

The Effect of Listening to Dangdut Koplo Music on Increasing Worker Productivity at Al Firdaus Production in Trawas Village

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Article Details	ABSTRACT
Article History Received April 2, 2026 Revised July 8, 2026 Accepted July 15, 2026	This study analyzes the effect of listening to dangdut koplo music on increasing worker productivity at Al Firdaus Production in Mojokerto. The study was motivated by the phenomenon of work burnout caused by repetitive tasks that hinder the achievement of production targets. The theoretical framework used is Adam Smith's Theory of Efficiency, which posits that work output is optimized in a conducive environment. The research method employed a simple experiment using a <i>One-Group Pretest-Posttest</i> design involving 11 respondents. Data were collected through observation, documentation, and in-depth interviews. The results showed that in the condition without music (<i>pretest</i>), average production was only 7.09 units/day (total of 78 pieces). After the dangdut koplo music intervention (<i>posttest</i>), average production increased significantly to 9.27 units/day (total of 102 pieces). Analysis indicated a 30.77% increase in productivity. Interview results confirmed that dangdut koplo music serves to <i>lift mood</i> and drive the work rhythm. The study's conclusion demonstrates that dangdut koplo music significantly improves work efficiency by minimizing burnout without increasing working hours.
Keywords Dangdut Koplo Music Work Productivity Work Fatigue Adam Smith's Theory Al Firdaus Production	
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1. INTRODUCTION

Dangdut music is a popular Indonesian genre born from the acculturation of Malay, Arab, and Western cultures. Art is a universal cultural element and a vital component of Indonesian culture. (Juwariyah et al., 2025). Its main characteristics lie in its dynamic rhythm and straightforward lyrics about everyday life, making it historically closely tied to the working class (Soedarsono, R. M., 1985). Creativity is the tendency to seek new things, while innovation is the application of creative solutions (Suwahyono et al., 2023). With its energetic modern arrangements, koplo dangdut is now popular across generations and is often used to accompany daily activities to boost morale. Consequently, dangdut has become popular among the lower classes (Fitriyadi & Alam, 2020). Although it was once considered "lower-class" music, dangdut is now enjoyed by people from all walks of life as society has evolved (Luaylik & Khuasairi, 2012).

The phenomenon of using music as a work stimulus was observed at Al Firdaus Production, a uniform manufacturing unit in Trawas Village, Mojokerto. This home-based business employs 11 workers (including the owner) with a standard 8-hour workday. Based on initial observations, the workers routinely play koplo dangdut music through speakers during the production process. Both the owner and the employees confirmed that this music serves as a crucial tool for maintaining a *positive mood*, warding off drowsiness, and combating boredom caused by repetitive sewing tasks. Without this musical stimulus, workers tend to feel bored, which can potentially reduce concentration and hinder the achievement of production targets. According to music psychology theory (Djohan, 2016), music is the result of intellectual activity, and as an academic discipline, psychology focuses on the study of human thought patterns and behavior. According to North & Hargreaves (2008), psychologically, fast-tempo music can trigger *arousal* that increases motor speed. This indicates that providing background music during work can improve workers' quality and productivity. However, some

Several factors contribute to a decline in work motivation. According to Nitisemito (1992), signs of declining work motivation include decreased productivity, high employee turnover, and increased equipment damage. Work-related stress or *burnout* is currently a challenge in this garment manufacturing business. Work fatigue results from repetitive tasks that hinder the achievement of daily production targets (Mangkunegara, 2017), leading to a decline in worker productivity over an 8-hour workday. This is also triggered by reduced concentration and psychological fatigue (Anoraga, 2014). Work efficiency can be influenced by specialization and work environment conditions that optimize human motor skills, according to Smith (1776) in **The Wealth of Nations**.

The primary determinant of economic growth at the micro level is labor productivity, particularly in the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector (Hasibuan, 2016). Sinungan (Busro, 2018: 344) states that productivity is the capacity of an individual or group to produce goods and services within a specific timeframe or in accordance with a predetermined plan. A productivity mindset is a state of mind, according to Tohardi (Edy Sutrisno, 2017: 100). A state of mind that continuously seeks ways to make everything better. Riyanto (Elbandiansyah, 2019, p. 250) states that, in technical terms, productivity is the ratio of output (results obtained) to input (total resources used). Productivity is the ratio of output to input, measured in terms of the time and effort expended by the workforce. These expert definitions lead researchers to the conclusion that productivity is an employee's mindset that reflects their competence in their work and the output achieved with the resources at their disposal.

