

Development of Two-Stage Network Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) Model to Measure Production Line's Performance: Combination of Automation and Labor

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Abstract- Nowadays, the growth of industry can be seen as a nature of the world. Each company race again each other to increase productivity to produce new, high quality and product that fulfil customer demand. One can achieve the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) or targeted goal but without considering the cost, manpower, time or others elements is inefficient toward productivity. Upgrade production line in manufacturing industry needs huge investment to come out with good performance. The company can receive Return of Investment (ROI) and save more money from paying labor salary and increase productivity. However, the company also may have the risk of losing their money from the investment done. In this research, we studied the effectiveness of production line that equipped with automation usage to determine the productivity and quality of the product produced. We apply Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) to measure efficiencies of the production line where DEA is one of an excellent tool that can evaluate efficiencies and have been using widely in many sectors. The model that will be used in this study is Two-Stage Network DEA. As a case study, this research focuses on the production line that producing a product with a high and continues demand to observe how the investment on automation can give good return or otherwise.

Index Terms- Productivity, Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA), Two-Stage Network DEA, Automation and Labor

I. INTRODUCTION

The manufacturing industry is one of the fastest growing industry in Malaysia. This phenomenon makes company always create new changes toward a human way of work, machines demand, company mission and vision and can line up against other companies. Any changes can help the company to reduce the cost of time, the number of worker, rejection of unit, machine down (time and maintenance) and loss of customer due to customer's dissatisfaction. Furthermore, this reduces cost directly that can save the quality of the product being produced and indirectly lead the company to become one of the most well-known company among customers. Therefore, production department in the company need to be improved precisely by maintaining the productivity of product based on the quality demand and effectively control this process and bring profit to the company.

There are many weights needed to be evaluated in the manufacturing industry. Each of the weight is connected to each other to come out with high performance and high quality of the product. Using Two-stage Network DEA, the relationship between these weights can be estimated in more detail and structured. According to Rolf and Shawna [1], Two-Stage Network DEA model can be applied to a variety of situations such as intermediate products, allocations of budgets or fixed factors and certain (time-separable) dynamic systems. Almost all basic DEA models treat their Decision-Making Unit (DMU) as black boxes. The difference with networks model introduced by Rolf and Shawna [1]; the model allows the user to study organizational performance and its component performance and let them choose the DMU.

II. QUALITY AND PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT

It is important for a company to understand the process involved in producing a unit of product. Understanding the process means that the company will know the production line capability and the limit of what it can do [2]. Poor understanding about the process leads the company failure to recognize the existing problem and sometimes leads the manager to apply a solution to the problem that does not exist. It is hard for the company to reach productivity and produce a high quality product. Figure 1 shows the quality improvement process that can determine the difference between actual and desired performance and then improve the production process [2]. By improving the performance without this measurement, the company may hit a few, but the score would not bring anything. The company does not know where the problem is and how to solve a problem. Introducing measurements typically improve the quality for 10 to 20% in a few weeks.

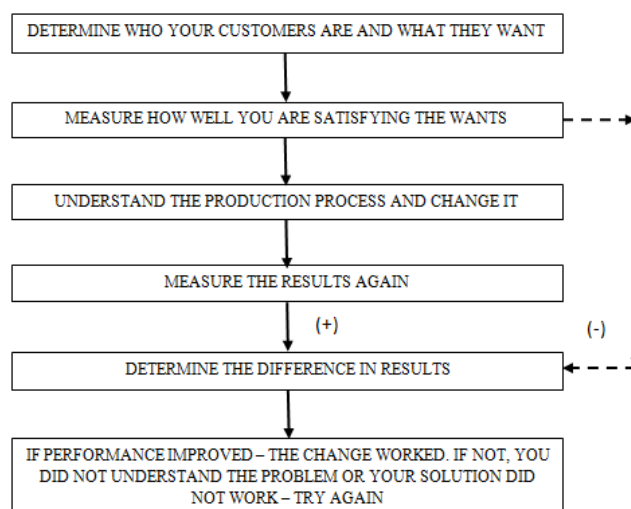


Fig.1 The Quality Improvement Process
 (source: Kaydoss (1991))

