



Bandung Institute of Technology Students' Perspective on The Formation of Military Reserve through a State Defence Program

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ABSTRACT

State Defence Program is a program held by the Indonesian government in the efforts to form backup military troops which consist of citizens, combining military roles with a civil career which is called Military Reserve (Komponen Cadangan). This program is aimed at the general public as a place to develop human resources, especially the younger generation who are the nation's successors. There has been a discourse around implementing military education through State Defence's education program as one of the backups for defense and security in Indonesia, which raises pros and cons among citizens. This program's main targets are the nation's youth, which includes university students. Efforts are made with plans for collaboration between State Defence and Independent Campus (Kampus Merdeka) programs. Hence, an analysis of university students' opinion about this program has to be done to give us an illustration that is useful for the government and citizens. Writers' method in analysing is done by collecting data from a survey, in which the respondent target is university students to see their perspectives about the program.

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1. INTRODUCTION

State defense is a concept drawn up by the apparatus of law and officials of a country regarding the patriotism of a person, a group or all components of a country in the interest of maintaining the existence of that country (Umra, 2019). Awareness of defending the country is very important to be owned by all levels of the people of the Republic of Indonesia in order to maintain the defense and integrity of the Republic of Indonesia (Wahyudi, 2017). However, currently in Indonesia there are still many people, especially youth, who do not have a high awareness of defending the country. This can be seen from the high cases of violence and drug abuse committed by Indonesian youth (Siregar, et al., 2020; Subagyo, 2018; Hakim, et al., 2020).

To address the problem of low awareness of defending the country, the Indonesian government has recently issued several new regulations and programs that are expected to increase awareness of defending the country, especially among youth and students, such as the Reserve Component and the Merdeka Campus (Widorekno, et al., 2021; Hartono, 2020). Based on Government Regulation Number 3 Year 2021, Reserve Components are national resources that have been prepared to be deployed through mobilization to enlarge and strengthen the strengths and capabilities of the Main Components. Meanwhile, the Merdeka Campus is basically a new concept that allows students to have the freedom to study at a university where students are given the freedom to study outside the campus (Prahani, et al., 2020; Putera and Sugianto, 2020). One of the programs that are planned to be offered at the Merdeka Campus program is the state defense program where the program will be similar to military activities that have training in discipline, agility, and so on.

The state defense program and the formation of reserve components have raised pros and cons (Subagyo, 2018). On the one hand, it is necessary to know military education so that the public can support the TNI in times of war, but on the other hand the urgency of this matter is questioned, especially for the current condition which is becoming less relevant. Imparsial's deputy director, Gufron Mabruhi said the approach through this program was considered inclined militaristic so that it is unavoidable that there will be attempts to militarize civilians through the state defense program (Darmawan, et al., 2020; Irfani, 2016; Soepandji and Farid, 2018). Because of these problems, it is important to know how the perception of the target of this state defense program is, namely the perception of the community. Government programs target the majority of the nation's youth, therefore it is important to review their perceptions (Suriata, 2019). Given that the Ministry of Defense had planned to implement a state defense program for the formation of reserve components in the Merdeka Campus program, in this study the authors chose to focus on the perception of one of the nation's youth generations, namely students (Soepandji and Farid, 2018; Budiwibowo, 2018; Simamora R, 2014).

The author's purpose of conducting this research is to find out the views of students regarding the state defense program in an effort to establishment of Reserve Components to be implemented in the Merdeka Campus. The benefit of this research for the community is as a means of increasing knowledge about government programs related to the formation of Reserve Components as an effort to defend the country and the Merdeka Campus program (Indrawan and Aji, 2018; Abidah, 2020). In addition, this research can provide an overview of how students view these government programs including their interest in related programs. With the description provided, it can be used as a reference in making, reviewing, or improving policies on matters related to defending the country, so that in the future programs related to defending the country can be run more effectively with better enthusiasm.

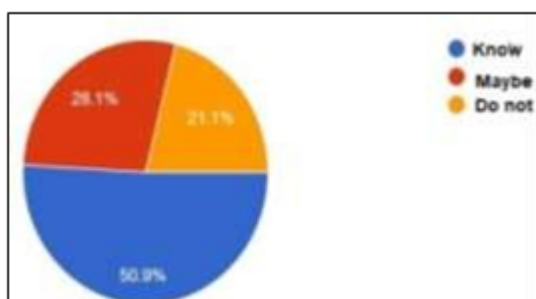
2. METHODS

The method used to collect data quantitatively to support this paper is to use a survey (Cokley and Awad, 2013; Isaacson, 2009). The survey was carried out through Google Forms and distributed to undergraduate students at the Bandung Institute of Technology through social media. As of the time the form was closed, there were 114 respondents who had filled out the distributed survey. There were eight questions asked of the respondents, and we also explained what is the Reserve Component and the Independent Campus so that respondents can understand more about this. The questions given to the respondents are:

1. Do you know what a Backup Component is?
2. Do you know what Merdeka Campus is?
3. Did you know that there was a plan to hold a state defense program (military basic education) at the Merdeka Campus?
4. In your opinion, how urgent is the formation of Reserve Components in a national defense at this time?
5. In your opinion, can a program like this be implemented at the Bandung Institute of Technology?
6. Would you be interested in joining if a military training program was held?
7. In your opinion, does the military training program include efforts to defend the country?
8. What kind of national defense are you willing to do?

