stage, solutions are implemented during the implementation phase and evaluated in the checking phase, and new routines are developed in the implementation phase. Other researchers have proposed a workplace problem-solving cycle consisting of design, implementation, evaluation, and assessment (O'Connor, 2004). Although this cycle is very similar to the PDCA Cycle, the PDCA model is more practical and has been applied not only in quality but also in project management (Srivannaboon, 2009). Based on the discussion above, the researcher estimates that PDCA practices affect innovation capabilities, work productivity, and service quality in the workplace by facilitating problem-solving. The use of the PDCA cycle practice can facilitate the acquisition, sharing, and institutionalization of new knowledge and skills that are useful for improving the competitiveness of the company sustainably.

Therefore, the researcher proposes the following hypothesis:

*H1: PDCA cycle practices have a positive and significant effect on innovation capabilities*

*H2: PDCA cycle practices have a positive and significant effect on work productivity*

*H3: PDCA cycle practices have a positive and significant effect on service quality*

#### **The Effect of Innovation Capability and Work Productivity on Service Quality**

Innovation capabilities facilitate companies to apply the right process technology to develop new products that meet market needs and eliminate the threat of competition (Rajapathirana & Hui, 2018a). It helps to shape and manage the various capabilities of the company to support successfully integrating capabilities and the stimulus for innovation. Superior innovation capabilities tend to be able to implement and develop new product variations for the existing product portfolio (Dadfar *et al.*, 2013). Rajapathirana & Hui (2017) explained that companies must improve their leadership, people, partnerships, and organizational capabilities before the implementation of the initial process of innovation and new product development. Several studies have concluded that innovation capability is the capacity of a company to develop new products through a combination of innovation behavior, strategic capabilities, and internal technological processes (Bhat & Momaya, 2020; Vicente *et al.*, 2015). Research results prove that innovation capabilities and work productivity affect service quality (Ngo & O'Cass, 2013; Roth & Jackson III, 1995). Based on the description above, the first hypothesis of this study is as follows:

*H4: Innovation capability has a positive and significant effect on service quality*

*H5: Work productivity has a positive and significant effect on service quality*

#### **The Effect of the PDCA Cycle on Service Quality through Mediation of Innovation Capabilities and Work Productivity**

It is admitted that not many studies have explored the effect of the practice of implementing the PDCA cycle on service quality by making the innovation capabilities and employee work productivity variables as mediators. While research on the effect of implementing the PDCA cycle on service quality has been quite a lot and has been discussed in the previous section (Abadi *et al.*, 2019; Chiarini, 2011; M. Dudin *et al.*, 2015; Ngo & O'Cass, 2013). Such as the effect of the application of the PDCA cycle on service quality in the retail sector (Chiguvu, 2016), in the public sector (Al-Ibrahim, 2014), in the field of education (Li *et al.*, 2014), in the health sector (Taylor *et al.*, 2014) and so forth. Therefore, the researcher proposes a new hypothesis in this study, namely:

*H6: PDCA cycle practices have a positive and significant effect on service quality through the mediation of innovation capabilities.*

*H7: PDCA cycle practices have a positive and significant effect on service quality through mediating work productivity.*

#### **Research Concept Framework**

According to (Sekaran & Bougie, 2003) the theoretical framework is the foundation on which all research projects are based. From the theoretical framework can be formulated hypotheses that can be tested to determine whether the theory formulated is valid or not. Then further it will be measured by appropriate statistical analysis. Referring to previous theory and research, there

is an influence relationship between the following variables: the application of the PDCA cycle, innovation

capabilities, work productivity, and service quality. For this reason, the authors build a research model as follows:

