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Training and Provision of Information Related to The Accessibility of Official Higher Education Institutions for High School Students of The Same Level in Pekalongan City

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ABSTRACT

Education plays a vital role in human life, serving as a means to achieve a high quality of life. Within the realm of formal education, higher education holds particular significance in enhancing the human resources of a nation and contributing to their continual improvement. The objective of this service initiative is to provide comprehensive information on the official college selection process and deliver training through entrance examination questionnaires, enabling participants to better equip themselves for the official college entrance examinations. This community service endeavor primarily utilizes socialization and facilitates access to official school information, achieved through collaboration with external service partners. Specifically, the "Neutron" tutoring institution in Pekalongan acts as a dedicated partner, actively engaging in discussions concerning official school entrance examination questions. The activity drew participation from 114 students representing various schools in Pekalongan. The outcomes of the community service activities showcased a high level of enthusiasm among the participants, evident in their positive response and active engagement throughout the program. This positive response was demonstrated by the participants' enthusiastic completion of practice questions, thereby reinforcing their preparation for the official college entrance examinations. Information dissemination and provision of practice questions aim to empower participants to adequately prepare for their future academic pursuits.

Keywords: Education; Service College; Service School; Training

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1. Introduction

Education has an important role in the life of a nation, whether a nation is advanced is influenced by the quality of the nation's education itself. Therefore, the government seeks to improve the quality of human resources through education. Education itself is a "system" to be able to make a nation and state into a great nation and state as stated in Law No. 20 of 2003 Chapter II article 3 concerning the Indonesian National Education System. The law emphasizes that national education functions to develop capabilities and shape dignified national character and civilization in the framework of educating the life of the nation, aiming at developing the potential of students to become human beings who believe and fear God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, competent, creative, independent, and become a democratic and responsible citizen.

In Indonesian, the term education comes from the word "education" by giving it the prefix "pe" and the ending "an", meaning "deeds" (things, methods or so on). The term education originally came from the Greek "pedagogie", which means guidance given to

children. This term is then translated into English "education" which means development or guidance. Education in general is a conscious and directed effort to help someone in supporting their degree and dignity by optimizing and advancing one's ability to do all good things (Mustoip, 2018). It is through education that a person will be able to improve his skills because of the application of knowledge and experience during the educational process (Yusuf, 2018).

Improving the quality of human resources can mainly be done when someone takes the path of formal education up to university. In this case the tertiary institution is an educational unit providing higher education which is obliged to take part in the formation of the nation's character. Higher education teaching staff are professional educators and scientists with the main task of transforming, developing, and disseminating science, technology and art through education, research and community service (Tridarma Perguruan Tinggi). Higher education teaching staff professionally have a function as teachers, educators, and trainers so that they can develop the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor aspects of students. This is the entry point for character education to be implemented at the tertiary level in Indonesia. Character development is very important for universities and their stakeholders to become a basis for implementing character education in universities (Widodo, Riadi, & Ardi, 2017).

Among the various forms of organizing education in tertiary institutions, there are official colleges or PTK. Official Higher Education Institutions (PTK) are state higher education institutions that have ties with government agencies/ministries as education providers (Wijayanti & Selawati, 2020). PTK offers affordable tuition, and some are free and get pocket money every month, some of them are semi-military. PTK is different from PTN, in PTK students will study and after graduation can immediately work. The challenge of studying at PTK is that students are required to study as well as possible and be able to pass exams every semester with good grades. Examples of official institutions include STAN State Finance Polytechnic, College of Statistics, Institute of Domestic Education, Academy of Immigration, State Sandi College, College of Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics, School of Land Transportation. Complete information on registration for this pathway can be accessed at each PTK's address. In accepting new students, there is a selection that must be followed, with a series of long and rigorous tests to get students with appropriate qualifications and qualified abilities. The stages include registration, administrative selection, basic competency selection, advanced selection, and final announcement. In Basic Competency Selection, participants will work on questions that include material on the Personal Characteristics Test, General Intelligence Test, and National Insight Test (Susanti, 2019).