The following are studies or articles related to this research: "The Effect of Listening to Music on Alleviating Work Fatigue Among Ministry of Transportation Staff at Purabaya Terminal" (Repertoar Journal of the Bachelor of Music Program, Surabaya State University, Vol. 4, No. 1, July 2023). This study involved 43 respondents. Both figures fall within the high range, indicating that listening to music helps staff members cope with work-related fatigue (Richie, 2023). A study authored by Addibbisyrul Khofianam titled "The Phenomenon of Dangdut Music Among Water Spinach Tying Workers in Plandirejo, Plumpang, Tuban" (Repertoar Journal of the Bachelor of Music Program, Surabaya State University, Vol. 4, No. 2, January 2024). Using interviews and documentary analysis with 16 respondents over two months, this study found that music can influence an individual's psychology and work intensity (Khofianam, 2024). A journal article titled "Differences Before and After the Provision of Work Accompaniment Music on Productivity Improvements Among Female Workers at the Gagak Hitam Cigarette Factory in Bondowoso Regency" (by Murwanti Puspitaratna and Endang Dwiyantri, Department of Occupational Safety and Health, Faculty of Public Health, Airlangga University, 2013). The use of music can influence productivity gains (Puspitaratna & Dwiyantri, 2013). Finally, a study by Nova Apriyana titled "The Effect of Music on Productivity in a Furniture Company: A Case Study of UD. Wanamulya, Dagen Village, Karanganyar" (Department of Industrial Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Sebelas Maret University, Surakarta, 2010). The workers preferred dangdut, so it was selected as the genre with the greatest positive influence on productivity at UD. Wanamulya (Apriyana, 2010).

Based on this description, a scientific study is needed to prove the effect of music on work efficiency. This study aims to analyze the effect of listening to koplo dangdut music on worker productivity at Al Firdaus Production, to understand the extent to which musical rhythm can optimize work output in the local garment industry.

2. METHOD

This study employs a mixed-methods approach. *Mixed-methods* research is an approach that combines qualitative and quantitative research (Creswell, 2010: 5), while according to Sugiyono (2011: 18), *mixed methods* is a research approach that combines two research methods—qualitative and quantitative—within a single research project, thereby yielding more comprehensive, valid, reliable, and objective data. This study employed a phased mixed-methods approach.

The subject and primary data source of this study is *Al Firdaus Production Store*. In conducting this research, the author compared productivity using three approaches: the sequential explanatory, sequential exploratory, and sequential transformative strategies. In this study, the researcher employed a *sequential mixed-methods* strategy—specifically, a sequential explanatory strategy—which was then implemented using a *pre-experimental design*. The specific design chosen was the *One-Group Pretest-Posttest Design*, as it is highly suitable for measuring differences or changes in the dependent variable (worker productivity) resulting from an intervention on the independent variable (the provision of koplo dangdut music) within a single group of subjects without requiring a control group (Sugiyono, 2018: 74). This design is systematically illustrated as follows:

Table 1. Symbol Key
O₁ X O₂
(Source: Muhammad Ikhwan Zulfikar Fahmi)

Symbol	Description	Functions in Research
<i>O₁</i>	<i>Pretest</i>	Measurement of workers' initial productivity was conducted before the intervention was implemented.
<i>X</i>	<i>Treatment</i>	Intervention, namely playing dangdut koplo music for a predetermined period of time.
<i>O₂</i>	<i>Posttest</i>	Measurement of workers' final productivity was conducted after the intervention was discontinued.

The location targeted by the researcher in this study is a sewing shop named Al Firdaus Production, located on Jl. Tirto Argo, RT 2/RW 1, Trawas Hamlet, Trawas Village, Trawas Subdistrict, Mojokerto Regency, East Java Province, with the study population consisting of all workers and the shop owner. According to Sugiyono (2018:80), the term “population” refers to a large group of things or people sharing characteristics selected by the researcher to focus on in order to conclude, ensuring that each sample reflects the general conditions of the population; it is assumed that the characteristics of this population are homogeneous in terms of job type and work environment. The research sample was selected using *purposive sampling* (Kerlinger, 1986, p. 119), a sampling technique that selects participants based on specific criteria relevant to the research objectives. This comparative study involved analyzing two types of variables to examine the cause-and-effect relationship between the intervention and work performance (Arikunto, 2010, p. 161).