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Merdeka Campus is a program launched by the government so that students can play an active role in improving the quality of learning in areas that need it so that the next generation can progress and develop. In addition, the Merdeka Campus program is a concept so that students can freely choose or be independent in higher education. Bandung Institute of Technology is one of the best public universities in Indonesia, so the respondents were taken from students from various faculties at ITB. Based on google form, obtained 114 respondents. In general, ITB students know about the Merdeka Campus program, namely 58 people know about the Merdeka Campus, 32 people answered that they probably know about the Merdeka Campus, and 24 people don't know about the Merdeka Campus. This is shown in graph 3.1.

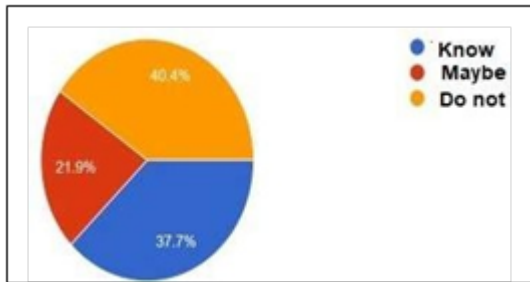


Figures 3.1 Knowledge Graph About Merdeka Campus

Based on these results, it can be concluded that the Merdeka Campus program is still not socialized to students so that there are still many students who have doubts about the Merdeka Campus program, and don't even know about the Merdeka Campus program at all. Whereas the Merdeka Campus program requires student participation to improve the quality of learning programs so as to increase equity and the level of education in Indonesia.

Therefore, the government should hold more socialization to students or provide more guidance so that every student knows this program clearly and is given a place to ask questions and provide opinions so that students can register without any doubts.

In the Merdeka Campus program there is a program to form Reserve Components. The Reserve Component is a military reserve force or a military organization made up of citizens who combine military roles with civilian careers. The establishment of the Reserve Component is intended so that if the TNI or the police as the main force cannot fight back during the war. Komcad functions to fight in total war or to defend against invasion. The formation of Komcad raises pros and cons, especially regarding the urgency of the formation of Komcad. In addition, this military training was once mandatory for students although it is no longer mandatory. The results are shown in the 3.2 graph.



Figures 3.2 Knowledge Graph of the State Defense Program at the Merdeka Campus

Based on the data, from 114 respondents, as many as 43 people know, 25 people may know, and 46 people don't know. This can indicate that the design of the Merdeka Campus program is less transparent so that not all students know this. Whereas with students knowing this program from the beginning of its design, students can give their opinions and suggestions about this program so that the Merdeka Campus program can be better.

The results regarding the knowledge of Reserve Components are shown in graph 3.3. Of the 114 respondents, as many as 84 people did not know the Reserved Components, 15 people did not know the Reserved Components, and 15 answered that they probably knew the Reserved Components.

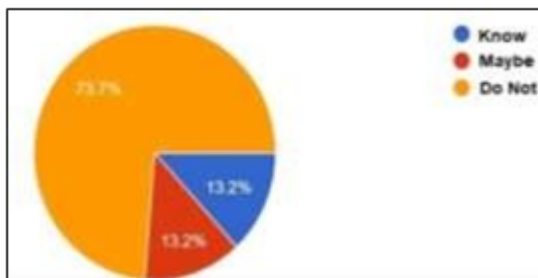


Figure 3.3 Knowledge Diagram of Reserved Components

Based on these results, it can be concluded that students do not know the Reserve Component. Even though the government is targeting to recruit as many as 25,000 people. This is due to the lack of socialization from the government even though the government wants students to join this program. Students are prioritized because of course the wider community wants to be in the TNI or police compared to the Reserve Components. From the author's view, this Reserve Component should not be formed because based on the 1945 Constitution article 30 paragraph 2, the people have become a supporting component in the defense and security of the state. With the Reserve Component, the public may think that the

people do not need to support the defense and security of the state because there is already a Reserve Component.



Figure 3.4 The Urgency Diagram for the Establishment of Komcad

Based on the results of a survey of 114 respondents, 43.9% of respondents gave a scale of three to describe the urgency of establishing Komcad for national defense at this time. A total of 6 people gave a scale of one which means the formation of Komcad has no urgency for current national defense. A total of 28.9% gave a scale of two and 24.6% gave a scale of 4. The survey results stated that only 7% of 114 respondents considered the formation of Komcad for national defense very urgent. From the author's point of view, most respondents choose a scale of three to describe the urgency of Komcad because many people do not know information about Komcad. On the other hand, due to people's ignorance, people think that Komcad might be one of the national defense efforts. Only 6 people think that Komcad has no urgency for national defense. From the author's point of view, this happens because 6 respondents understand that there are still many other efforts to defend the state.