III. TWO-STAGE NETWORK DEA

DEA is widely used to evaluate the relative effectiveness and efficiency of operating units, especially in the banking industry and within the same organizational objectives by measuring the relationship between multiple inputs and outputs. Two-Stage model calculates the first stage, second stage, and the whole production process independently [3]. However, asserted that it is inappropriate to calculate the two sub-processes independently since a production process is composed of a series of two sub-processes and the intermediate products play an interactive role in both processes [4].

In recent years, a number of studies have looked at DMUs with network structures (see, e.g., [1], [4]-[8]) In a survey done before, the authors pointed out several approaches in modelling DMUs with a Two-Stage Network structure [9]. Typically, models are developed based upon additive or geometric mean efficiency decompositions. Though the Network DEA approached, this model can deal with different network structures, it cannot provide efficiency decomposition or efficiency ratings for sub-DMUs that constitute the entire network DMUs [1]. Besides that, there is others study about a network DEA model developed using slacks-based models that can evaluate both divisional and over all efficiencies of DMUs [5].

IV. DEA WINDOW ANALYSIS

A DEA window analysis is run in order to obtain the efficiency scores. Window analysis is a DEA extended method for monitoring, planning, and improving productivity [10]. There are many researches done using window analysis, for example DEA window analysis used to estimate the

performance of 12 Swedish bank over 1984 to 1992 [11]. DEA window analysis also had been utilizes to assess eight major container ports in Japan over 1990 to 1999 [12]. Other than that, DEA window analysis was used to identify efficiency trends over time for a semiconductor manufacturer [13].

Window analysis technique works on the principle of moving averages and is useful in detecting performance trends of a decision making unit over time[14]. Each DMU in a different period is treated as if it was a more accurate or independent DMU but remains comparable in the same window [14]. By assuming that there are n DMU, which are observed in l periods, thus we will have $n \times l$ “new” DMUs. Let w as window width, the number of time periods are included in the analysis. The assessment then will be conducted $(l - w + 1)$ in times where each assessment will calculate the efficiency of $n \times w$ DMUs.

V. TWO-STAGE NETWORK DEA TO MEASURE PERFORMACE OF PRODUCTION LINE

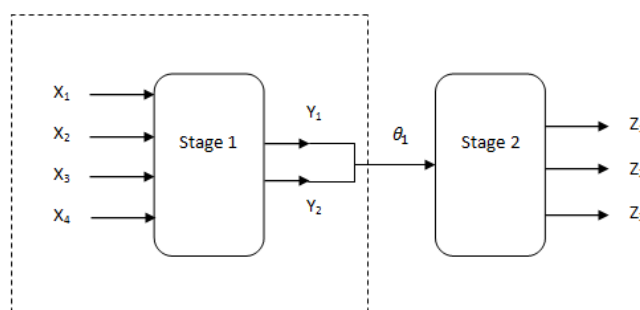


Fig.2 Two-Stage Network DEA Model for Production Line Performance

5.1 Stage 1: Performance Evaluation of Productivity

In stage 1, we will have four inputs and two outputs data. To measure the production line effectiveness with and without automation, the inputs and outputs data for the evaluation must be identified and relevant. At stage 1, we had evaluated the productivity of each production line with high demand. The idea behind this model is x_1 of total working hour of x_2 labor and x_3 index of automation usage to produce x_4 product at its standard time use as the input of this stage. The outputs of this stage are y_1 of total unit produced and y_2 of total quality product. The non-automation production line cannot be zero in DEA calculation. Index automation usage can be used to give marks of to each production line. For the index no. of automation (x_3), the ideal situation is the production line without any installation of automation. Therefore, we gave full marks (100 marks) to the production line without automation.

From stage 1, the evaluation gives the result of θ_1 where θ_1 is an efficiency from ratio of index automation usage and number of labour with its standard time and the total working hour as an input to determine the productivity against the total unit and quality unit produced as output. The value θ_1 can be used to determine the most efficient production line in terms of productivity and rank the production lines.