In this context, this community service activity is carried out, especially with the aim that the participants have sufficient knowledge and information to access all information related to official tertiary institutions. This goal mainly departs from the framework of the problem that not all high school/equivalent students in Pekalongan have sufficient knowledge and information regarding accessibility related to PTK. The emphasis on the purpose of this community service activity is that by having sufficient knowledge and information, participants/students can face the PTK entrance examination with more thorough preparation. The goal is that participants can pass the entrance selection and receive higher education at PTK as part of improving Indonesian human resources. This service activity is directed at habituating and increasing the ability of participants to face official college entrance exams in the form of practice (try out) in answering the questions given. The implementation of community service in the form of training in answering questions is expected to make participants more enthusiastic and have high enthusiasm so that they will get good results later (Hamdani, 2022).

2. Method

This community service program collaborates with partners from the Neutron Pekalongan Study Guidance Institute. This activity is intended for class XII SMA/equivalent students which will be held in the Auditorium of SMKN 3 Pekalongan City Building on February 19, 2023.

The stages of the activities carried out in this service activity can be described as follows:

2.1 Socialization

This service activity began with establishing collaborations between the Service Team and the Pekalongan Neutron Learning Guidance Institute. This socialization is carried out to provide knowledge and understanding of various information related to Service Higher Education which will begin to open registration in mid-June 2023 so that it is hoped that many high school/equivalent alumni will be able to continue their studies to the official higher education level.

2.2 Debriefing and Providing Motivation

Debriefing and motivation activities are aimed at providing material and information related to official tertiary institutions such as registration information, registration procedures, forms of entrance tests and matters related to technical procedures for accessing information related to official tertiary institutions and include efforts to provide motivation to continue education as high as possible as part of efforts to build the nation and state.

2.3 Training/Try Out

Training or in this case the tryout is aimed at training students' abilities in working on official college entrance exam questions. The practice questions were prepared beforehand by the team and partners with different materials to train participants' ability to work on the questions.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1 Socialization Activities

This community service activity begins with socialization of the program from the service team and partners to discuss plans for program activities to be carried out and coordination with SMKN 3 Pekalongan City regarding requests for permission to use the hall room for carrying out activities. It also discussed efforts to publish activities to be able to attract as many participants as possible to take part in this activity.

3.2 Debriefing and Providing Motivation

Debriefing and motivational activities are aimed at providing participants with an overview of materials and information related to official tertiary institutions such as registration information, registration procedures, forms of entrance tests and matters related to technical procedures for accessing information related to official tertiary institutions. In addition, motivation was also given to build a mindset of the importance of getting the highest education possible to improve the quality of life and build a better nation's civilization. Motivation needs to be given to arouse the enthusiasm and desire of participants to continue their education up to university. Motivation is emphasized on the opportunities that will be obtained if participants receive higher education, especially official education with which they can immediately enter the world of work as soon as they have finished their education.

After the motivation was conveyed, some important information related to information on official tertiary institutions was conveyed in this activity, including; first, the 2023 Official School Registration schedule, including participant registration starting April 1 - April 30 2023

at 23.59 WIB. Implementation of the Basic Competency Selection (SKD) exam: Around May - June 2023, as well as further selection is arranged by each official school. Second, registration can only be done at one official school and one department at that school. There are 8 agencies and 30 official schools that you can choose from, such as the State Intelligence College (STIN) with 400 formations, the College of Statistics (STIS) with 500 formations and the STAN State Finance Polytechnic (PKN-STAN) with formations of 1,100 formations.

Third, the registration flow for the Service School Registration Flow starts from participants accessing the SSCASN portal on the <https://sscasn.bkn.go.id> page, creating an SSCN Service School account and printing an account information card, logging in to the SSCN Service School using the NIK and password that has been registered, and complete the required documents. It was also emphasized that the participants took part in the entire selection process in accordance with the provisions of each agency and routinely checked the announcement of the official school selection results which would be announced through the SSCASN DIKDIN.