Data collection for this study was conducted through three main techniques: observation, interviews, and documentation, which yielded both quantitative and qualitative data to complement one another. In an interview, two people engage in a conversation to gain insight into one another, an event, an organization, feelings, motivations, demands, concerns, and so on (Moleong, 2007, p. 186). According to Rohidi (2011: 194), researchers typically employ documentation-based data collection techniques to obtain information. To conduct a literature review, researchers visit specific locations or access articles online. The researcher visited locations such as: (1) the UNESA Rectorate Library, (2) the UNESA Faculty of Languages and Arts Library, and accessed articles online via: (1) Google Scholar, (2) Mendeley, and (3) *online* search engines.

To analyze the data, the researcher employed three stages: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. Subsequently, to test the data's validity, the researcher used source and temporal triangulation.

Preliminary conclusions were drawn after calculating the percentage change in productivity using Adam Smith's comparative formula (Adam Smith's Theory of Productivity, 1776) as cited in Zainul Bahri (2023: 19), which are as follows:

$$\text{Percentage Increase} = \frac{\text{Changes in Productivity}}{\text{Initial Productivity}} \times 100\%$$

3. RESULT

Al Firdaus Production is a garment manufacturing business located on Jalan Tirto Argo, RT 2/RW 1, Trawas Hamlet, Trawas Village, Trawas Subdistrict, Mojokerto Regency, East Java Province. The business focuses primarily on the production of formal wear, specifically school uniforms. The shop's operations are led by the owners, Mrs. Mintuk and Mr. Supandi, who set weekly work targets for each employee.

In its production process, Al Firdaus Production employs 11 (eleven) workers directly involved in technical operations. This number includes 9 (nine) permanent workers, as well as Mrs. Mintuk and Mr. Supandi, who also actively participate in the daily production process. The work schedule is 8 hours per day, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., during which each worker is expected to produce an average of 8 to 10 school

days. uniforms. Because of the daily targets, employees work an 8-hour shift, starting at 7:00 a.m. and ending at 3:00 p.m. WIB.

Analysis of Work Productivity Without the Influence of Dangdut Koplo Music on Workers at Al Firdaus Production.

In this section, the researcher describes the *baseline* productivity of workers during production operations without any audio stimuli. This analysis aims to address the first research question: how employees' work performance is affected in a quiet, repetitive work environment. Referring to the operational standards previously described, although the production target is 8 to 10 uniforms per day, the ground conditions indicate that meeting this target consistently without audio stimulation is difficult.

The following table presents the daily production output under working conditions, without listening to koplo dangdut music, at Al Firdaus Production for 11 respondents (including the owner).

Table 2. *Pretest* observation data (O₁) and number of units per day

(Source: Muhammad Ikhwan Zulfikar Fahmi)

No.	Name	Productivity Value (Units)
01.	Mintuk	8
02.	Supandi	8
03.	Sutini	7
04.	Itoh	7
05.	Hilmi	8
06.	Mia	6
07.	Dini	7
08.	Yaroh	8
09.	Ristin	7
10.	Hermin	6
11.	Trisna	6
Total		78 items
Average		7.09 pieces

The data in Table 1.1 show that without listening to dangdut koplo music, the average daily output per worker was only 7.09 pieces. This figure indicates a significant gap from the ideal target (8–10 pieces). This proves that a work environment that is too formal and quiet actually reduces workers' motivation, preventing optimal work efficiency.

Analysis of the Effect of Listening to Dangdut Koplo Music on Increasing Worker Productivity at Al Firdaus Production.

After understanding the initial conditions, this section addresses the second research question regarding the positive impact of providing dangdut koplo music as a stimulus on work performance. The researcher explored how personal musical preferences and fast musical rhythms can alter production dynamics.