5.2 Stage 2: Evaluation of Quality in Production Lines in Terms of Cost and Time.

The measurement in-between the two stages are called intermediate measures. At stage two, we had evaluated the quality of production performance by using θ_1 as an input. The outputs in stage 2 are z_1 index of time waste, z_2 index of cost waste and z_3 of productivity. Here we can see the connection of both stages that influence the result of this case study. From stage 1, we were only focusing on evaluation of productivity without concern on quality of the product being produced. To understand the overall performance of production line, we will use the value θ_1 as an input in stage 2. Using the value of θ_1 can help us to know the quality of the product being produced in stage 2 whether it is parallel with the productivity. Here we can prove that the value of θ_1 is excellent for the overall production line performance or only excellent in

productivity. We want to understand the performance of each production line as if it faces any problem in producing the targeted productivity or producing the quality product.

From stage 2, the evaluation gives the result of θ_2 where θ_2 is an efficiency from ratio of average value of θ_1 from each production line as an input against index of time waste, index of cost waste and productivity to determine the quality of the product being produced in terms of time and cost. The θ_2 value can be used to determine the most efficient production line and rank it.

VI. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

6.1 Stage 1: Performance Evaluation of Productivity

Initially, we evaluated stage 1 of the production's line productivity with automation and non-automation. Table 1 shows the data being organized in Window (Window-I-C) model and the inputs and outputs data to evaluate the productivity by five different production lines in 5 months. From Table 1, we can see that the data tendency of value is mixed and different from each other. For index number of automation x_3 , the ideal behind this situation is the production line with automation will be divided with 100. Since the high number of automation usage is 4, we divided 100 by 5, which gives 1 automation usage is equal to 20 marks. The marks then are deducted from the full mark (100 marks) depending on automation usage. By using DEA-Solver software, we calculated the data using window analysis where the length of window is 1 and 2 to study the different performance due to period of time.

Table 1 Inputs and outputs data to evaluate productivity

Month	DMU	A	B	C	D	E
1	x_1	617	629	261	600	197
	x_2	6752	6576	2396	5962	2077
	x_3	197426	87784	94704	249456	54658
	x_4	60	80	100	100	100
	y_1	307501	103699	86326	244817	47024
	y_2	290574	103478	82676	242704	45916
2	x_1	670	518	228	577	394
	x_2	7417	5293	2028	5409	3476
	x_3	216872	70668	80158	226318	91474
	x_4	60	80	100	100	100
	y_1	304201	78365	73500	2127552	74445
	y_2	297206	78182	70810	211565	73455
3	x_1	591	834	406	744	344
	x_2	6598	8611	2702	7404	3033
	x_3	192924	114967	106798	309790	79812
	x_4	60	80	100	100	100
	y_1	310701	128897	101500	308246	67302
	y_2	305476	128615	99067	306850	64389
4	x_1	485	584	270	314	210
	x_2	5410	5682	2412	3168	1886
	x_3	158188	75862	95336	132553	48484
	x_4	60	80	100	100	100
	y_1	256454	81851	95822	130751	47940
	y_2	250513	81681	92500	130511	47195
5	x_1	400	594	181	2651	62
	x_2	4461	4952	1605	130505	610
	x_3	130439	66115	63439	1109201	15682
	x_4	60	80	100	100	100
	y_1	219230	80996	66905	95714	13221
	y_2	214120	80857	65000	93087	13056

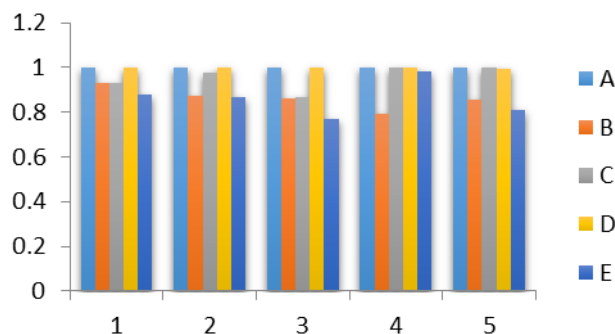


Fig.3 Variation through window stage 1

Figure 1 shows the result in variation through window in determining the efficiency of performance of each production lines. This figure shows the comparison between productions line more clearly. The graph shows that production line A is excellent in performance with automation usage index 60. It is then followed by production line D and production line C with non-automation. After that is production line B at fourth place with automation index 80 and non-automation production line E in fifth place.