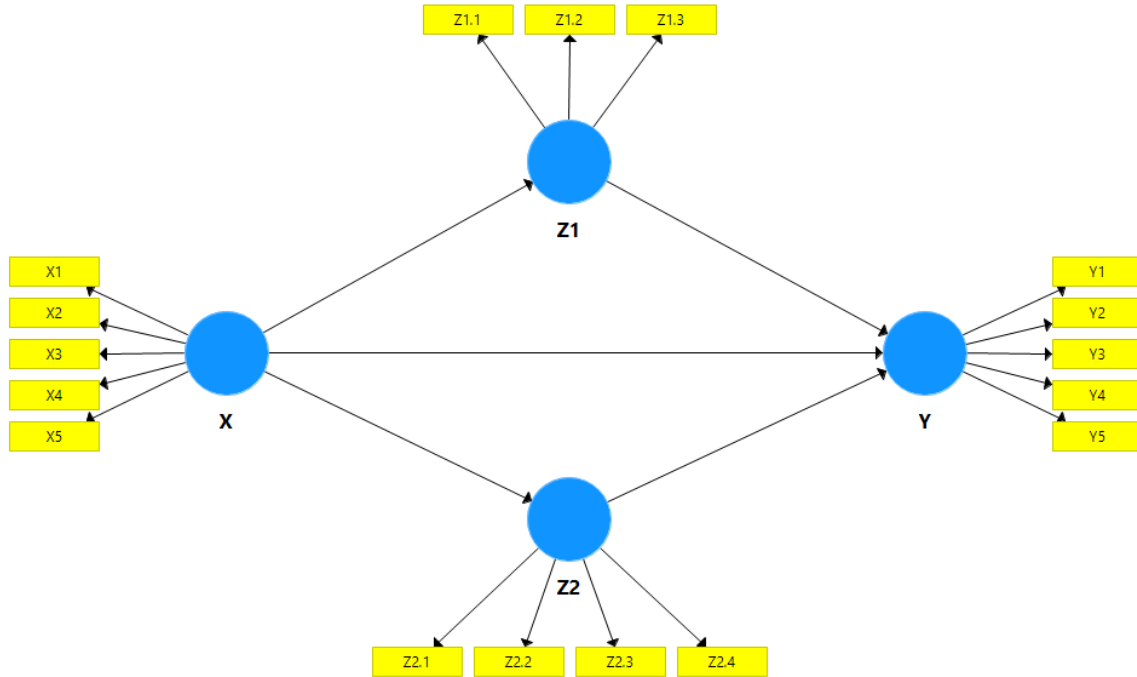


Figure 1. Research Model

Note: The figure is derived from the output of the SmartPLS 3.0 (authors, 2020)

**METHODS**

**Operational Definition of Variables and Indicators**

The method used in this research is the quantitative method. Data was collected by distributing questionnaires to 143 lectures of private universities. The instrument used to measure the application of the PDCA cycle was adapted from (Matsuo & Nakahara, 2013) by using 5 items (X1-X5). The innovation capability was adapted from (Rajapathirana & Hui, 2018b) by using 3 items (Z1.1-Z1.3). Work productivity uses 4 items (Z2.1-Z2.4) by adapting instruments from (Greenberg, 1973; Sinungan, 2005). Service quality uses 5 items (Y1-Y5) adapted from

(Parasuraman et al., 1988). The list of variables and items is mentioned in Table 1. The questionnaire is designed closed except for questions/statements regarding the identity of the respondent in the form of a semi-open questionnaire. Each closed question/statement item is given five answer options, namely: strongly agree (SS) score 5, agree (S) score 4, neutral (N) score 3, disagree (TS) score 2, and strongly disagree (STS) score 1. The method for processing data is by using PLS and using software SmartPLS version 3.0 as its tool.

**Sample Description**

Table 1. Descriptive Sample Information

Criteria		Number
Age (as of September 2020)	≤ 30 years	18
	31 - 40 years	103
	41 - 50 years	18
	≥ 51 years	4
Work experience	1 - 5 years	31
	6-10 years	83
	> 10 years	29
Education	≤ Senior High School	90
	Diploma Degree	17
	Bachelor's degree	36

Note: The respondent profile table is derived from a summary of the questionnaire returned (authors, 2020)

**Test Results of the Validity and Reliability of Research Indicators**

The measurement model testing phase includes testing for convergent, validity discriminant validity. Meanwhile, to test the construct reliability, *Cronbach's alpha* and *composite reliability* were used. The results of the PLS analysis can be used to test the research hypothesis if all indicators in the PLS model have met the requirements of convergent validity, discriminant validity, and reliability testing.

