

Analysis of Factors Influencing Interest in Becoming Early Childhood Education Teachers among PGPAUD Study Program Students

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Abstract: Interest in becoming a PAUD teacher is a person's desire to become a PAUD teacher and has more attention to the PAUD teaching profession. This study aims to describe the factors that influence interest in becoming an early childhood teacher in PG ECD study program students. This study used a qualitative approach with a case study type of research. Data collection techniques in this study include interviews, questionnaires, and documentation. Data analysis techniques in this study used the Miles & Huberman analysis model. The results stated that there were 23 students who were interested in becoming PAUD teachers. In accordance with the results of the study, there are factors that influence interest in becoming an early childhood teacher, namely internal factors including feelings of pleasure, attention to education, and ideals. Meanwhile, external factors include working hours, suitability of majors, family environment, and teaching experience.

Keywords: *interest early childhood education teacher, early childhood education, teacher education*

INTRODUCTION

Education plays an important role in the formation of individuals, society and the nation. Based on Law No. 20 of 2003 concerning the national education system, every citizen has the right to receive quality education in accordance with the national education system. Education is the basis for the progress of a country. The better the quality of education in a country, the better the quality of the country will be. Along with the development of the era marked by significant progress in the fields of science and technology, the demands for education need to continue to develop to become better, structured, and mature in order to improve the quality of education. The success of improving the quality of education can be achieved with the presence of teachers. Teachers have a major contribution to the progress of society and the country. The progress or decline of a culture in society and the country is greatly influenced by the quality of education and teaching provided by teachers. (Risdiyani & Herlambang, 2021).

The teaching profession does not only include the transfer of information between teachers and students, but has a larger scope. A sincere teacher will dedicate his life to the world of education, providing knowledge and shaping the intelligence of society. The success of the nation's successors today is very dependent on the role played by a teacher. The role of teachers is very important as the main leader in carrying out the teaching and learning process effectively. Teachers actively participate in meeting the needs of their students.

Teachers need to have the appropriate skills and competencies in order to provide education professionally, so they need to have mastery of teaching materials, lesson plans, and the four abilities required according to Government Regulation No. 19 of 2005 concerning national education standards, namely pedagogical, personality, social, and professional abilities.(Risdiyana & Herlambang, 2021). The development of teacher professionalism aims to improve the overall quality of education. The presence of innovative teachers can provide support in improving the education system. So that the quality of educational institutions can be better. The presence of quality teachers is also needed in Early Childhood Education (PAUD) units.

PAUD refers to the development efforts given to children from birth to the age of six. This is done through the provision of educational stimulation to support the physical and mental growth and development of children, so that they are ready to follow further education (according to Law Number 20 of 2003 Chapter I Article 1 paragraph 14). The implementation of PAUD can be formal, non-formal, and informal. A fairly important role of PAUD is as a solid foundation for early childhood education(Sugiarto, 2017). The task of PAUD teachers is to understand and teach students so that a teacher is required to have adequate knowledge, attitudes and skills.(Harry, 2019). To become a qualified PAUD teacher, you need to have a background in education.

Semarang State University (UNNES) is an educational institution that provides study programs in various fields. Including in the field of education. The Faculty of Education and Psychology at UNNES consists of several study programs, namely Elementary School Teacher Education, Special Education Teacher Education, Guidance and Counseling, Psychology, and PG PAUD. Someone who chooses a study program in the field of education is the first step that shows that someone is interested in the teaching profession. Based on data on the number of enthusiasts for the PG PAUD Study Program at UNNES with the National Selection Based on Test (SNBT) pathway in the last 3 years, precisely in 2021, 2022 and 2023, there has been a decrease in enthusiasts. In 2021, the number of enthusiasts for the PG PAUD Study Program with the National Selection Based on Test (SNBT) pathway was 319. Meanwhile, in 2022, the number of enthusiasts for the PG PAUD Study Program with the National Selection Based on Test (SNBT) pathway was 293 enthusiasts. And in 2023, the number of enthusiasts for the PG PAUD Study Program with the National Selection Based on Test (SNBT) pathway was 256 enthusiasts. This shows that interest in becoming PAUD teachers, especially through the National Selection Based on Test (SNBT) pathway at UNNES, has decreased quite significantly in the last three years.

Students who choose the education study program will be directed to become a teacher or educator. However, the problem is that not all students with an educational background want to be involved in a profession that also has an educational background, namely becoming a teacher. This is supported by the results of the pre-research questionnaire obtained from PG PAUD students, Class 2, Class 2. The results of the pre-research questionnaire conducted on PG PAUD students, Class 2, Class 2, most of them answered that they were interested in becoming a PAUD teacher and some answered that they were

hesitant to become a PAUD teacher. Meanwhile, a small number of students answered that they were not interested in becoming a PAUD teacher. Students who are interested, hesitant, and also not interested are influenced by internal and external factors.