Fourth, introduction and practice of official school entrance test questions. Service schools consist of several selections or tests, including Basic Competency Selection (SKD) in the form of a Computer Assessment Test which includes the National Insight Test (TWK), General Intelligence Test (TIU), and Personal Characteristics Test (TKP). Then proceed with Field Competency Selection (SKB). After passing the SKD, there is a Field Competency Selection (SKB) exam. This selection is also referred to as Academic Selection or Mathematics Selection (as in STIS service schools). Then proceed with the selection of health in the form of a medical examination. The medical test in each official school is of course different. Usually, this includes drug tests, congenital disease checks, blood checks, urine tests, and so on. There is also a psychological test to measure emotional intelligence, honesty, character, and the psychological condition of prospective cadets and cadets. Some official schools also have an aptitude test. At this stage, the physical strength of the official school participants will be tested. The material for the selection of eligibility includes run, push up, pull up, swim, or according to the needs of the agency. Tests were also introduced at the interview stage which were carried out to find out the reasons, readiness, and commitment of prospective cadets. Please note, after graduation, you must work according to the placement given by the relevant agency. Finally, the Pantukhir or Final Determination Committee Assessment (Pantukhir) which is the final stage to determine whether or not to pass to the official school. At this stage, all participants will be collected and matched with the results of the previous selection assessments.



Figure 1. Submission of Information Debriefing and Providing Motivation

3.3 Training

The training is carried out using a learning assistance approach for participants who wish to continue their studies at the Service College. This training was attended by 114 participants from various schools in the city and district of Pekalongan. The training is aimed at training students' skills in working on official school entrance exam questions as preparation for entering official colleges. The practice questions for the official school entrance examination are prepared with different materials to train the participants' ability to work on exam questions. In this training activity, try out questions for the official school entrance examination were held as well as discussions. Through this activity, it is hoped that the activity participants will be able to increase their academic potential by getting used to working on practice questions for the official school entrance exam as a reference for facing the entrance selection to official colleges. Discussion of the try out was also given by the service team with partners so that the participants would better understand and master problem solving of the official school entrance exam questions and be able to hone the participants to think critically, quickly and precisely.

The implementation of this community service activity is due to the collaboration between all parties involved, namely the community service team and activity partner groups. The two partners provide support in the implementation of activities and have hope for the continuation of this program to increase the interest of high school/equivalent students in continuing their education to tertiary institutions in general. In general, the participants' contribution and participation in this activity were enthusiastic and received many benefits related to future planning and motivation to live towards a better life than current conditions, especially after being given provisioning and motivational materials and try out questions on preparing for school entrance examinations.



Figure 2. Training and Try Out for Official School Entrance Examination

4. Conclusion

In this community service activity, several conclusions can be drawn, including, first, community service activities are carried out as an effort to provide information widely to high school/equivalent students in Pekalongan to be able to access information related to official colleges. This is because in official tertiary institutions there are several things that need to be understood specifically, especially related to technical information and practice/habitation in dealing with the questions being tested. Second, this service activity collaborates with tutoring parties who become facilitators to discuss official school entrance exam questions so that participants are familiar and can improve their ability to answer the questions that will be tested later. Third, by taking the format of training and information provision, this community service activity succeeded in attracting activity participants to participate in activities as

evidenced by their presence at the activity site. Not only that, but the service activity also gave good and memorable results for the participants as evidenced by the enthusiasm of the participants during the activity.

However, there are several suggestions related to similar activities so that they can reach students more broadly, including first, the involvement of PTK is also needed, at least PTK students and/or alumni to also provide additional information regarding PTK. This is because students and/or alumni have a better understanding because they are directly involved in PTK. Second, good time management is needed to carry out community service activities with a similar format. This is because high school/equivalent students at the beginning of the year already had various challenges in the form of exams, both at the school level and entrance exams for PTN. It is hoped that this activity can be carried out without further burdening SMA/equivalent students.

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