**Convergent Validity Testing**

Convergent validity test is done by looking at the value *loading factor* of each indicator against the construct. In

most references, a factor weight of 0.5 or more is considered to have sufficiently strong validity to explain latent constructs (Chin, 1998; Ghozali, 2014; Hair et al., 2010). In this study, the minimum limit for *loading factor* accepted is 0.5, provided that the AVE value of each construct is > 0.5 (Ghozali, 2014). Based on the results of SmartPLS 3.0 processing, after items that do not meet the requirements are discarded, in Figure 2 and Table 3, all indicators have a value *loading factor* above 0.7. So thus, the convergent validity of this research model has met the requirements.

**Table 2.** Items Loadings, Cronbach's Alpha, Composite Reliability, and Average Variance Extracted (AVE)

Variables	Items	Loadings	Cronbach's Alpha	Composite Reliability	AVE
PDCA Cycle (X)	X1	0.727	0.833	0.883	0.601
	X2	0.828			
	X3	0.804			
	X4	0.764			
	X5	0.750			
Innovation Capability (Z1)	Z1.1	0.877	0.825	0.895	0.741
	Z1.2	0.859			
	Z1.3	0.845			
Work Productivity (Z2)	Z2.1	0.883	0.885	0.921	0.747
	Z2.2	0.925			
	Z2.3	0.884			
	Z2.4	0.754			
Service Quality (Y)	Y1	0.817	0.881	0.913	0.677
	Y2	0.850			
	Y3	0.821			
	Y4	0.863			
	Y5	0.760			

Note: The Table is derived from the output of the SmartPLS 3.0 (authors, 2020)

**Discriminant Validity Testing**

*Discriminant validity* is done to ensure that each concept of each latent variable is different from other latent variables. The model has good *discriminant validity* if the AVE square value of each exogenous construct (the value on the diagonal) exceeds the correlation between this construct and other constructs (values below the diagonal) (Ghozali, 2014). The results of testing *discriminant validity* using the square AVE value, namely by looking at the Fornell-Larcker Criterion Value are obtained as referred to in Table 4. The discriminant validity test results in table 4 above show that all constructs have a square root value of AVE above the correlation value with the construct. other latency, through the Fornell-Larcker criteria, so that it can be concluded that the model has met the discriminant validity (Fornell & Larcker, 1981).

Moreover, collinearity evaluation is done to discover whether there is collinearity in the model. To find out about collinearity, VIF estimation from every construct is required. If the VIF score is higher than 5, then the model will show collinearity (Hair et al., 2014). It is shown the

same way as in Table 5, all VIF scores that are less than 5 means that the model has no collinearity.

**Construct Reliability Testing**

The construct reliability can be assessed from *Cronbach's alpha* value and the *composite reliability* of each construct. The recommended *composite reliability* and *Cronbach's alpha* value is more than 0.7 (Ghozali, 2014), you can use a measure of one of them. If the value *composite reliability* is above 0.7, then it is sufficient (Ghozali, 2014). The reliability test results in table 3 above show that all constructs have a value *composite reliability* greater than 0.7 (> 0.7). In conclusion, all constructs have met the required reliability.

**Hypothesis test**

Hypothesis testing in PLS is also known as the inner model test. Hypothesis testing in this study includes testing the significance of direct effects and measuring the influence of exogenous variables on endogenous variables. The effect test was carried out using the t-statistic test in the analysis model *partial least square* (PLS) using the *software* SmartPLS 3.0. With the technique *bootstrapping*, the obtained *R Square* value and the value are significance test as shown in the table below:

**Table 3.** Discriminant Validity

Variables	X	Y	Z1	Z2
X	<b>0.775</b>			
Y	0.755	<b>0.823</b>		
Z1	0.751	0.702	<b>0.861</b>	
Z2	0.458	0.510	0.453	<b>0.864</b>

Note: The Table is derived from the output of the SmartPLS 3.0 (authors, 2020)