Based on the results of the pre-research questionnaire, it shows that most students are not interested in becoming PAUD teachers. This can affect the quality of being a teacher for students who graduate from the PAUD PG Study Program. The level of interest of students in study programs with an educational background to become a teacher is very important, because the low level of interest in the teaching profession can result in the quality of student graduates as prospective teachers being low. This affects the formation of less than optimal teacher competencies.

Students who have completed their studies in the PG PAUD UNNES Study Program will receive a Bachelor of Education degree (S. Pd.) which is expected to make students who have obtained the Bachelor of Education degree become teachers. However, in reality, not all students who have completed their studies choose to work as PAUD teachers. Based on tracer study data from 2019 to 2024, it has been shown that not all PG PAUD Education Bachelor graduates work as PAUD teachers, in fact there are still many PG PAUD Education Bachelor graduates who choose jobs outside of being PAUD teachers. It is important to increase interest in the teaching profession, especially for PG PAUD students. Increasing interest in the teaching profession can improve the quality of education in Indonesia.

Interest is a tendency or attraction to something or an activity without any encouragement from other parties. Interest arises because of an interest in something that triggers a high sense of curiosity in a person to achieve a certain goal. A student who has an interest in a profession will choose a study program that suits his interests and is in line with the career path he has chosen. The choice of a particular profession or field should be adjusted to interests so that in carrying out the task or activity there will be a sense of pleasure and high motivation. A person will prefer a job based on his interests and the skills he has

A student who has an interest in the teaching profession will have a strong drive, effort and will give all his attention to the teaching profession. Interest in becoming a teacher is a condition where someone pays great attention to the teaching profession, feels happy about the teaching profession and has a desire to become a teacher.(Nasrullah et al., 2018). Someone who has an interest in the teaching profession is someone who understands and realizes the meaning of the teaching profession and has the awareness that the teaching profession is important to him. Students who have an interest in the teaching profession will prefer to work as teachers and create persistence in achieving their goals, and vice versa if a student does not have an interest in the teaching profession then the student will not expect to work as a teacher.

Interest in becoming a good teacher will affect the high quality of the superior teaching profession in the future. On the other hand, the lack of interest in becoming a teacher among students of teaching study programs will certainly have an impact on the low formation of optimal teacher quality. Students who are less interested in becoming teachers will not focus their full attention on the teaching profession and also lack the will and effort to increase their

interest in becoming a teacher.

Interest is not something that arises and is created since birth, interest grows and develops with individuals from the life process that is influenced by several factors that influence it, including internal factors and external factors. Internal factors are factors that come from within the individual consisting of innate factors and personality factors. Meanwhile, external factors are factors from outside the individual such as environmental factors. Environmental factors are processed from various things to support the development of interests and talents. Environmental factors consist of family, school, and social environments.(Rahmat, 2018). The focus of this study is internal and external factors that influence interest in becoming a PAUD teacher.

Through this study, it is expected to identify factors that influence the interest of PG PAUD students to become PAUD teachers. The results of this study are expected to be the basis for developing strategies and policies that can increase the interest of PG PAUD students to become PAUD teachers. Thus, this study has important relevance in helping to improve the quality of education in PAUD through a better understanding of the factors that influence the interest of PG PAUD students to become PAUD teachers.

METHODS

In this study, the researcher used qualitative research methods and with case study research types. Qualitative research is the process of exploring and understanding individual and group behavior, describing social problems or humanitarian problems. The research process includes creating questions and research procedures that are still temporary, collecting data in the context of participants, inductive data analysis, organizing data parts into themes, then providing interpretations of the meaning of the data. The data sources for this study include interviews, questionnaires and documentation. The data validity technique in this study is data triangulation. With the data analysis technique using the Miles and Huberman analysis model.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The results of the research that has been conducted there are 23 students of the PG PAUD Study Program who have an interest in becoming a PAUD teacher. Students who are interested in becoming teachers because there are factors that influence them. The factors that influence students' interest in becoming a PAUD teacher are divided into two, namely internal factors and external factors as follows:

1. Internal Factors

Internal factors are the drive or tendency of a person towards an activity that comes from within each individual.

a. *Happy Feeling*

Feelings of Joy are one of the determinants of a student of the PG PAUD UNNES Study Program that influences his/her interest in becoming a PAUD teacher. This is in line with Sardiman's theory.(in Sukma et al., 2020)which explains that liking is one of the internal factors that influences interest. There are 12 answers from 12 students of the PG PAUD UNNES

Study Program that influence students' interest in becoming PAUD teachers influenced by feelings of pleasure. In this study, what is meant by feelings of pleasure is because of feelings of pleasure in children.

