



Study of the Competitiveness of Vocational High School Graduates towards Learning Outcome in Central Lombok Regency

Lalu Akmaludin; Sudirman Wilian; Sukardi

Master Program of Education Administration Mataram University, Indonesia

<http://dx.doi.org/10.18415/ijmmu.v6i3.790>

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine of the competitiveness of vocational high school graduates towards learning outcome in Central Lombok Regency. This study uses a quantitative research approach with a research model that has been implemented by Bikse. The method used in this study is a survey. The population in this study were graduates from four Vocational Schools in Central Lombok Regency consisting of 2 State Vocational Schools namely: Vocational High School 1 of Praya Barat and Vocational High School 1 of Central Praya and 2 private Vocational Schools namely Tastura AZ-zikro Mangkung Vocational School and Al-Makrif Islamic Vocational School totaling 430 person. The study sample was 207 as obtained by using the proportional stratifaid random sampling technique. The instrument used in this study was adapted from a questionnaire developed by Bikse. Data analysis techniques in this study used inferential statistics. The results showed that vocational school graduates in Central Lombok Regency had competitiveness and competitiveness of Vocational High School graduates in Central Lombok Regency had been quite good even though the expectations of graduates were greater than the reality faced today.

Keywords: Competitiveness; Vocational High School Graduates; Central Lombok Regency

Introduction

Preparing Vocational High School graduates as middle-level workers, often encountered problems faced, including the gap between the competence of Vocational High School graduates and the real needs of the workforce, where vocational graduates are still weak in the soft skills aspect (Dit. PSMK; 2008). One of the gaps can be indicated by the low absorption of vocational graduates by the world of work (Central Statistics Agency, 2011). This condition tends to result in open unemployment. At the end of 2017 Vocational High School graduates contribute 11.08% in open unemployment, while high school graduates are only 7.10%. Even though in February 2017 the open unemployment rate of Vocational High School graduates was at 8.07% and high school graduates 6.51% (Harnas, 2017). Thus in a short period of time there has been an increase in unemployment of Vocational High School graduates by 3.01%.

Open unemployment of Vocational High School graduates appears higher than high school graduates. Vocational education is considered not able to provide sufficient competence to students to be

able to work immediately (Harnas, 2017). Another fact also shows that 60% of the Vocational Training Center (BLK) participants come from vocational school graduates, even though Vocational High School graduates should be able to work immediately. This shows that the quality of vocational graduates in Indonesia is very vulnerable. In the current condition of free competition, increasing competitiveness is urgently increased. Indonesia's competitiveness ranking in general fell from 37th position in the world to 41 (Hasnas, 2017).

The low absorption rate of vocational school graduates by the world of work, the results of the 2016 Program Assessment for Adult Competencies (PIAAC) test for adult skill levels also showed alarming results. Indonesia is ranked lowest in almost all types of competencies that adults need to work and work as members of the community. Thus, vocational education that is deliberately designed by the government to produce skilled laborers is allegedly not able to significantly bring graduates to be ready to work in the workforce.

According to Widiyanto (2010), the absence of Vocational High School graduates is not due to the absence of employment, but because of the low competency of graduates. Nearly 30% of available job vacancies are not filled because applicants do not meet the employer trainee. In Central Lombok, for example, it was also stated that vocational school graduates who were unemployed were 9.17% of the 13,284 unemployed, or in other words from 13,284 unemployed, 1,284 were graduates of Vocational High School (BPS Lombok Tengah, 2017). From the results of preliminary observations it was also found that more than 65% of vocational graduates who had worked, were not employed in accordance with their fields of competence, as a result the ability in their field of work was low and often caused problems in their fields of work (BPS Lombok Tengah, 2017).

Regarding the objectives of Vocational Education, the Indonesian government has outlined in Act No. 20 of 2003 concerning National Education System article 15 which states that vocational education is secondary education which prepares students primarily to work in certain fields. Therefore, vocational education is secondary education which intends to prepare the competencies of students, in order to be able to work in certain fields in accordance with the competencies needed by the workforce.

The objectives of Vocational education as outlined in the legislation above are in line with the results of the study of Djojonegoro (1998) stating that vocational education is part of the education system that prepares someone to be better able to work in a group of occupations or fields of work than other occupations. Furthermore, the government wants the Vocational School to play the role of spearheading the provider of national labor. Through vocational education, it is hoped that middle-level workers can be created who are ready to work and are familiar with the industrial world. Therefore, the method of education in this vocational school must be oriented towards various fields of life skills. The principle of vocational education is broad-based which is not only oriented to the academic or vocational fields, but also provides learning how to learn, not only learning theory, but also practicing it to solve the problems of daily life.

