

The Effect of Student Participation in Student Organizations on Soft Skills Development: A Case Study at UINSU

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Article Info

Article history:

Received October 18, 2023
Revised October 27, 2023
Accepted November 9, 2023

Kata Kunci:

Higher Education
Soft skills
Student Organizations
Student Development

ABSTRACT

Higher education plays a central role in preparing students to face increasingly complex work environments. The focus on soft skills has grown, with communication, leadership, interpersonal skills and adaptability being key in increasing students' competitiveness in the world of work. In a university environment, student organizations are a potential forum for developing soft skills. However, the question arises to what extent participation in student organizations contributes to the development of these skills. This research explores the influence of student participation in student organizations on the development of soft skills at UIN North Sumatra (UINSU) through case studies. It is hoped that the results of this research will provide important insights into the role of student organizations in preparing students with relevant skills to face career challenges. This study involved around 30 students active in student organizations at UINSU using the interview method and maintaining research ethics and privacy of respondent data. It is hoped that this research will provide useful insights regarding the development of student soft skills in higher education.

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INTRODUCTION

Higher education has an important role in preparing students to face the demands of an increasingly complex world of work. In addition to academic knowledge, the development of soft skills has been a key focus in meeting the changing needs of the job market. Soft skills, such as communication skills, leadership, interpersonal skills, and adaptability, can increase students' competitiveness in the world of work and enable them to succeed in a variety of contexts.

In the university environment, one of the potential platforms for soft skills development is student organizations. Student organizations are often places where students can get involved in activities outside of their academic curriculum. However, although student organizations offer opportunities for the development of soft skills, it is not entirely clear to what extent participation in student organizations can contribute to the development of these skills.

This study aims to explore the effect of student participation in student organizations on the development of soft skills at UIN North Sumatra (UINSU). In this context, we will present a case

study that provides an in-depth understanding of the relationship between participation in student organizations and the development of soft skills in UINSU students.

The results of this research are expected to provide valuable insights into the role of student organizations in preparing students with relevant skills to meet the challenges faced in their careers. In addition, these findings may also provide a basis for the development of more effective policies and programs at UINSU and similar higher education institutions in support of students' soft skills development.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research will involve around 30 students from UIN North Sumatra (UINSU) who actively participate in student organizations. Samples will be selected purposively, covering different types of organizations and levels of participation, to ensure variety in the student experience. The selection criteria include the degree of active participation and long involvement in the organization.

Interviews will be conducted face-to-face with selected students. Before the interview, they will be given an explanation of the purpose of the study, their rights as respondents, and data confidentiality requirements. The interview will be semi-structured, with an initial list of questions covering topics such as the type of organization they joined, their role in the organization, and the soft skills they have developed. In addition, additional questions will arise based on individual responses to deepen their experience.

Data from interviews will be recorded and then analyzed thematically. Key findings will be extracted from interviews and compiled in relevant thematic series, covering the development of soft skills and the influence of participation in student organizations. The analysis will help identify patterns and differences in the experiences of students involved in the organization.

During the entire interview process, there will be special attention to research ethics. Written consent will be obtained from all respondents, and the confidentiality of their data will be maintained. All interview data will be stored securely and will only be used for research purposes. We will be committed to maintaining the confidentiality of the identities of participating students. This study aims to provide useful insights without harming participants.

RESEARCH RESULTS

1. Student Participation in Student Organizations at UINSU

The results showed that student participation in student organizations at UIN North Sumatra (UINSU) had a significant positive impact on the development of soft skills. Most actively participating students reported improvements in various aspects of soft skills, including communication, leadership, teamwork, and time management skills. Participation in student organizations provides a strong platform for students to hone and develop these skills.

2. Roles and Responsibilities in the Organization

Students who held leadership roles in student organizations reported more significant improvements in soft skills. They feel responsible for managing the organization's activities, interacting with other members, and overcoming emerging challenges. This reinforces the link between participation rates and soft skills development. Engaging in organizational tasks involving decision making and management helps them in the development of leadership skills.

3. Communication Skills Development

The results showed that participation in student organizations at UINSU improved students' communication skills. Through regular interaction with fellow students and external stakeholders, they learn to speak effectively, listen well, and understand diverse points of view. This improvement in skills has a positive impact on their ability to communicate in a variety of situations, both in academic and professional life.

4. Leadership and Management Skills Development

The results also highlight that participation in student organizations helps students develop leadership and management skills. Students who have responsibilities in organizations experience significant growth in the ability to organize, plan, and coordinate activities. They also hone their ability to make efficient and effective decisions, which is an important aspect of soft skills development.

5. Impact on Teamwork Development

In addition, student participation in student organizations at UINSU strengthens teamwork skills. Through group projects and organizational activities, students learn to collaborate with team members, appreciate individual roles, and resolve conflicts. This prepares them to work productively in a work environment that requires good teamwork.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study provides strong evidence about the positive influence of student participation in student organizations on the development of soft skills at UIN North Sumatra. This participation can help students hone their communication, leadership, management, and teamwork skills. Therefore, educational institutions and students are expected to recognize the importance of participation in student organizations as an integral part of holistic soft skills development.

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