Feelings of Pleasure in a particular profession have an influence on a person's interest in a profession. A person will tend to choose a profession based on the Feelings of Pleasure that are enjoyable for him/her. As is the statement made by 12 PG PAUD UNNES students who explained that what made them interested in becoming a teacher was because of the Feelings of Pleasure in children. That was the reason they were interested in the profession of PAUD teachers.

b. Attention to Education

Attention to education is one of the determinants of a student of the PG PAUD UNNES Study Program which influences his/her interest in becoming a PAUD teacher. This is in line with Sardiman's theory.(in Sukma et al., 2020)which explains that one of the internal factors that influences interest is attention. There are 8 answers from 8 students of the PG PAUD UNNES Study Program that influence students' interest in becoming PAUD teachers is influenced by attention to education. In this study, what is meant by attention to education is because of the desire to contribute to education and the desire to advance education in the world of PAUD.

Attention to education has an influence on someone's interest in a profession. As stated by 8 PG PAUD UNNES students who explained that attention to education because of the desire to contribute to education and the desire to advance education in the PAUD world is the reason they are interested in the PAUD teacher profession.

c. Ambition-ambition

Ambition is one of the determinants of a student of the PG PAUD UNNES Study Program which influences his/her interest in becoming a PAUD teacher. In line with Nugroho's theory(in Alifia & Hardini, 2022)which explains that the interest in becoming a teacher is influenced by internal factors, namely ideals. There are 8 answers from 8 students of the PG PAUD UNNES Study Program that influence students' interest in becoming PAUD teachers is influenced by ideals. In this study, what is meant by ideals is because the subject believes that the teaching profession is an ideal that has been dreamed of since long ago.

Ambition has an influence on a person's interest in a profession. As in the statement made by 8 students of PG PAUD UNNES who explained that the ideal is because the subject believes that the teaching profession is an ideal that has been dreamed of since long ago and that is the reason they are interested in the PAUD teacher profession.

2. FactorExternal

External factors are the drive or tendency of a person towards an activity that comes from outside the individual.

a. O'clockWork

Working hours are one of the determinants of a student of the PG PAUD UNNES Study Program which influences his/her interest in becoming a PAUD teacher. In line with research conducted byThe Greatest Showman (2020)which explains that working hours are a factor

that influences students' interest in becoming teachers. There are 10 answers from 10 students of the PG PAUD UNNES Study Program which reveal that the working hours of a PAUD teacher are flexible and have a lot of free time compared to other professions.

Working hours in a particular profession have an influence on a person's interest in a profession. A person will tend to choose a profession based on working hours that are beneficial to him/her. Such as the statement made by 10 PG PAUD UNNES students who explained that a teacher's working hours are flexible and not dense, which is the reason they are interested in the PAUD teacher profession.

b. Major Suitability

The suitability of the major is one of the factors that influences the interest of PG PAUD UNNES students to choose to become PAUD teachers. In line with research conducted by Wildan et al. (2016) There are several factors that influence the interest in becoming a teacher, one of which is the educational background factor. There are 11 answers from 11 students of the PG PAUD UNNES Study Program who stated that the interest in becoming a teacher is influenced by the suitability of the major they are taking. There are several students who explained that what influences their interest in becoming a PAUD teacher is because the major currently being taken by the student is appropriate and linear with their profession, namely the profession of PAUD teacher.

The choice of a job or profession is often directly related to a person's educational background. Similar to the statement of the 11 subjects above who stated that they wanted to become a PAUD teacher because the profession was in accordance with the field and major of education they were taking during college.

c. Family Environment

The family environment is one of the factors that influences the interest of PG PAUD UNNES students to choose to become PAUD teachers. In line with the theory Grace (2018) which explains that in the development of interests and talents, there are external factors, namely family environmental factors. There are 12 answers from 12 students of the PG PAUD UNNES Study Program who revealed that interest in becoming a teacher is influenced by the family environment.

In this study, the family environment is meant because of the advice, motivation and support from parents that influence their interest in becoming a PAUD teacher. There are several PG PAUD UNNES students who explained that the subject was interested in becoming a PAUD teacher because of the advice, motivation and support from parents that influenced their interest in becoming a PAUD teacher.

d. Teaching Experience

Teaching experience is one of the factors that influences the interest of PG PAUD UNNES students to choose to become PAUD teachers. In line with research conducted by Ardyani & Latifah (2014) which explains that there are several factors that influence the interest in becoming a teacher, one of which is the PPL experience. PPL is a direct teaching practice activity carried out by students of the Faculty of Education as a requirement and obligation for students of the Faculty of Education.

There are 21 answers from 21 students of the PG PAUD UNNES Study Program who revealed that their interest in becoming a teacher is influenced by their teaching experience. After carrying out direct teaching activities with children at the institution, this influenced their interest in becoming a PAUD teacher.

CONCLUSION

This study aims to describe the factors that influence the interest in becoming PAUD teachers in students of the PG PAUD study program. Based on the results of the study, there were 23 students who were interested in becoming PAUD teachers. There are two factors that influence the interest in becoming PAUD teachers in students of the PG PAUD Study Program, namely internal factors and external factors. Internal factors include feelings of joy, attention to education, and ideals. Meanwhile, external factors include working hours, suitability of majors, family environment, and teaching experience. Overall, these two factors play a role in shaping students' interest in choosing a profession as a PAUD teacher.

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