The nature of vocational education as stated above is nothing but to provide skilled labor, but labor problems have never been resolved, as is the case in Central Lombok Regency. According to BPS Central Lombok data (2017) the population of Central Lombok Regency is 930,000 people with a population of working age (15 years and over) of 661,000. Of the entire working age population, 69.30% are the workforce and 30.70% are not the workforce.

In addition, BPS Central Lombok Regency also stated that the population of Central Lombok Regency working in August 2017 was 446 thousand people (around 97.10% of the entire workforce) and the remaining around 2.90% were unemployed or were actively seeking work. While the number of people working according to education in Central Lombok regency is elementary school graduates with

54.9%, junior high school graduates equivalent to 18.79%, high school / vocational school graduates equivalent to 19.01%, and undergraduate graduates at 7.3%.

Labor problems are the most fundamental problem in Central Lombok Regency. Some of these problems include the large number of workforce, relatively low quality of the workforce, uneven distribution of labor and limited employment opportunities. The increase in the number of the workforce is not in line with the increase in the quality of the workforce. This low quality makes workers not accommodated in the labor market and unemployed. In addition, job availability is a problem that is faced. The most potential job sector to be developed and has a great opportunity to absorb vocational graduates in Central Lombok Regency is the tourism sector.

At present there is new hope about employment in Central Lombok Regency, namely in the tourism sector. Central Lombok Regency is trying to develop tourist destinations in various tourism objects. The field of tourism in Central Lombok Regency will be a superior field because various supporting facilities are available in Central Lombok Regency such as Lombok International Airport (BIL), Mandalika Special Economic Zone (KEK), Hospitality, and Awang sea pier. The availability of such employment certainly demands a professional workforce, one of which can be generated from vocational graduates in tourism.

The number of vocational schools in Central Lombok Regency is 56 schools, with a total number of 10,368 students. This number is quite large, so that if you do not have the ability to compete it will become a potential unemployment. Therefore, it is supposed that the workforce produced by Vocational High School is not only in terms of quantity, but more important in terms of quality as one indicator of the competitiveness of graduates. Barnawi (2015) argues that competitiveness includes: (1) the ability to strengthen its market position; (2) the ability to connect with the environment; (3) the ability to improve performance without stopping; and (4) the ability to raise a favorable position. Thus, in the context of vocational graduates the competitiveness of graduates is reflected in the ability of graduates who have certain advantages, by looking at the most favorable conditions, better work results, faster or more meaningful than other graduates.

Regarding competitiveness, Porter (1990) states that the competitiveness of a country is determined by the ability of the industry to innovate and improve its capabilities. Differences in national values, culture, economic structure, industry, and history all contribute to success in competition. The company becomes competitive through innovations that can include improving technical production processes or product quality.

Based on questions and portraits of these problems, the increase in the competitiveness of graduates should be the concern of educational institutions, in this case Vocational Secondary Education. Vocational high school as an educational institution providing middle-level workforce plays a role in increasing the competitiveness of Indonesian workers, by providing competitive knowledge and skills to graduates, so they can compete in the national and international labor markets. Therefore the strengthening of vocational education is a necessity that cannot be negotiated through improvements to the learning outcome.

Various problems related to the competitiveness of vocational graduates need to find an alternative solution, so that the open unemployment rate of Vocational High School graduates can decline sharply in the future. For this reason, research is conducted which aims to find out things that are related to the competitiveness of Vocational High School graduates in obtaining employment.

Method

This research was conducted on four graduates of Vocational Schools in Central Lombok Regency, namely Central Praya 1 Vocational High School, West Praya Vocational School 1, Al-Makrif Islamic Vocational School, and Tastura Az-zikro Vocational School. Determination of the Vocational School to be examined through its alumni is based on the predicate of Vocational School, from Vocational High School which has a very good predicate to those with predicate enough based on accreditation. Furthermore, determining the Vocational School based on the accreditation predicate is expected to illustrate the level of competitiveness and fulfillment of the competitiveness of Vocational Schools in Central Lombok district as a whole.

This research was conducted within six months of the preliminary study, the preparation of research proposals, the conduct of research to report the results of the study. Because this research is a survey research with a sample of 207 people, it is possible for this study to be completed in six months.

