

The Impact Of Student Career Problems On Academic Performance

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Abstract:

Background: The BK teacher is a determinant of educational success through their performance in providing instruction. The academic career of students at SMP Negeri 1 Arjawinangun is one aspect that supports the improved teaching performance of BK (Guidance and Counseling) teachers.

Aim: To determine how the implementation of academic careers affects the performance of guidance and counseling teachers in the learning activities at SMP Negeri 1 Arjawinangun, Arjawinangun District, Cirebon Regency.

Methods: This study is an ex post facto research design, conducted through a survey using a questionnaire. Data processing uses simple counseling analysis between parents and students of SMP Negeri 1 Arjawinangun school. The population of this study consists of one BK teacher as a representative at SMP Negeri Arjawinangun, Arjawinangun District, Cirebon Regency, totaling 9 BK teachers. The sample of the study is one teacher, also serving as a representative from the school's BK.

Results: The research findings indicate a positive correlation between the two research variables. This positive relationship can be interpreted as the higher the quality of academic career implementation, the better the performance of BK teachers in learning activities.

Conclusion: The relationship between the influence of academic career on the performance of BK teachers in teaching is shown with a percentage of 25.5%.

Implications, Recommendations based on the research results suggest that in the implementation of academic careers, school principals should pay more attention to the aspects of career implementation, while in terms of the performance of BK teachers, BK teachers should improve their performance, especially in the aspects of career learning evaluation and follow-up on student assessment results.

Keywords: Guidance Counseling, Student Career Issues, Academic Performance



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INTRODUCTION

SMPN 1 Arjawinangun plays a crucial role in providing education to its students. Moreover, students' career issues can have a significant impact on their academic performance. In this context, this research aims to investigate the relationship between various career issues faced by students at SMPN 1 Arjawinangun and their impact on their academic performance. Through a deep understanding of this topic, it is hoped that the results of this research can make a positive contribution to improving the quality of education at this school.

The introduction of this journal aims to explore the impact of the problems faced by students on their academic performance at SMPN 1 Arjawinangun. Through an in-depth analysis of various issues that students may encounter, this research aims to provide a deeper understanding of how specific factors can impact academic achievement at the junior high school level. Thus, it is hoped that the results of this research can provide valuable insights for the development of more effective educational strategies. SMPN 1 Arjawinangun is one of the important educational institutions in its region, playing a very significant role in providing education to its students.

SMPN 1 Arjawinangun is one of the important educational institutions in its region, playing a significant role in providing education to its students. In this educational environment, the effectiveness of the learning process is not only influenced by the students' ability to understand the lesson material but also by extraordinary factors such as personal, social, and career issues faced by the students. In this educational environment, the effectiveness of the learning process is influenced not only by students' ability to understand the subject matter but also by extraordinary factors such as personal, social, and career issues they face. One aspect that greatly influences students in undergoing the educational process is career-related issues. Career issues can vary, ranging from uncertainty about choosing a major to anxiety about the future, as well as pressure from parents and society. The impact of these career issues is often overlooked in the context of formal education, yet they can have a significant effect on students' academic performance. Several studies state that career problems can cause stress, anxiety, and other mental disorders that ultimately affect students' academic success. In this context, this research aims to deeply investigate the relationship between various career issues faced by students at SMPN 1 Arjawinangun and their impact on their academic performance.

Through a deep understanding of this topic, it is hoped that the results of this research can make a positive contribution to improving the quality of education at this school. With a better understanding of the impact of career issues on students' academic performance, the school can implement more effective support strategies and programs, creating a more supportive learning environment for students facing career-related problems. Thus, it is hoped that a more inclusive learning environment can be created, contributing positively to the academic performance of students at SMPN 1 Arjawinangun.

METHOD

The research method used in this study is the Qualitative method, conducted at SMPN 1 Arjawinangun. Through this qualitative method, the researcher can obtain data on students and their issues in the academic and career fields. Additionally, the researcher also conducts discussions with students to gather material for the research, which will be used as a topic of discussion in this journal. This research is an *ex post facto* study conducted by distributing questionnaires to the research population, which is spread across junior high schools in the Arjawinangun Area, Arjawinangun Sub-District, Cirebon Regency.

Ex post facto research is a type of research that examines the factors that may have contributed to an event that has already occurred. The sampling technique used in the research is simple random sampling, a method of sampling that is conducted when the members of the population are considered homogeneous or relatively homogeneous. This sampling technique is conducted randomly, without considering the strata present in the research population. The questionnaire distributed to the research sample consists of one type, namely a questionnaire to determine students' career paths, which was conducted by all the academic career guidance teachers for 9th-grade students at SMP Negeri 1 Arjawinangun.