**Table 4.** Collinearity Statistics (VIF)

Variables	Y	Z1	Z2
	<b>1.979</b>		
X	2.390	1.000	1.000
Z1	2.377		
Z2	1.311		

Note: The Table is derived from the output of the SmartPLS 3.0 (authors, 2020)

**Table 5.** R Square Value

	R Square	R Square Adjusted
Y	0.654	0.652
Z1	0.564	0.563
Z2	0.210	0.208

Note: The Table is derived from the output of the SmartPLS 3.0 (authors, 2020)

**Table 6.** Hypotheses Testing

Hypotheses	Relationship	Beta	SE	T Statistics	P-Values	Decision
H1	X→Z1	0.751	0.027	28.019	0.000	Supported
H2	X →Z2	0.458	0.043	10.717	0.000	Supported
H3	X → Y	0.523	0.051	10.245	0.000	Supported
H4	Z1 → Y	0.235	0.057	4.142	0.000	Supported
H5	Z2 → Y	0.164	0.037	4.470	0.015	Supported
H6	X →Z1 → Y	0.176	0.045	3.965	0.000	Supported
H7	X → Z2 → Y	0.075	0.019	3.922	0.000	Supported

Note: The Table is derived from the output of the SmartPLS 3.0 (authors, 2020)

Based on Table 5 above, the value of *R Square* for service quality (Y) is 0.654 which means that the variable service quality (Y) can be explained by the variable application of the PDCA cycle (X), innovation capability (Z1), and employee work productivity (Z2) of 65.4 %, while the remaining 34.6% is explained by other variables not discussed in this study. The value of *R Square* innovation capability (Z1) is 0.564, which means that the innovation capability variable (Z1) can be explained by the PDCA cycle application variable (X) of 56.4%, while the remaining 43.6% is explained by other variables not

discussed in this study. The value *R Square* of employee work productivity (Z2) is 0.210 which means that the employee work productivity variable (Z2) can be explained by the PDCA cycle application variable (X) of 21.0%, while the remaining 79.0% is explained by other variables not discussed in this study. Meanwhile, Table 6 shows the *T Statistics* and *P-Values* that show the influence between the research variables that have been mentioned. The results of data analysis indicate that the application of the PDCA cycle has a positive and significant effect on innovation capabilities. Evidenced by the t-statistics value

of 28.019, greater than 1.96, and a p-value of 0.000 less than 0.05. Because the effect is positive, the conclusion is that the H1 hypothesis is accepted. So, it can be concluded that there is a positive and significant effect of the application of the PDCA cycle on innovation capabilities. The application of the PDCA cycle has a positive and significant effect on employee work productivity. Evidenced by the t-statistics value of 10.717, greater than 1.96, and a p-value of 0.000 smaller than 0.05. Since the effect is positive, the conclusion is that the H2 hypothesis is accepted. So, it can be concluded that there is a positive and significant effect of the application of the PDCA cycle on employee work productivity. The application of the PDCA cycle has a positive and significant effect on service quality. Evidenced by the t-statistics value of 10.245, greater than 1.96, and a p-value of 0.000 smaller than 0.05. Because the effect is positive, the conclusion is that the H3 hypothesis is accepted. So, it can be concluded that there is a positive and significant effect of the application of the PDCA cycle on the quality of employee service to customers. Innovation capability has a positive and significant effect on service quality. Evidenced by the t-statistics value of 4.142, greater than 1.96, and a p-value of 0.000, less than 0.05. Because the effect is positive, the conclusion is that the hypothesis H4 is accepted. So, it can be concluded that there is a positive and significant impact of innovation capabilities on service quality. Employee productivity has a positive and significant effect on service quality. Evidenced by the t-statistics value of 4.470, greater than 1.96, and a p-value of 0.015 which is smaller than 0.05. Because the effect is positive, the conclusion is that hypothesis H5 is accepted. So, it can be concluded that there is a positive and significant influence on employee work productivity on service quality. The application of the PDCA cycle has a positive and significant effect on service quality mediated by the innovation capability variable. Evidenced by the t-statistics value of 3.965, greater than 1.96, and a p-value of 0.000 smaller than 0.05. Because the effect is positive, the conclusion is that hypothesis H6 is accepted. The application of the PDCA cycle has a positive and significant effect on service quality that is mediated by employee work productivity variables. Evidenced by the t-statistics value of 3.922, greater than 1.96, and a p-value of 0.000 smaller than 0.05. Because the effect is positive, the conclusion is that hypothesis H7 is accepted.