This study uses a quantitative research approach with a research model that has been implemented by Bikse. The research conducted by Bikse has succeeded in revealing the competitiveness of graduates of universities in the European Union. In the research the Bikse model uses instruments developed based on the factors of each model. The method used in this study is a survey. From the aspect of study the research method shows that the survey is explanatory, namely research that must be carried out an explanation of the relationship, or causal and causal relations.

The population in this study were graduates from four Vocational Schools in Central Lombok Regency which consisted of 2 State Vocational Schools namely: Vocational School 1 of West Praya and Vocational School 1 of Central Praya and 2 private Vocational Schools namely Tastura AZ-zikro Mangkung Vocational School and Al-Makrif Islamic Vocational School. The number of graduates of the 2016/2017 school year from the four Vocational Schools in Central Lombok Regency which were used as the study population amounted to 430 people. The research sample was obtained using proportional stratified random sampling technique. If the population is 430 students, with a 5% error, then the sample is 207 students.

The instrument used in this study was adapted from a questionnaire developed by Bikse (2013). The Bikse questionnaire is formulated in the form of a Likert scale with 4 options: Strongly Disagree, Disagree For Most, Agree to Most, and Strongly Agree. The questionnaire from the Bikse model consists of 10 questions that represent the level of competitiveness of graduates.

Data analysis techniques in this study used inferential statistics. In inferential statistics researchers want to draw conclusions that apply to the population. A conclusion from sample data that will be applied to that population has a significance level expressed in the form of a percentage. Testing the significance level from the results of the t test statistical analysis based on table t. In table t has been provided for the significance level of what percentage of an analysis can be generalized.

Results and Discussion

The competitiveness of graduates of the Bikse model for reality is measured by 10 statements, each of which consists of four choices in stages with a score of 1 to 4 with criteria: 1) Strongly Disagree (SD), 2) Disagree (D), 3) Agree (A), and 4) Very Agree (VA). Based on the results of data processing, the percentage of each indicator is obtained in Table 1:

Table 1: Percentage of Graduates' Opinions on the Reality of Competitiveness of Tourism Vocational School Graduates in Learning Outcomes in Central Lombok Regency.

No.	Indicator	SD	D	A	VA
1	The ability to strengthen market position	2%	58%	39%	0%
2	Ability to connect with the environment	5%	53%	42%	0%
3	Ability to increase work without stopping	4%	42%	55%	0%
4	Ability to uphold favorable positions	2%	41%	57%	0%

In Table 1 most of the outputs do not agree with the statements in this research instrument. This shows that in reality the competitiveness of vocational graduates in tourism in Central Lombok Regency is still low. Graduates are hoping for an increase in the competitiveness of vocational graduates in tourism in Central Lombok Regency. In the indicator of the ability to strengthen the market position, 53% of the respondents' answers stated that they did not agree with the current reality. This shows that the ability of graduates to strengthen market position still needs to be improved. The indicator of the ability to connect with the environment also needs to be improved because 53% of respondents said they did not agree with the reality that happened at this time.

The statement about education obtained has prepared itself for work. This shows that vocational education in Central Lombok Regency has done the best in preparing graduates in the workforce. Ningsih (2016) said that the work of education must be able to be a differentiator in terms of performance, productivity and quality of work compared to workers without vocational education. So vocational education is an institution that carries out the learning process of certain skills along with competency-based evaluations, which prepare students to become technician-level workforce. The competitiveness of graduates of the Bikse model for expectations is obtained by the percentage of each indicator Table 2: Percentage of Graduates' Opinions on Hope for Compliance with Competitiveness Levels of Tourism Vocational High School (VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL) Graduates towards Learning Outcome in Central Lombok Regency.

No.	Indicator	SD	D	A	VA
1	The ability to strengthen market position	0%	0%	80%	20%
2	Ability to connect with the environment	0%	0%	81%	19%
3	Ability to increase work without stopping	0%	0%	67%	33%
4	Ability to uphold favorable positions	0%	0%	47%	53%

In Table 2 above there are no graduates who do not agree with the statements in this research instrument. This shows that the expectation of the competitiveness of vocational graduates in tourism in Central Lombok Regency is very high. Graduates are hoping for an increase in the competitiveness of vocational graduates in tourism in Central Lombok Regency from the reality that is happening now.

