

NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AS A SOLUTION FOR EDUCATIONAL ISSUES IN INDONESIA

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Abstract: Education is one of the most important aspect for Nation's improvement. The development of the educational aspect of a country can affect the quality of human resources position. In 2014, there are 7,39 million people dropped out from school in Indonesia and 56% of its main cause is the inadequacy costs. Indonesian government has done so much to deal with educational issues but the issues, especially dropouts still not resolved. Using qualitative method, this article define that non-formal education can be a way out for dropout issues, so Indonesian government need to have a concern to non-formal education.

Keywords: *Education, Non-formal, Dropout, Qualitative method.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Education is the most inexpensive defense of a nation. Every human being has the right to obtain or acquire education so in turn they became human cultured high in performing the duties, obligations and responsibilities within society (Yamin, 2012). According to the data from PAUDNI in 2014, there are 7,39 million people dropped out from school in Indonesia and 56% of its main cause is the inadequacy costs. In accordance with the Law of Republic of Indonesia number 20 year 2003 regarding National education system, article 1 paragraph (10), a unit of education is the education services group conducts education on the formal, informal and non-formal in at every level and type of education. Formal education, informal and non-formal are part of continuing and lifelong education, they cannot be separated and cannot stand on its own (Kamil, 2009). Non-formal education can be a solution to the problem of education in Indonesia especially dropouts. When someone stops at one particular point in formal education because of one reason or another, they can continue their education through non-formal education which is more flexible in terms of opportunity and age.

2. THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

Education is intrinsically 'humanities', holding a very big role against human dignity, or it can be said to maximize the potential of humans or humanize human beings to human dignity and good morale and be able to use their physical and soul in a balanced way (Yamin, 2013: 2).

Formal education is hierarchically structured education system and have a class sequence form elementary schools to universities (Coombs and Ahmed in Kamil, 2009: 10).

Informal education is a process of lifelong education which each individuals acquire and study about behaviour, norms, skills, knowledge of everyday experiences from the immediate surroundings (Rogers. A in Kamil, 2009: 12).

Non-formal education is any organized educational activities held outside of the formal education system with the intention of providing special services to the participants or help to

identify the learning needs to suit with the participants needs and participants learning goals (Coombs and Ahmed in Kamil, 2009 :11).

Dropout is a predicate that is given to former students who were not able to complete an educational level (Gunawan, 2010: 71). The problem of dropout can cause excesses in society, so its important for the society not only for the government to handling this problem. At least there are three steps that can be done by the society: (a) Preventive step is to equip the students with the practical skills and useful from early on. (b) Coaching step is to provide up-to-date practical knowledge, through guidance and exercises in social institutions or education from outside the school and (c) Follow up step is to provide the biggest opportunities to them so they can move forward through the provision of support facilities according to the ability of society without pretending includes fostering personal desire for better ones in society. It could be the opening of the cooperative, open university or CLC (Community Learning Center) which is part of the non-formal education.

According to the definition from UNESCO in Kamil (2009: 85) CLC or Community Learning Center is an educational institution organized outside the formal education system, directed to rural and urban people, managed by the community itself, as well as provide opportunities to them to develop various models of learning with the aim of developing the abilities and skills of the community in order to be able to improve the quality of life. There are three important goals in order of establishment and development of CLC: (a) Empowering people to be self-sufficient. (b) Improving the quality of life in terms of both social and economic. (c) Increase sensitivity to the problems that occur in their environment so the problems can be solve.

3. THE RESEARCH METHOD

The research method is using qualitative method with descriptive approach which describe the intent to obtain data in the form of meaning contained in the actual conditions of the research object without being manipulated. The method is carried out in several ways of collecting data through observation to one of CLC in Jakarta, interviews with some of the relevant parties and literature.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The development of the educational aspect of a country can affect the quality of human resources position. Indonesian government has done so much to deal with educational issues, such as “Indonesia pintar” card and “wajib belajar 12 tahun” program which is an advanced program of “wajib belajar 6 tahun” and “wajib belajar 9 tahun” that has been implemented before. But the problems of education in Indonesia, especially dropouts still not resolved, this was due to the policies undertaken by the government so far is through programs related to formal education only, while not the least number of people dropping out of school who are no longer in school age so they can not take those programs.

Non-formal education has no age limit and social status so that people dropping out of school who are no longer in school age can continue their education and improve their social lives. Some of the programs offered by non-formal education are the equality program package A which comparable to elementary school, the equality program package B which comparable to junior high school and the equality program package C which comparable to senior high school. Based on the result of interviews with some of students of CLC in Jakarta, many of them only work as maid, office boy, security and driver so they cannot afford their earnings to continue their education. The students said that the impact they felt after joining the CLC is not only in aspect of education but also character building. They become more confident, have a new spirit to live, have a lot of relations and have a new hope to improve their lives.



Figure 1 One of CLC in Jakarta
Source: Personal Documentation



Figure 2 learning activities in one of CLC in Jakarta
Source: Personal Documentation

Indonesian government is lacking on support and spread information regarding non-formal education, so a lot of people still underestimate non-formal education especially the equality program, in fact the equality program have the same degree with other formal school in general. Home schooling is one of non-formal education that have been known by people and public figures or celebrities are prefer to go to homeschooling rather than general formal school. Home schooling and Community Learning Center or CLC are not different from one another, but home schooling considered as the high class education among people. Indonesian government need to clarified about non-formal education to expunge a bad stigma in people's mind about non-formal education.

5. CONCLUSION

Indonesian government need to establish programs regarding non-formal education to make people in Indonesia appreciate non-formal education parties especially CLC students. With many supports from communities, non-formal education can be equal with formal and informal education and people dropping out of school could improve their future through education.

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