



ANALYSIS OF CULTURAL ADAPTATION FACTORS AFFECTING THE SUCCESS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION AFFIRMATION PROGRAM (ADik)

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Abstract. This study aims to analyze the cultural adaptation factors that affect the academic success of Papuan students who are members of the Higher Education Affirmation Program (Adik) at Jenderal Soedirman University, focusing on three main aspects, namely psychology, sociology, and academic aspects. The subject of this research is a Papuan student of the ADik Program who is currently undergoing studies at Jenderal Soedirman University. This study uses a qualitative approach with a survey method by collecting data through in-depth interviews, questionnaires, and observations. The results of the study show that psychological adaptations, such as stress management and motivation, have a great influence on the academic achievement of Papuan students. Sociological factors, including social support from fellow Papuan students and positive interactions with students from other regions also play an important role in building a sense of comfort and connectedness in the campus environment. From an academic perspective, difficulties in understanding lecture material and adjusting to different evaluation and teaching systems require additional support, such as tutoring programs and tutoring with peers. This study concludes that the academic success of Papuan students in the ADik Program is not only determined by cognitive ability, but also by their success in adapting psychologically, socially, and academically.

Keywords: cultural adaptation, academic success, adik program, papuan students, Jenderal Soedirman University

A. Introduction

Education serves as a process that prepares individuals to be able to adapt to changes in the environment. Education plays a vital role in national development, because it is one of the ways to form quality human resources to achieve development goals. According to Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, citizens living in remote, disadvantaged, and indigenous areas have the right to special education. Based on this, the central government pays special attention to Indonesia's children from the 3T (Outermost, Frontier, and Disadvantaged) areas. In line with the education program based on the constitution, the government through the Ministry of Education and Culture (Kemendikbud) provides Affirmation scholarships, including the Affirmative Scholarship for Higher Education (ADik) which aims to help indigenous Papuans continue their education at State Universities (PTN) in Indonesia (Malik et al., 2022). Based on Presidential Regulation Number 65 of 2011 concerning the Acceleration of Development of Papua Province and West Papua Province, the Development Acceleration Unit of Papua and West Papua Province (UP4B) is an institution established to support the coordination, facilitation, and supervision of the implementation of



accelerated development in the region. The ADik Scholarship is the result of a collaboration between the Ministry of Education and Culture, UP4B, and the Council of Rectors of State Universities (PTN) of Indonesia in order to improve the quality of human resources in Papua and West Papua. Based on the Decree of the General of Higher Education, this scholarship is given for 8 semesters for the Diploma 4 (D4) or Strata 1 (S1) program, and 10 semesters for the Strata 1 (S1) program with a professional education program.

This scholarship requires Papuan students to leave Papua and continue their education at universities throughout Indonesia. This Higher Education Affirmation Program collaborates with state universities in Indonesia including Jenderal Soedirman University (UNSOED) in Purwokerto, Banyumas which accepts Papuan students through the ADik program. Affirmation students in Purwokerto are one example of a group of teenagers who migrate to continue higher education. Papuan students, with different socio-cultural backgrounds, are required to be able to adapt and interact with the local community in Purwokerto City. Students continuing their studies outside their home area is not an easy thing. Students must be able to adapt to the new social environment, especially in the campus environment. Papuan students at UNSOED face challenges in the adaptation process, including from the aspects of sociology, psychology and academic adaptation. They must adjust to the social environment where the majority of the local community is located. Language barriers and interaction with the surrounding environment are challenges in social interaction, both inside and outside the classroom. In addition, the physical differences between Papuan students and the local community are also a special concern. Psychological aspects experienced by Papuan students such as loneliness, comfort, and a sense of security are also important things to pay attention to. In addition, adaptation when undergoing lectures in the campus environment is also something that must be considered for academic continuity. Adaptation strategies are needed to address multicultural issues and interaction gaps, which often impact their academic success.

ADik Papua students often feel significant cultural differences between Purwokerto and Banyumas, which causes difficulties in adapting. They hang out more often with fellow Papuan students and tend to form exclusive groups, both on campus and in their residences. In this process of adapting to different cultures, individuals learn to understand, understand, and adapt to the demands of the environment. This is because humans always want balanced conditions in meeting their needs in accordance with applicable norms. Therefore, Papuan students at Jenderal Soedirman University need to undergo a social adaptation process in order to be able to adjust and feel comfortable in the environment where they continue their studies. Self-adjustment involves interaction between individuals and their environment, both physically, psychologically, and spiritually (Rizal et al., 2019).

B. Methods

This research is qualitative with a descriptive approach. The location of the research was taken at Jenderal Soedirman University, focusing on the interaction of Papuan students who received the Affirmation Younger Brother scholarship. This study examines the factors that affect the social interaction of Papuan students who receive the scholarship in the campus environment as well as the obstacles they face in interacting at UNSOED. This research was carried out through three stages, namely the pre-research stage, the research stage, and the final stage. Data was collected from primary and secondary sources, with a total of 11 respondents. Data collection is carried out through the dissemination of questionnaires, interviews and documentation, while validity and data analysis include data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing (Malik et al., 2022).