In contrast to the reality, graduates' expectations on the ability indicators strengthen market position is very high because respondents' answers 80% agree and the indicators of the ability to connect with the environment show respondents' answers pile up also on the agreed statement of 81%. For indicators of the ability to increase work without stopping and the ability to enforce favorable positions, it also shows that the respondent's answers agree with a value of 67% and 47%, respectively. This is very different from the respondent's answer to this fact. Thus, graduates really expect changes to the competitiveness of Vocational High School graduates in Lombok Tengah Regency.

Competitiveness of graduates in West Lombok Regency consists of: 1) Ability to strengthen market position, 2) Ability to connect with the environment, 3) Ability to improve work without stopping,

and 4) Ability to enforce a position that is beneficial. The analysis results for the ability to strengthen market position can be seen in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Results of Analysis of Strengthening Market Position.

No	Aspect	Hope		Riil		Mean Dif.	t-Value
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D		
1	The education that I have obtained has prepared me to work	2.31	0.51	3.28	0.45	-0.97	64.763
2	The level of education obtained is in accordance with my investment (in terms of time and effort)	2.36	0.48	3.16	0.37	-0.8	70.601
3	The education obtained has contributed greatly to improving my expertise	2.48	0.52	3.1	0.3	-0.62	68.600
4	Vocational education obtained can be used in life in the community	2.34	0.6	3.27	0.44	-0.93	56.004

Based on the results of the analysis in Table 3, then H_0 , which reads the competitiveness of Vocational High School graduates in Central Lombok Regency for the Bikse model on the ability indicator to strengthen the accepted market position because the gap value between reality and expectations is negative. This shows that the indicator of the ability to strengthen the market position of the competitiveness of vocational graduates in Central Lombok Regency is still low and needs to be improved. The results of the analysis for the ability to connect with the environment can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4. Results of Analysis of the Ability to Connect with the Environment

No	Aspect	Hope		Riil		Mean Dif.	t-Value
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D		
1	Vocational education obtained can compete in the labor market in Indonesia	2.63	0.52	3.49	0.5	-0.86	72.590
2	The VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL pendidian level obtained is in accordance with the costs incurred	2.15	0.57	3.06	0.23	-0.91	54.496
3	Vocational education obtained can compete in overseas employment	2.35	0.55	3.03	0.17	-0.68	62.073

Based on the results of the analysis in Table 4, then H_0 which reads the competitiveness of Vocational High School graduates in Central Lombok Regency for the Bikse model on the indicator of the ability to connect with the accepted environment because the gap value between reality and hope is negative. This shows that the ability indicator to connect with the competitiveness environment of Vocational High School graduates in Central Lombok Regency is still low and needs to be improved. The results of the analysis for the ability to improve work without stopping can be seen in Table 5.

Table 5. Results of Capability Analysis Increases Nonstop Work

No	Aspect	Hope		Riil		Mean Dif.	t-Value
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D		
1	Vocational education obtained can be used to develop expertise in the field of entrepreneurship	2.55	0.5	3.55	0.5	-1	73.391
2	Vocational education obtained can cause me to have more work ability than others	2.48	0.63	3.11	0.31	-0.63	56.635

Based on the results of the analysis in Table 5, then H_0 which reads the competitiveness of Vocational High School graduates in Central Lombok Regency for the Bikse model on the indicator of the ability to increase work without stopping being accepted because the gap value between reality and hope is negative. This shows that the indicators of the ability to improve work without stopping the competitiveness of Vocational High School graduates in Central Lombok Regency are still low and need to be improved. The results of the analysis for the ability to enforce favorable positions can be seen in Table 6.

Table 6. Results of the Favorable Position Enforcement Analysis

No	Aspect	Hope		Riil		Mean Dif.	t-Value
		Mean	S.D	Mean	S.D		
1	Vocational education obtained makes it more quickly accepted in the job market	2.55	0.55	3.53	0.5	-0.98	67.140

Conclusion

Based on the results of the analysis in Table 6, then H_0 , which reads the competitiveness of Vocational High School graduates in Central Lombok Regency for the Bikse model on indicators of the ability to enforce favorable positions is accepted because the gap value between reality and expectations is negative. This shows that the indicators of the ability to enforce positions that benefit the competitiveness of Vocational High School graduates in Central Lombok Regency are still low and need to be improved. Ali & Hartoyo (2010) explained that Vocational School as one of the middle level vocational education institutions that produces graduates to work in the industry needs to prepare themselves as well as possible to be able to produce competitive graduates both at home and abroad.

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