



The Role of Entrepreneurship Subject in Merdeka Belajar Curriculum to Civil Engineering Students' of the Polytechnic State Pontianak



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Abstract

The difficulties in finding a job, drive graduates from college to be creative and innovative in creating job vacancies. Entrepreneurship subject which was erased from the curriculum of the Associate's Degree of Civil Engineering Study Program and Bachelor of Applied Science of Housing Settlement Planning Study Program needs to be reviewed because entrepreneurship subject, nowadays, is important and become one of the implemented activities in Merdeka Belajar-Kampus Merdeka. This research aimed to know the students' perception about how important entrepreneurship subject to be learnt and students' interest in becoming entrepreneurs as an alternative job if they graduated. The research method was a qualitative method which used Miles, Huberman and Saldana (2014) analysis. The result of this study was that 73.33% of informants knew the concept of Merdeka Belajar, but they said that it needed to be socialized more especially how to implement it in the learning process. Moreover, all of the informants said that entrepreneurship subjects must be added to the curriculum.

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1 Introduction

Pontianak State Polytechnic has a vision, objective and target performance indicators to create graduates who have an entrepreneurial spirit so entrepreneurship subject is needed in every study program available in Polytechnic State Pontianak. The interest of students in Polytechnic State Pontianak to become entrepreneurs was proved by the participation of the students in entrepreneurship competitions which were held by the Directorate General of Higher Education such as the Entrepreneurial Student *Program*. In addition, the presence of entrepreneurship courses also supports the government program on Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka which on the fourth policy in Kampus Merdeka plans on the right of students to attend lectures outside of the study program and change the definition of Semester Credit Unit (SKS). Students have a chance to attend lectures outside the campus or study programs in eight kinds of activities, one of which is entrepreneurship activity (Al-Anshori, 2020). The purpose of this study is to know students' perceptions of how important entrepreneurship courses are to be studied by students and to find out students' interests in entrepreneurial which are the alternative options when they graduate (Ratten & Usmanij, 2021; Soares et al., 2013).

Rimenda & Mirati (2021) with their research title "The Role of Marketing Studies in Merdeka Belajar-Kampus Merdeka Curriculum". This study aims to conduct exploratory research on alumni, industry and students about the importance of marketing courses within the Kampus Merdeka Curriculum, especially for the accounting study program. The result of this study was able to modify the curriculum of the accounting study program (Christwardana et al., 2022). The research methods used in this study were exploratory research and content analysis that focused on technology-based marketing (Rivas et al., 2020). The respondents were 30 alumni, and three from the industry. The results conclude that a combination of marketing, digital marketing and technology-based sales courses was still needed for entrepreneurship activity in the MBKM curriculum.

2 Materials and Methods

The design of this research was qualitative research. According to Strauss & Corbin (1990), qualitative research is research in which the procedure of discovery is carried out without the use of statistical or quantitative procedures. In this case, qualitative research is the study of a person's life, stories, behaviors and also about the functioning of organizations, social movements or interrelationships (Miles & Huberman, 1994). The research aims to co-describe students' understanding of Merdeka Belajar, students' perceptions of the importance of entrepreneurship courses and their interests in enterprise. The subjects in this study were 4 lecturers, 7 alumni and 19 students of the Civil Engineering Department of the Pontianak State Polytechnic.

3 Results and Discussions

Based on the results of interviews and analysis of all sources of students' understanding of the notion of Merdeka Belajar, 73.33% were aware of the concept of Merdeka Belajar being promoted by the current government where students are given freedom in learning such as student exchanges, research, internships and entrepreneurship. The other 26.67% which the samples come from alumni and students, did not understand the curriculum of Merdeka Belajar and its implementation in the classroom, however, they knew that Merdeka Belajar curriculum is a curriculum that does not require students to study in classrooms. Based on the findings above, it is expected that there will be further socialization of the concept of Merdeka Belajar so that students can be more clearly and understand it (Wahid, 2006).

Before learning how important entrepreneurship was to be used as a course, researchers asked about the concept of entrepreneurial implementation in civil engineering learning (Grossman & Thompson, 2008; Chan et al., 2017). A total of 6.67% of the sources that came from students did not know the implementation of entrepreneurship is associated with the world of civil engineering. While 93.33% of the sources are from lecturers, students and alumni who know about it. They stated that implementing the practice of students who produce a product and the product can be sold on the market is one of the forms of entrepreneurship. For example, in a wooden work course, students are taught to make chairs and tables (Balakrishnan & Gan, 2016; Holder, 2007; Barbour & Reeves, 2009). With the knowledge that they can expect to be a supply for them when they graduate it's proven that one of the civil engineering alumni who is also a source in this research has a furniture business (Mulyana, 2004; Subijanto, 2012).

Furthermore, the study also spoke of students' interest in entrepreneurship that could be an alternative option when they graduate as much as 26.32% of students choose to become office employees. This was because they assumed that entrepreneurs had an unfixed income every month, and even if they had a business, they only considered the business as a side job or hobby and not a main job for them. Meanwhile, there were 73.68% of the sample students chose to become an entrepreneur because they had a business even though they had not graduated yet and their business was not related to civil engineering (Testa & Frascheri, 2015; Morselli et al., 2014).

4 Conclusion

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that although the majority of samples knew about the concept of Merdeka Belajar, it is expected that there will be more socialization about Merdeka Belajar and its implementation in learning. Furthermore, entrepreneurship is important to be included in the curriculum as one of the courses since entrepreneurship can be one alternative job for students when they graduate which they have already started since they are still on the college bench.

Conflict of interest statement

The authors declared that they have no competing interests.

Statement of authorship

The authors have a responsibility for the conception and design of the study. The authors have approved the final article.

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