

The Career Guidance Activities for Students of State Vocational High School 1 Pebayuran Bekasi Regency

Medi Nopiana¹, Sri Setiawati Utami², Muhammad Nasim Harahap³

¹Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang, <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6038-4163>

²Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang, <https://orcid.org/0009-0006-4237-6702>

³Universitas Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa, <https://orcid.org/0009-0008-7297-7300>

Corresponding author's email: medi.nopiana@fe.unsika.ac.id

Abstract

The implementation of this career guidance is based on the importance of helping direct students to prepare their future career plans. Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang must contribute to the problems faced by the community and other stakeholders around their campus. Given the lack of career guidance activities in high schools in the Bekasi Regency area, the community service team determined the location of the community service activity at State Vocational High School 1 Pebayuran, Bekasi Regency. This activity was combined with the Real Work Lecture of Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang students in Sumberurip Village, Pebayuran Subdistrict, Bekasi Regency. This activity was held offline on Monday, January 20, 2025. The method of implementing the activity used the counseling method. This activity provides input and suggestions to students according to their choices (working or pursuing higher education) by considering opportunity costs.

Keywords: human resource strengthening, counseling method, passion

INTRODUCTION

Career guidance is an inseparable part of educational tasks. The career guidance activities for students in schools aim to help them plan their future careers so that the careers they choose follow the talents, interests, and values that they uphold. The activity not only responds to the problems faced by students but also helps them acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need in their future jobs^{1,2}.

Given the importance of career guidance activities for students, it encourages the service team is encouraged to hold community service activities by implementing them in high schools in Bekasi Regency. Moreover, career guidance activities, especially in high schools in the area, are still very minimal. Based on literature searches, there are no reports that represent regarding the career guidance activities in schools in the Bekasi Regency area. Meanwhile, the Bekasi Regency Government has become concerned with career guidance activities in schools, especially concerning preparing young people in their area to face their transition to the work environment³. At the same time, Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang was implementing Real Work Lectures (KKN) for their students in the region of Bekasi Regency so that the community service activities are synchronized with the KKN.

¹ SR Abubakar, "Pelaksanaan Bimbingan Karir Bagi Siswa SMA sebagai Persiapan Awal Memasuki Dunia Kerja," *Selami IPS* 1, no. 34 (2011): 137-144, <https://www.neliti.com/id/publications/221358/pelaksanaan-bimbingan-karir-bagi-siswa-sma-sebagai-persiapan-awal-memasuki-dunia#id-section-content>.

² AR Yusuf, KAA Karend, "Bimbingan Karir untuk Sekolah Kejuruan," *Prosiding Seminar Nasional Pascasarjana Universitas Negeri Semarang* 3, no. 1 (2020): 59-67, <https://proceeding.unnes.ac.id/snpasca/article/download/556/477/1453>.

³ Regional Research and Development Agency of Bekasi Regency, *Studi Kesiapan Kaum Muda dalam Menghadapi Transisi Dunia Kerja Tahun Anggaran 2024* (Regional Research and Development Agency of Bekasi Regency, 2024), 146.

METHOD

The community service activity was offline at State Vocational High School 1 Pebayuran, Bekasi Regency. This school was designated as the location for this community service activity because it was in line with the KKN activities of Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang students. Besides, the format for delivering career guidance employed the counseling method^{4,5,6}.

The initiative for this activity began with a discussion with students in a lecture on a class guided by Dr. Medi Nopiana. The discussion emphasized the importance of Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang's contribution to solving all problems faced by the community, particularly in the environment around the campus, including providing career guidance to school students so that their career and education paths are directed. Sri Setiawati Utami (one of the students in the lecture) noted it. Furthermore, when Sri Setiawati Utami contracted and implemented the KKN course, Sri Setiawati Utami tried to include career guidance activities in one of their KKN work programs. Sri Setiawati Utami then contacted Dr. Medi Nopiana to discuss the career guidance activity plan in the community service scheme through collaboration between students and lecturers. They shared the tasks in implementing the activity. Dr. Medi Nopiana acted as a speaker for the counseling, while Sri Setiawati Utami acted to consolidate the activity with her friends from the KKN team in Sumberurip Village, Pebayuran Subdistrict, Bekasi Regency, as well as acting as a moderator in the counseling event. Meanwhile, the other team members had the task of compiling a paper that was published in a journal as a form of activity report.

RESULT & DISCUSSION

This community service activity was held on Monday, January 20, 2025, starting at 09.00 - 11.00 Western Indonesian Time, in the hall of State Vocational High School 1 Pebayuran, Bekasi Regency. The counseling activity was attended by 40 students of the XII class from various departments in the vocational high school. Sri Setiawati Utami hosted this event, while Dr. Medi Nopiana acted as a speaker who explained, in particular, what students should do to prepare for their future after graduating from the high school (Figure 1).