6.2 Stage 2: Evaluation of Quality in Production Lines in Terms of Cost and Time.

In this stage, we are focusing on losses of quality product due to time and total cost per month use in reaching the targeted productivity. This evaluation will show the company whether their installation of automation brings profit or losses to them. Using the same model of DEA-solver in stage 1, the data was collected and organized by using the result from that stage. By using DEA-solver, Table 2 brings the result from the evaluation. We assumed that the lowest score was facing losses in time and cost.

Table 2 Input and output data to evaluate losses due to time and cost

Month	DMU	A	B	C	D	E
1	θ_1	1	0.859	0.802	1	0.671
	\bar{x}_1	252	587	508	549	558
	\bar{x}_2	103	248	232	247	247
	\bar{x}_3	100	100	86.6	97.8	84.2
2	θ_2	1	0.962	0.884	1	0.718
	\bar{x}_1	478	590	532	572	562
	\bar{x}_2	205	250	239	253	248
	\bar{x}_3	100	100	92.3	99.5	86.9
3	θ_3	1	0.751	0.798	0.907	0.595
	\bar{x}_1	478	583	538	567	489
	\bar{x}_2	205	243	241	252	226
	\bar{x}_3	100	100	93.6	98.9	90.7
4	θ_4	1	0.710	0.838	0.935	0.715
	\bar{x}_1	473	591	516	594	572
	\bar{x}_2	203	251	234	259	251
	\bar{x}_3	100	100	94.2	99.1	92
5	θ_5	1	0.793	0.848	0.735	0.611
	\bar{x}_1	504	593	552	537	594
	\bar{x}_2	217	253	245	244	258
	\bar{x}_3	100	100	95.3	98.2	91.5

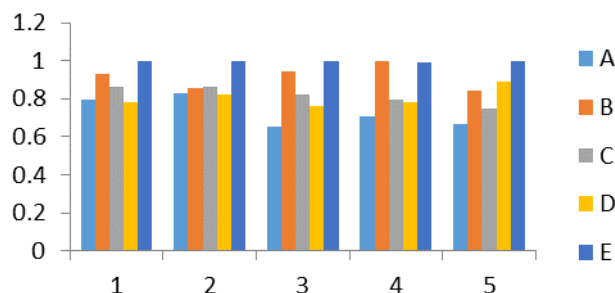


Fig.4 Variation through window stage 2

Figure 5.2 shows the results in variation through window in determining the quality due to losses of time and cost in Production Lines. This figure shows the comparison between productions line more clearly. The graph shows that production line E is excellent in performance of production line without automation usage. It is then followed by production line B with automation and production line C without automation. Production line D is at the fourth place without automation and production line A with automation is in the fifth place.

The overall results showed that the company is still having the problem after the installation of the automation. Table 3 shows the result for efficiency of productivity, θ_1 and quality in terms of time and cost, θ_2 .

Table 3 Relationship between θ_1 and θ_2

Production Line	θ_1	θ_2
A	1	0.731397
B	0.861819	0.914624
C	0.954100	0.818542
D	0.998814	0.807622
E	0.860962	0.998797

VII. CONCLUSION

As a conclusion, installation of automation does not means it can lead to high quality of product. These results also give us clear point of view about the combination of automation and labour in each production line. On top of that, the company can also know about the improvement that they had done towards their production line and whether it is giving them the advantages or otherwise. In this model, we can observe more clearly the relationship between productivity and the quality of the product.

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