Next, the author employed the survey research method, conducting a questionnaire among the students. This questionnaire covered various aspects of students' choices regarding their continued education. The author also conducted interviews with school representatives, specifically the guidance counselor at SMPN 1 Arjawinangun, where the author asked various questions regarding the students' careers at SMPN 1 Arjawinangun. The results of the questionnaire and research will later be used as material in this scientific journal.

The author also employs a descriptive method, which is used to explain or provide guidance on the future prospects that students will face, whether they choose to enter high school or vocational school. This is because entering a higher level of education can significantly influence their careers. The author uses a whiteboard to draw a kind of mind map in the form of a career tree, where students step forward one by one and write down their aspirations. After that, the author provides guidance and an overview of the paths and educational levels that students must follow to achieve their desired goals and aspirations. The research was conducted over 3 days, held on November 28, 2023. This research was conducted at SMP Negeri Arjawinangun, Arjawinangun District, Cirebon Regency.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Ninth-grade students in junior high school (SMP) are at a transitional stage where they must make career decisions for the next step after graduating from SMP. Decision-making involves selecting a behavioral alternative from two or more options. That decision-making process is an activity that contributes to achieving life satisfaction.

Regarding career decision-making, it is a process in which a person selects from several options in their plans. For middle school students, career choices include continuing their studies to a higher level, namely to vocational high school (SMK) or general high school (SMA). These choices must be carefully considered because they will affect their future.

Aspects of Career Decision-Making

It seems that your message is empty. Could you please provide the text you would like me to translate? The essence of decision-making is the process of determining choices. Naturally, humans will face various choices, and they are also trained to make decisions based on the life experiences they encounter. Therefore, humans will continually make life choices throughout their lives until the end. This process is known as decision-making. So, the essence of decision-making is the process of determining choices. However, in reality, some individuals can make decisions accurately, while others struggle to divide the process of making career decisions into four distinct steps: exploration, crystallization, selection, and clarification. These stages serve as a guideline in anticipating a decision.

1. Dividing anticipation in making career decisions into four processes, namely exploration, crystallization, selection, and clarification. Tiedeman emphasizes that these stages serve as a guideline in anticipating a decision.
2. Crystallization is a stabilization of thought representation. At this stage, thoughts and feelings begin to integrate and become orderly. Confidence in the choice grows stronger. The definition of choices is becoming clearer.
3. Selection, just like the process of crystallization, also occurs. Individual issues are oriented towards relevant goals, meaning individuals begin to organize themselves in order to complete and adjust to various future career choices. So at this stage, individuals are confident in their choices.
4. Clarification: when an individual makes a decision and then acts on it, there may be smooth parts of the journey and parts where they question again due to confusion. When an individual experiences confusion, they should re-explore, crystallize, then re-select alternatives, and so on.

Factors Influencing Career Decision-Making

Regarding the factors that influence career decision-making, these can be categorized into two groups—first, internal factors, which originate from within the individual themselves. Second, external factors are those that originate from outside the individual. These two factors are further elaborated as follows:

1. Internal Factors: Internal factors are factors that originate from within the individual themselves, including:
 - a. Life values are ideals that are practiced by an individual, wherever and whenever. Once formed, these values play a crucial role in a person's overall behavior and influence all their hopes and aspirations in life, including the field of work they choose and pursue.
 - b. The level of intelligence is the level of ability to achieve accomplishments in which thinking plays an important role.
 - c. Special talent refers to outstanding abilities in a cognitive field, skill area, or artistic domain.
 - d. Interest is a somewhat stable tendency in a person to feel attracted to a particular field and to enjoy engaging in various activities related to that field.

- e. Traits are personality characteristics that together give a distinctive pattern to a person, such as cheerful, friendly, gentle, meticulous, open, flexible, careless, and many more.
 - f. Knowledge is the information possessed about the fields of work related to oneself.
 - g. Physical condition refers to the physical characteristics possessed by an individual, such as height, attractiveness, visual acuity, and gender.
2. External Factors: External factors are factors that originate from outside the individual, including:
- a. Society, which is the socio-cultural environment where young people are raised.
 - b. The socio-economic conditions of a country or region, which include the slow or fast economic growth rate, social stratification, and the diversification of society into groups that are open or closed to members from other groups.
 - c. The socio-economic status of the family includes the parents' level of education, the parents' income level, the father's or mother's position, the area of residence, and the ethnic group.
 - d. The influence of all extended family members and immediate family. Parents, siblings of the parents, and older siblings express all their hopes and communicate certain views and attitudes towards education and work.
 - e. The influence of education from school refers to the views and attitudes communicated to students by guidance staff and teachers regarding the values inherent in work, the high and low status of social positions, job titles, and the suitability of certain jobs for boys or girls.
 - f. Interaction with peers is diverse and varies in expectations about the future, which are expressed in daily interactions.