1. Time and Place of Research



The research was carried out at Jenderal Soedirman University from July to August 2024. Research activities consist of three stages, namely the pre-research stage, the research stage, and the final stage. This study aims to analyze the cultural adaptation factors that affect the academic success of Papuan students who are members of the ADik Program at Jenderal Soedirman University, focusing on three main aspects, namely psychology, sociology, and academic aspects. The subject of this research is a Papuan student of the ADik Program who is currently undergoing studies at Jenderal Soedirman University.

C. Results And Discussion

1. Interaction of Papuan Students at Jenderal Soedirman University (Study on ADik Affirmation scholarship recipients)

Based on the results of the study, it is known that the interaction of Papuan students in learning at Jenderal Soedirman University in the social adaptation of Papuan students has aspects that affect the success of the adaptation, namely the factors that determine the success or not of the adaptation are grouped into three aspects, including the following:

2. Sociological Aspects

Sociology is a science that studies the relationship and mutual influence between various social phenomena and the environment of society (Max Weber, 1920). In this case, the intended social situation is the existence of students in the campus environment of Jenderal Soedirman University which makes Papuan students have to learn to adapt, understand interaction patterns and understand the situation to be able to blend in with the environment while attending lectures to complete the academic process (Malik et al., 2022). This study describes that Papuan students who study at UNSOED try to understand the social situation that occurs in the campus environment. This can be evidenced by the behavior of Papuan students who try to blend well with the surrounding community and try to interact well with non-Papuan students. Based on the results of the questionnaire that has been distributed, in terms of interacting with the surrounding environment, Papuan students try to participate in social activities and adapt well in the environment around their residence and in the campus environment. Papuan students not only focus on the academic field but are also active in various campus and non-campus activities, for example by participating students from Papua in various SMEs, organizations, committees, and participating in various socialization activities from regional organizations (Affirmation), as well as activities in the learning process within the academic scope.

3. Psychological Aspects

Psychology is the analysis of mental processes and memory structures to understand human behavior (Richard Mayer, 1981). This is also the background of the mindset of Papuan students in dealing with various social problems that occur. Such as when facing bullying, discrimination or being avoided in community groups. Based on the results of the questionnaire that has been distributed, in terms of interacting with the surrounding environment, Papuan students are trying to be able to adapt to the new living environment. Papuan students also feel safe and comfortable when studying at UNSOED. Some Papuan students have experienced unpleasant actions such as discrimination or bullying, but they try to deal with it well, besides the support system such as lecturers and parents who always support them in undergoing their studies in lectures well.

4. Academic Aspects

Academic is the state of a person who is able to convey and accept ideas, thoughts, science, and at the same time can test them honestly, openly, and freely (Nurahman, 2016). Adapting



well in an academic environment is the most important thing to support academic success. Based on the questionnaire that has been distributed, it is known that Papuan students are comfortable studying at UNSOED and are able to understand the explanations given by the lecturers, the learning techniques they do are also diverse to understand the lecture material such as writing or re-recording the material in the book so that it is easy to remember, re-reading the material presented by the lecturer and summarizing the points given by the lecturer. Papuan students feel active and enthusiastic when participating in learning activities in the classroom, according to them academic grades are something important to pay attention to to support the smooth and successful running of academics.

5. Obstacles of Papuan students in Younger Brothers Scholarship Recipients in Interaction in the UNSOED Campus Environment.

Discrimination is an act of discriminating and being less friendly from the dominant group to its subordinate group, or from the majority group to the minority group (Safi'i, 2018). In the context of social interaction, discrimination is sometimes related to racism or a discriminatory attitude shown in certain races. Based on the results of the questionnaire that has been distributed, in general, students from Papua do not experience severe acts of discrimination in the campus environment of Jenderal Soedirman University. It's just that some Papuan students feel a little awkward in interacting with non-Papuan students because they are afraid of being ridiculed or bullied, when in reality it is not like that. That is why most of the Papuan students are more likely to gather with fellow Papuans. One of the ways Papuan students can adapt and interact socially is by using a good and polite and standard Indonesian Language so that they can continue to communicate and avoid misunderstandings arising from different languages between cultures, as well as comply with the regulations that apply in the academic environment and in the campus environment. Strategies that can be carried out are socialization and briefing to Papuan students related to introduction to the surrounding environment and positive interaction between students, lecturers, and other non-Papuan students as well as the existence of peer tutors who create a positive environment.

D. Conclusion

The process of social adaptation in the social environment of Papuan students in advancing their studies at the Jenderal Soedirman University campus through social interaction of Papuan students so that they are able to adapt well through interaction with the community in their social environment. Good cooperation occurs between Papuan students and non-Papuan students in the social environment through common interests and common goals. The social adaptation experienced by Papuan students in their social environment experienced several conflicts and obstacles that occurred, but these obstacles could be overcome well. The factors that affect academic success and the pattern of social interaction that occurs between Papuan students and non-Papuan students in the campus environment of Jenderal Soedirman University are influenced by three aspects, namely sociological aspects, psychology, and academic aspects. The obstacles that affect the pattern of social interaction that occurs between Papuan students and non-Papuan students in the campus environment of Jenderal Soedirman University are influenced by several factors, namely Papuan students who are somewhat closed, language and cultural differences and the possibility of discrimination that arises in the surrounding environment.

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