Based on the results of in-depth interviews conducted by the researcher with 11 (eleven) respondents—namely Mrs. Mintuk, Mr. Supandi, Mrs. Sutini, Mrs. Itoh, Mr. Hilmi, Mrs. Mia, Mrs. Dini, Mrs. Yaroh, Mrs. Ristin, Mrs. Hermin, and Mrs. Trisna—it was found that these preferences fall into two broad groups, distinguished by the tone of the lyrics. The first group consists of workers who tend to prefer koplo dangdut music with uplifting and cheerful lyrics. According to field findings, the selection of these cheerful songs aims to create a happy mood while working, prompting small movements or rhythmic swaying. On the other hand, the second group actually prefers dangdut music with sad or melancholic lyrics about romantic themes. Although there is a stark contrast in the lyrics' meaning, the researchers demonstrated that the fast, energetic rhythm of dangdut koplo instruments still has a positive impact on their work morale. This stable and dynamic musical tempo serves to balance the workers' moods, thereby continuing to act as a strong driver of work intensity.

The implementation of a consistent music schedule aligned with the store's operational routines (as detailed in Chapter 3) has been shown to maintain workers' emotional stability, with the Dhuhur call to prayer break serving as a mental *recovery* phase before entering the second production session.

Based on in-depth interviews conducted on November 12, 2025, it was found that dangdut koplo music has become an integral part of the work routine at Al Firdaus Production, where the music plays throughout the day during the work process (Hermin, research interview, November 12, 2025). Ms. Yaroh explained that the presence of dangdut koplo music during work makes the job more enjoyable because its fast tempo boosts morale (Yaroh, interview findings, November 12, 2025). The researcher summarized the music preferences of the 11 respondents based on these interview results in the following table:

Table 3. Preferred Dangdut Koplo Music
(Source: Muhammad Ikhwan Zulfikar Fahmi)

No.	Name	Preferred Dangdut Music
01.	Mintuk	Happy Asmara – Salam Tresno
02.	Supandi	Denny Caknan – Sinarengan
03.	Sutini	Denny Caknan – Sinarengan
04.	Itoh	Denny Caknan – Satru 2
05.	Hilmi	Denny Caknan – Cundamani
06.	Mia	Denny Caknan – Angel
07.	Dini	Happy Asmara – Rungkad
08.	Yaroh	Happy Asmara – Top-topan
09.	Ristin	Gilga Sahid – Nemu
10.	Hermin	Ndarboy Genk – A Trivial Person
11.	Trisna	Ndarboy Genk – Just Like Special Yogyakarta

Although there are differences between mellow (sad) lyrics and happy lyrics, the workers agreed that dangdut's fast rhythm (instrumentation) is the main factor that boosts their spirits. This shows that music is an effective tool for *mood repair*.

In this section, the researcher presents quantitative data obtained through observations before (Pretest/O1) and after (Posttest/O2) the presentation of koplo dangdut music. This data represents the performance of 11 respondents at the Al Firdaus Production Store. The following table details each individual's production output in units per day:

Table 4. Comparison of Individual Productivity Before and After the Intervention
(Source: Muhammad Ikhwan Zulfikar Fahmi)

No	Respondent Name	O ₁ (units)	O ₂ (units)	Difference in Units
1.	Mintuk	8	10	+2
2.	Supandi	8	11	+3
3.	Sutini	7	9	+2
4.	Itoh	7	9	+2
5.	Hilmi	8	10	+2
6.	Mia	6	9	+3
7.	Dini	7	8	+1
8.	Yaroh	8	9	+1
9.	Ristin	7	10	+3
10.	Hermin	6	9	+3
11.	Trisna	6	8	+2
TOTAL		78 pieces	102 pieces	+24
Average		7.09	9.27 pieces	+2.18

Based on Table 4.3, all respondents (100%) reported an increase in clothing production after listening to dangdut koplo music. The highest increase was recorded by Mr. Supandi, Mrs. Ristin, Mrs. Hermin, and Mrs. Mia, each increasing by 3 pieces per day. Meanwhile, the other respondents experienced a consistent increase of between 1 and 2 pieces per day.