The career development process of Junior High School (SMP) students is changing career selection as they transition from the tentative phase to the realistic phase, along with issues arising from within themselves, external factors, and both. Based on the description, career choice maturity includes:

1. Understanding and ability to make appropriate plans,
2. A consistent attitude towards responsibilities, and
3. Awareness of all internal factors that must be considered in making career decisions.







From the description above, we can see that one of the factors that can influence the success of the career development process is the level of maturity in self-understanding.

According to the interview results from December 8, 2023, with the guidance counselor at SMP Negeri 1 Arjawinangun, it was found that several students are experiencing difficulties in making career decisions. Students often feel confused about whether to attend high school or vocational school. Career Guidance and Counseling provided by the Guidance Counselor involves distributing questionnaires in each class during the 45-minute BK lesson, resulting in students having insufficient information and no clear understanding of careers.

The efforts of each student to achieve their desired career goals sometimes encounter obstacles along the way. This reality occurs due to various obstacles and factors that can hinder someone's efforts to achieve a desired goal, such as experience, economics, and environment, both from within themselves and from external sources. Student career problems consist of two factors, namely internal and external factors:

1. The internal factor is the student's personality, which tends to be introverted, and not yet focused on the skills they possess. They have already chosen a major that aligns with their skills, but they feel capable in other skills and want to try those skills. They lack self-confidence, and there are other interests, meaning that when students already have an interest in a particular field, the abundance of choices leads them to be interested in other fields.
2. External factors, such as family economics, hinder students' career choices. Most students are unable to determine their career paths by pursuing higher education; instead, they enter the workforce directly due to their parents' financial constraints. Moreover, parents also tend to impose their will on their children, expecting them to choose jobs, educational levels, and fields of study that the parents desire. For example, parents may want their child to continue to university and major in medicine after graduation, even though the child's abilities are not in the exact sciences but rather in the social sciences. This causes the child to be unable to choose a career that aligns with their interests and potential.

Table 1. Observation Documentation at SMPN 1 Arjawinangun

No.	Images	Description
1.		The representative from the group of writers addressed the students of SMPN 1 Arjawinangun and introduced each of the observer members.
2.		Representatives from the female students stepped forward to share their future career prospects and which advanced school they would choose.
3.		Representatives from the students stepped forward to share their future career prospects and which advanced school they would choose.
4.		All the students of class IX-B took turns to write their aspirations on a whiteboard in the form of a career tree, where the students filled in their aspirations on the career tree.
5.		The result of the career tree created by all the members of class IX-B, where through this career tree the students can know each other's aspirations.
6.		A photo session with Class IX-B as a sign that the classroom observation has concluded.

7.



The interview session with the guidance counselor, which was conducted after the classroom observation with the students had ended.

8.

 A photograph of a student questionnaire form titled "LEMBAR REKOMENDASI". The form is divided into several sections:

- A. Pemberi Rekomendasi Yang Menyarif:** Includes fields for Nama Orang, Nama Sekolah, No. Telp., Alamat, and a table for Mata Pelajaran Tertarik.
- B. Penerima Nara Sasaran Yang Menyarif:** Includes a table for Mata Pelajaran, Rangkaian Praktek, and Kualifikasi.
- C. Status Yang Menyarif:** Includes a table for No., Jenis Rekomendasi, and Jumlah.
- D. Bidang yang Diutamakan (Pilih 1/lebih):** Includes a table for No., Bidang, and Jumlah.
- E. Keterangan:** A section for additional notes.
- F. Rekomendasi:** A section for recommendations.

The student questionnaire used by the guidance counselor to determine their educational goals after graduating from SMPN 1 Arjawinangun, this questionnaire also contains many aspects related to the students' achievements that the guidance counselor can use as a basis for appealing the students' career prospects.

9.



The final session was a group photo with the Vice Principal and the BK teacher representative of SMPN 1 Arjawinangun, marking the end of the day's observation at SMPN 1 Arjawinangun.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the data analysis from the research we obtained, the presence of career counseling services where students can be assisted by career counseling facilities. For that reason, parents need to understand the needs and desires of their children by providing support without pressure and encouragement for them to pursue careers that align with their interests, talents, and potential. This can also create an environment that supports positive development and long-term success for students.

IMPLICATION

Career issues faced by students can have a significant impact on their academic performance. Students who feel stressed or confused about their career choices may have difficulty focusing on their academic studies. To address this negative impact, educational institutions and parents need to provide adequate support and guidance. First, schools can provide effective career counseling programs, helping students explore career options and

identify their interests and talents. Additionally, parents need to create a supportive environment at home, where they support the students' decision-making process without restricting their choices. Parental involvement in supporting their children's interests and career dreams can provide extra motivation for students to achieve high academic performance. Thus, collaboration between schools and families in providing positive career guidance can help students overcome career-related issues and, in turn, improve their academic performance.

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