## DISCUSSION

### ***The Effect of the Application of the PDCA Cycle on Innovation Capabilities, Work Productivity, and Service Quality***

Analysis of the data in the previous section shows that the application of the PDCA Cycle has a positive and significant effect on innovation capabilities, work productivity, and service quality. This fact is consistent with the results of research which states that the PDCA cycle has a positive and significant effect on innovation, employee work productivity, and service quality.

### ***The Effect of Innovation Capability and Work Productivity on Service Quality***

The data analysis above shows that the innovation capabilities and work productivity of employees have a positive and significant impact on service quality. Service quality is the most crucial part and a differentiating factor between one company and another. Competitive advantage is felt to be increasingly necessary to build sustainably so that companies can exist in the era of

industrial revolution 4.0 which necessitates a unique and significant advantage.

The best competitive advantage in a business is very much dependent on the defense of the company's unique resources and skills. The position of *competitive advantage* that can be the key to survive long-term business performance superiority. Position of *advantage* strong will create value that is perceived by customers higher than others and can create relatively low costs and ultimately drive the achievement of job differentiation, which is supported by *skills* market-oriented and company resources. Competitive advantage is a dynamic process, so it must be done on an ongoing basis. Competitive advantage illustrates that a company can act better than other companies even though they operate in the same industrial environment (Hasan, 2008). The better the *intellectual capital* and innovation capabilities of the company's employees, the higher the competitiveness (Jose & Gonzales, 2012). The ability to innovate is very important to create competitive advantage (Larsen & Lewis, 2007), the ability to innovate can increase competitive advantage (Parkman et al., 2012).

### ***The Effect of the PDCA Cycle on Service Quality through Mediation of Innovation Capabilities and Work Productivity***

The fact obtained from the results of data analysis in the previous section shows that the application of the PDCA Cycle has a positive and significant effect on service quality through the mediation of the innovation capability and work productivity variables. This fact is following the results of research which state that the PDCA cycle has a positive and significant effect on quality. service through the mediation of innovation capability variables and work productivity PDCA is a feedback cycle in which a planned process responds to non-conformity, improvements, and all feedback as a result of the constructive evaluation to become materials for making further improvements in a continuous process. Feedback in the dynamics of organizational activities occurs at the smallest and individual process levels. Suppose an employee gets feedback in the form of an individual performance appraisal from his superior, gets a variety of inputs from people around him (colleagues, suppliers, customers), and can even be all information or input from various sources and facts in the field that lead to individual and organizational improvements. . This is the importance of the extent to which an individual responds to all input or feedback to improve himself and his performance. The continuous improvement feedback cycle which is the PDCA philosophy will be driven more effectively if it is responded well by individuals in responding not only to the scope of the work operation process but in all aspects that are an improvement for themselves and the organization.

In the perspective of work characteristics theory, feedback is defined as information that conveys how well or at the individual level the worker does his job, while from the perspective of goal setting theory, feedback is defined as information that conveys the most up-to-date progress that has been achieved on the target or goals that have been set (Colquitt & Wesson, 2009). This study found the fact that feedback from the PDCA cycle in terms of performance is an important factor in organizational change towards better performance.

## CONCLUSIONS

From the data analysis that has been done previously, it has been proven that the application of the PDCA cycle has



a positive and significant effect on innovation capabilities, work productivity, and service quality. Likewise, innovation capabilities and employee work productivity have a positive and significant effect on service quality. Another important point from the conclusion of this study is that innovation capabilities and work productivity have a positive and significant effect on the influence relationship between the application of the PDCA cycle and service quality at private universities. Future studies should research other units of analysis, such as customers and suppliers. Likewise, development research can be carried out in other sectors such as education, social, and other public sectors. In future studies, it will be better to add and involve other relevant variables so that it will make research in this theme completer and more comprehensive.

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