Dr. Medi Nopiana emphasized the importance of students preparing their future carefully. There are two choices that students will face later, namely whether they must decide to work or continue their education in college. They face the opportunity costs that must be borne when deciding on a particular alternative. This situation is in line with what is conveyed by Economic Theory⁷. If they decide to work, they face the opportunity costs, among others, the loss of their time to study at a young age. Not infrequently, because they continue to work and enjoy the pleasure of obtaining a salary (money), they are too lazy to continue their studies at college. In the end, they are trapped in a routine of working as laborers in companies or factories, so they do not have the opportunity to improve their education to a college level in the future. Meanwhile, if they decide to continue their education to college level, at least they will experience the loss of the opportunity to earn an income of approximately IDR 5 million (based on the minimum wage of Bekasi Regency). The concept of opportunity cost emphasizes how students (after graduating later) can determine certain choices with the least cost or sacrifice.

⁴ A Fitri, FN Sari, FY Pratama, HFB Putri, N Sani, AA Effendy, "Penyuluhan Manajemen Sumber Daya Manusia untuk Pengembangan Karir Pasca Kelulusan Sekolah SMK Pluit Raya Penjaringan Jakarta Utara," *Jurnal PADMA: Pengabdian Dharma Masyarakat* 1, no. 4 (2021): 287-290, <https://doi.org/10.32493/jpdm.v1i4.13491>.

⁵ HMZ Hakim, M Nopiana, H Latuconsina, "Pembinaan di Bidang Pemasaran dan Permodalan kepada Industri Pengolahan Kulit Ikan di Kabupaten Karawang," *ETAM: Jurnal Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat* 4, no. 3 (2024): 55-62, <https://doi.org/10.46964/etam.v4i3.967>.

⁶ WF Anita, RF Muhammad, RS Wardhani, "Penyuluhan kepada Masyarakat Pelosok Kabupaten Karawang tentang Pentingnya Membayar Pajak Kendaraan Bermotor," *ETAM: Jurnal Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat* 4, no. 3 (2024): 63-70, <https://doi.org/10.46964/etam.v4i3.968>.

⁷ P Rahardja, M Manurung, *Pengantar Ilmu Ekonomi: Mikroekonomi dan Makroekonomi* (Lembaga Penerbit Fakultas Ekonomi Universitas Indonesia, 2008), 490.



Figure 1. Dr. Medi Nopiana and Sri Setiawati Utami were conducting a career guidance counseling event

Furthermore, Dr. Medi Nopiana explained that there are at least several things that students must prepare if they decide to work or enter the workforce (Figure 2). These things refer to several references^{8,9,10}, namely mastery of hard skills, soft skills, and gaining internship experience and career guidance. Mastery of hard skills is essential for students when they graduate, according to their respective majors or fields. The students who reached grade XII should ask themselves what technical skills they have mastered. Don't let them not understand or still be blind to the technical skills they must have. It shows that they are not confident in their abilities, or perhaps they have not even mastered any technical skills. If that happens, of course, it will tarnish the school's reputation. They have tried to apply the technical skills they have mastered to the work environment through internships in general companies and industry. They usually achieve internship experience for approximately 6 months. The technical skills they have mastered should be reinforced by recognition in the form of competency certification. The companies usually require recognition as part of the professionalism of the workforce they recruit. Moreover, competency certification obtained through training can hone major technical skills and provide additional minor technical skills. For example, students majoring in Computer and Network Engineering must have major technical skills as computer technicians who can provide hardware, software, and network problem-solving. Meanwhile, minor technical skills (supporting) that students can master as network technicians who can design, manage, and troubleshoot networks.

⁸ S Azky, OP Mulyana, "Faktor-faktor yang Mempengaruhi Kesiapan Kerja Mahasiswa: Literature Review," *Innovative: Journal of Social Science Research* 4, no. 3 (2024): 3178-3192, <https://doi.org/10.31004/innovative.v4i3.10762>.

⁹ DR Putra, R Pratama, W Firta, "Pengaruh Daya Juang, Sikap Percaya Diri dan Motivasi terhadap Kesiapan Memasuki Dunia Kerja pada Siswa SMK Bisnis Manajemen Kabupaten Tanah Datar dan Kota Padang Panjang," *JIM: Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa Pendidikan Sejarah* 8, no. 2 (2023): 648-654, <https://doi.org/10.24815/jimps.v8i2.24757>.

¹⁰ F Riyanto, H Widhiastuti, R Dewi, "Keterampilan Apa yang Siap Digunakan Gen Z saat Bekerja di Era Industri 4.0: Bukti di Pendidikan Tinggi Indonesia," *Journal of Applied Management Studies (JAMMS)* 5, no. 1 (2023): 117-129, <https://doi.org/10.51713/jamms.v5i1.111>.