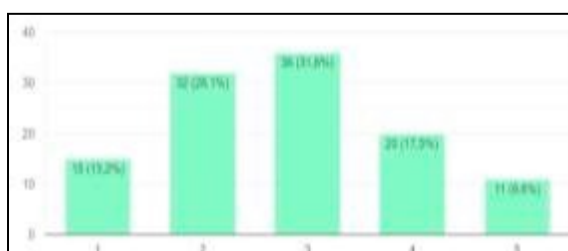


Figure 3.5 Diagram of the Urgency of the Implementation of Komcad on the ITB campus

Based on the survey results, 31.6% of the 114 respondents chose a scale of three for the implementation of the Komcad program on the ITB campus. Scales one and two can represent respondents who think the Komcad program cannot be implemented on the ITB campus, namely 47 respondents or 41.3% of 114 respondents. In addition, scales of four and five can represent respondents who think that the Komcad program can be implemented on the ITB campus, namely 31 respondents or 27.1% of 114 respondents. It can be concluded that more respondents stated that the Komcad program could not be implemented at ITB.

According to the author's view, because all respondents are ITB students who understand that there is already an article 30 paragraph 2 of the 1945 Constitution, where the people have become a supporting component in national defense and security efforts. Many ITB students also think that there are many other efforts in defending the state. In addition, Komcad is not an obligation for students to follow it, with this many respondents choose not to implement the Komcad program on the ITB campus

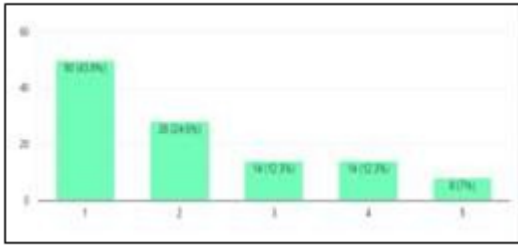


Figure 3.6 Diagram of Respondents' Interest in Joining Komcad

Based on the survey results as shown in Figure 3.6, as many as 50 out of 114 (43.9%) respondents were not interested in joining the military training program even though this military training program was considered an effort to defend the country by 91 respondents who answered agree (in the range 4-5) as shown in Figure 3.7. Lack of interest to participate in this military training program could be due to the fact that most of the students in their teens prefer to be free to develop themselves without any worries of being coerced into joining the military training program. Where basically, the implementation of this military training program is not an obligation or coercion, but this program is carried out on their own volition and voluntarily.

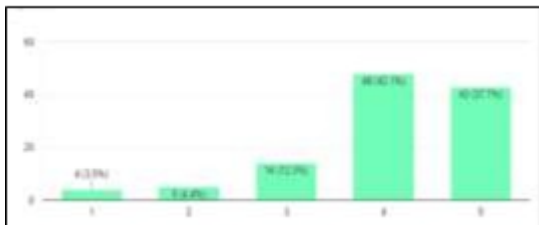


Figure 3.7 Military Training Knowledge

There are actually various forms of state defense efforts that students can take. One of the efforts to defend the country that can be done is by participating in Civics Education or Pancasila and Citizenship Education. This is contained in Law No. 3 of 2002 article 9 paragraph 2. Civics learning can be used as a an effort to defend the country because in the learning process it can be implanted about Pancasila and the Indonesian state itself so that awareness is formed to defend this country. Of the 114 respondents, 58 people agreed that Civics learning was an effort to defend the state. The government needs to pay attention to this because almost half of the respondents do not think that Civics learning is an effort to defend the state so that this learning can be underestimated. The government can arrange important points that must be inculcated in the Civics learning process so that this learning can be applied by students, not just the theory. In addition, lecturers can be given direction by the government so that Civics learning can be made as interesting as possible and instill the importance of defending the country to students so that students do not consider this learning unimportant.

Another form of effort in defending the country is service in accordance with the profession. According to Law Number 3 of 2002 concerning National Defense. Service in accordance with the profession is the service of citizens who have certain professions for the benefit of state defense, including in tackling and/or minimizing the consequences caused by war, natural disasters, or other disasters.

A real example of the form of devotion in accordance with the profession that can be done as a student is to study hard and actively develop themselves through non-academic activities to prepare themselves to become the nation's next generation. In addition, educators such

as teachers and lecturers are trying their best to educate the younger generation through the knowledge they share, health workers such as doctors and nurses are ready to risk their lives on duty during war or when helping victims of natural disasters, the police who are an enforcer.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the description of the needs of class X, XI, and XII students for guidance and counseling services, it can be concluded that in general these services are considered very important for students. The differences in needs at various levels of students seem to imply that counselors need to pay attention to these different needs when implementing guidance and counseling service programs. If the counselor can facilitate students with guidance and counseling services that suit their needs, it is hoped that this can trigger students to achieve optimal self-development.

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