This increase significantly addresses the second research question. The researcher analyzed that the shift in productivity from a total of 78 pieces to 102 pieces occurred because dangdut koplo music served as a “*pacing mechanism*.” This is also consistent with Ms. Sutini’s statement that the fast tempo of the drums can influence the speed at which employees perform their work, naturally leading to increased focus. This means that a fast yet steady musical tempo helps workers maintain synchronization between their hand movements and the sewing machine, thereby minimizing the time typically wasted due to boredom or mental distractions (Sutini, interview, November 12, 2025).

These results demonstrate that dangdut koplo music is not merely background entertainment but an effective tool for transforming a previously stagnant work environment into a more dynamic one. The increase in the number of uniforms produced per day indicates that workers’ productivity has risen without imposing additional physical strain, but rather through improvements in psychological well-being that make the work environment more enjoyable.

This improvement was analyzed using Adam Smith’s economic perspective, which emphasizes the efficient use of labor. Using the productivity growth formula, the rate of increase was calculated as

1. Calculating the Total Productivity Difference:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Difference} &= \text{Total } O_2 - \text{Total } O_1 \\ \text{Difference} &= 102 - 78 \\ &= 24 \text{ units} \end{aligned}$$

2. Calculating the Percentage Increase:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Increase} &= \frac{\text{Total } O_2 - \text{Total } O_1}{\text{Total } O_1} \times 100\% \\ &= \frac{24}{78} \times 100\% \\ &= 0.30769 \times 100\% \\ &= +30.77\% \end{aligned}$$

Based on these calculations, it is evident that playing koplo dangdut music significantly impacts worker performance at Al Firdaus Production Store. The average daily *output* increased from 7.09 pieces to 9.27 pieces per person. Overall, productivity increased by 30.77%. This figure shows a theoretical increase in efficiency. According to Adam Smith (1776), work efficiency is achieved when the workforce can produce greater *output* without having to increase *inputs* in the form of working hours (overtime) or the number of workers. This was confirmed by Ms. Itoh (Itoh, interview, November 12, 2025), who explained that musical stimulation can enhance comfort levels, enabling employees to achieve their maximum target of 10 uniforms within the regular 8-hour workday without requiring additional time (overtime).

This analysis concludes that Koplo Dangdut music acts as a catalyst for efficiency at Al Firdaus Production. Economically, this 30.77% increase reflects the store management’s success in creating a conducive work environment. By improving workers’ psychological well-being through auditory stimulation, Al Firdaus Production has successfully optimized its human resources in line with Adam Smith’s principle of efficiency—that is, producing maximum output by utilizing higher-quality work time.

The researcher emphasizes that the 30.77% increase in productivity at Al Firdaus Production was not solely due to dangdut koplo music. Based on in-depth interviews with Mr. Supandi and Mrs. Mintuk, the owners, it was revealed that production results still rely on each individual’s core competencies and creativity. Mr. Supandi explained that each worker has different work characteristics: some can sew at high speed while maintaining neatness, while others have a more meticulous work style but at a slower pace.

“That is right, sir. Music really boosts morale, making the workers more enthusiastic. However, of course, it cannot replace each worker’s individual abilities. Some are naturally skilled—fast and neat—while others are meticulous but work at a slower pace. So the music boosts morale so that the sewing results can be maximized” (Supandi, interview, November 12, 2025). In this context, the presence of koplo dangdut music

serves as a psychological stimulus (catalyst) that helps optimize these technical capabilities. As the informants confirmed, musical stimulation can boost workers' morale and perseverance when facing repetitive tasks. However, the music does not alter a person's basic sewing ability; rather, it helps workers consistently give their best without being hindered by mental fatigue. Thus, dangdut koplo music serves as a crucial supporting tool in activating the work efficiency already possessed by the workers at Al Firdaus Production.

4. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that a work environment without musical stimulation at Al Firdaus Production triggers burnout and work-related stress due to repetitive tasks, resulting in low productivity (an average of 7.09 units/day); however, the dangdut koplo music intervention significantly improved worker performance. The energetic rhythm of the music catalyzes work rhythm and *mood enhancement*, effectively reducing burnout. Quantitatively, the use of dangdut koplo music increased average production to 9.27 units/day, equivalent to a 30.77% increase in productivity. In line with Adam Smith's Theory of Efficiency, these findings confirm that dangdut koplo music is an effective non-material tool for improving work efficiency and optimizing production output without increasing working hours.

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