Figure 2. Dr. Medi Nopiana was providing the presentation

In addition to the technical skills requirement, students must also have various soft skills, including communication skills, collaboration and teamwork, adaptation, time management, leadership, creative thinking, and self-motivation to work with good performance. Mastery of various soft skills is not simple to have. Opportunities are needed to hone these skills. For example, leadership skills can be honed in various organizational activities or event committees at school, such as the Student Council, the School Orientation Period, the Student Creativity Show, etc. Leadership skills can also be obtained from Basic Student Leadership Training. Another example, such as the ability to do presentations or public speaking, is needed in the workplace, particularly when the leader assigns to present material in a meeting activity.

The readiness of the students of this school has been complemented through the holding of career guidance activities. It is carried out not only by the school but also by gaining insight from external parties, in this case, the university. It is hoped that this activity can enrich and add to the preparation of students to face the future after they graduate.

On the other hand, for students who want to continue their education to college level, the most important thing is the need for them to identify their ideals when they have a career. The profession they will pursue later must be under their passion, that built from their ideals. After that, they can determine the faculty and study program relevant to their ideals and passions. There are two choices of educational programs in college, namely academic bachelor's and applied bachelor's. Both have differences; the academic bachelor's program emphasizes theoretical learning, while the applied bachelor's learning emphasizes practical aspects. Concerning the discussion, there was a question from one of the students about which program of the two can be accepted by them. Dr. Medi Nopiana suggested that because the students have a background from vocational high schools, they should continue their education in vocational higher education, such as polytechnics or vocational schools at universities. This is because the linearity of education between high schools and colleges will be their advantage in pursuing further education and their profession in the future. Moreover, the current government continues to encourage education based on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM education) in building the foremost human resources in Indonesia. This is necessary to answer the challenges of the needs in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0, increasing innovation and competitiveness, and global problems in the future¹¹.

The next question from one of the students is related to how they hone their soft skills so that they can master them. Dr. Medi Nopiana suggests that they can take part in education and training organized by related institutions. This can be done through obtaining evidence or recognition, such as training certificates or even competency certifications. If they do not have the opportunity to take part, especially due to budget

¹¹ E Setyorini, Bramastia, "Pembelajaran Berbasis Proyek Terintegrasi STEM pada Mata Pelajaran IPAS Materi Daur Hidrologi untuk Meningkatkan Kemampuan Berpikir Kreatif, Motivasi Belajar dan Literasi Siswa Kelas X SMK Negeri Purwosari Kabupaten Bojonegoro," (Prosiding Seminar Nasional Pendidikan Sains 2023: Inovasi Penelitian dan Pengabdian Bidang Pendidikan Ilmu Pengetahuan Alam (SAINS) serta Pembelajarannya untuk Mendukung Implementasi Kurikulum Merdeka dan Pembangunan Berkelanjutan, Surakarta, 23 September 2023), 306-316, <https://proceeding.uns.ac.id/snps/article/download/816/771/1569>.

constraints, students can do training independently, for example, presentation training through social media, such as YouTube, etc.

Without realizing it, the time had passed, and the counseling time was about to end. The moderator then closed the presentation and Q&A event. The KKN team leader gave souvenirs to the counseling event speakers (Figure 3) and continued with a photo session with the KKN team and participants (Figure 4). Alhamdulillah, the event ran smoothly. It is hoped that this counseling event will provide the greatest benefits to all parties, primarily the students of State Vocational High School 1 Pebayuran, Bekasi Regency.



Figure 3. Dr. Medi Nopiana received a souvenir from the KKN team of Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang



Figure 4. The community service team displayed a photo with the KKN team from Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang and students involved in the career guidance counseling

CONCLUSION

This community service activity proceeded smoothly. This career guidance provided direction for the career map of students of State Vocational High School 1 Pebayuran, Bekasi Regency, in the future. They must determine the suitable choice (lowest opportunity cost) between working and pursuing higher

education. For students who want to work, they need to master, especially hard skills and soft skills, to be provisions for them when entering the work environment. Meanwhile, for those who want to continue their education in higher education, the determination of the faculty and study program to be considered should align with their ideals and passions.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The community service team would like to express its most profound thanks to the Institute for Research and Community Service Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang for the permission and opportunity given to carry out this community service activity.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICTING INTERESTS

The authors states that there is no conflict of interest in the publication of this article.

FUNDING

This activity was independently financed by the members of the community service team together with KKN students of Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang in Sumberurip Village, Pebayuran Subdistrict, Bekasi Regency.

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