LEARNING STRATEGIES OF FASTRACK STUDENTS OF THE ISLAMIC EDUCATION MANAGEMENT STUDY PROGRAM AT MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY MALANG

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Abstract

The demands of studying in college require students to learn to be more independent and disciplined in managing their time. The progress of science and technology is a challenge for universities as centers of scientific development accompanied by global competition, which requires a fast track approach. UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang is one of the Islamic Universities in Indonesia that organizes the fastrack program. This program was held with the aim of providing facilities for undergraduate students who excel in academics, English, and who have high motivation to continue their master's degree, with the hope of increasing the number of superior students in the master's program and increasing scientific publications. Fastrack is an accelerated education program that allows students to complete a degree in less time than traditional programs. The speed required can pose its own challenges in terms of time management, understanding, material and study strategies. This research aims to describe the learning strategies of Fastrack students and the obstacles and challenges they face. The research method used is descriptive qualitative. Data collection techniques include distributing questionnaires, interviews, observation and documentation. The results of the research identified fastrack students' learning strategies, namely discipline, planning, collaboration and motivation. It was also found that the obstacles and challenges faced by Fastrack students were scheduling conflicts between undergraduate and graduate program schedules, overloaded assignments, and students lacking self-confidence due to lack of learning experience.

Abstrak

Tuntutan belajar di perguruan tinggi mengharuskan mahasiswa untuk belajar lebih mandiri, disiplin dalam mengatur waktu. Kemajuan IPTEK menjadi tantangan perguruan tinggi sebagai pusat pengembangan ilmu pengetahuang diiringi persaingan global, yang membutuhkan pendekatan fastrack. UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang adalah salah satu Universitas Islam di Indonesia yang menyelenggarakan program fastrack. program ini diadakan dengan tujuan memberikan fasilitas mahasiswa jenjang sarjana unggul di bidang akademik, bahasa inggris, dan mempunyai motivasi tinggi melanjutkan magister, dengan harapan adanya peningkatan jumlah mahasiswa unggul di program magister dan meningkatkan publikasi ilmiah. Fastrack merupakan program percepatan pendidikan yang memungkinkan mahasiswa untuk menyelesaikan gelar dalam waktu yang lebih singkat daripada program tradisional. Kecepatan yang diperlukan dapat menimbulkan tantangan tersendiri dalam hal pengelolaan waktu, pemahaman, materi, dan strategi belajar. Penelitian ini bertujuan mendeskripsikan strategi belajar mahasiswa fastrack dan hambatan serta tantangan yang dihadapi. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah kualitatif deskriptif. Teknik pengumpulan data dengan penyebaran kuesioner, wawancara, observasi dan dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian mengidentifikasi strategi belajar mahasiswa fastrack yaitu dengan disiplin, perencanaan, kolaborasi, dan motivasi. Ditemukan pula hambatan dan tantangan yang dihadapi oleh mahasiswa fastrack yaitu penjadwalan yang masih ada yang bertabrakan antara jadwal program S1 dan S2, beban tugas overload, dan mahasiswa kurang percaya diri karena kurangnya pengalaman belajar.

Introduction

In higher education, the students are students. In the world of education, every student must be faced with greater provisions than when they were at school. When someone enters the world of college, it is hoped that students can learn to organize and lead themselves in navigating the world of college (Aisyah, 2022) . Students in higher education are required and required to be able to learn discipline, increase their knowledge independently, regulate themselves, and carry out a more regular and intensive study routine. With this, it is hoped that students can be creative, productive and able to innovate. The main ability that students need to adapt to this situation is to have the ability and skills to organize learning activities, be able to regulate study habits, and understand the goals, direction and sources that support their learning (Darmiany, 2010) .

According to (Listiana, 2019) students who are in college will be presented with various assignments and given a fairly busy study schedule. Being able to be independent in learning is a requirement that a student must have. Relying solely on material taught by lecturers is no longer something that students do, but they can look for other sources to increase their understanding independently. Apart from that, students will be charged with completing the assignments in the lectures, which requires good time management in order to complete the assignments according to the deadline and with satisfactory results.

Currently, people's lives are slowly starting to change due to advances in Science and Technology (IPTEK) which continue to develop. Relationships between humans also change, causing problems space and time become very relative. The purpose of life changes because moral values and ethical values come into play change, the process of globalization has caused changes order and life of mankind. Progress in science and technology is a world challenge academic higher education as a center for the development of science. Fast track program in the background behind the Study Program's need for resources Human Resources (HR) for Masters students who are more competent so they can improving the quality of Master's programs. It is hoped that this program will be achieved better postgraduate input , namely quality students from majors the same thing so that later it can improve the quality of the output of the Master's program (Irma Yulinawati, Sri Hartati, 2009) .

Fast rack is an approach to streamline human tasks. Human tasks in the field of education, especially those related to student admissions management, require special handling. Advances in science, technology and information, accompanied by global competition, require a fastrack approach (Venny Indria Ekowati, Sri Harti Widyastuti, Suwardi, Vindy Reyhana, 2023) .

Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang State Islamic University is one of the Islamic Universities in Indonesia that organizes the fastrack program. This program was held with the aim of providing facilities for undergraduate students who excel in academics, English, and have high motivation to continue their master's degree, with the hope of increasing the number of superior students in the master's program and increasing scientific publications at the Maulana Malik State Islamic University Malang Ibrahim.

Fastrack is an accelerated education program that allows students to complete their degrees in less time than traditional programs. The speed required in this program can pose its own challenges in terms of time management, understanding, material and study strategies. There is still little research examining the Fastrack program in universities. Like research from (Irma Yulinawati, Sri Hartati, 2009) with the title "Self-Regulated

Learning for Fast Track Students" which explains the self-regulation of fast track students in achieving optimal performance with twice the burden of responsibility and tasks as ordinary students. Further research conducted by (Venny Indria Ekowati, Sri Harti Widyastuti, Suwardi, Vindy Reyhana 2023) , discusses the fastrack program as an effort to improve the quality of admissions for superior student candidates in the Javanese Language Education Study Program Masters program. Apart from that, research has been carried out by (Sulaiman, Rumini, 2021), which presents an analysis of the difficulties and obstacles experienced by the fasttack program for undergraduate students of the sports science faculty at the postgraduate sports education master's study program at Semarang State University. There is still no research that focuses on Fastrack student learning strategies.

Therefore, this research aims to explore the learning strategies used by Fastrack students. Understanding these learning strategies will assist universities and academic staff in improving the quality of education and support provided to fastrack students. With an emphasis on learning strategies, this research will provide insight into success factors fastrack students, as well as providing a basis for developing recommendations for more effective support programs.

Method

The type of research used is a descriptive qualitative method. According to Arif Furchan, a qualitative approach is an approach that uses research procedures that will produce descriptive data which can be in the form of writing, speech or behavior that can be observed by researchers on the subjects being studied. This qualitative approach will provide a detailed and systematic description of the object being studied in accordance with the facts and data that have been obtained at the research location (Sugiono, 2019) .

The research object was at the Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang and the fastrack students of the Islamic Education Management study program were the respondents. This research can be used to describe the way fastrack students navigate the world of college and explore the difficulties and obstacles encountered by fastrack students in the Master of Islamic Education Management study program at Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University, Malang.

Data collection techniques used were (1) interview techniques, (2) distributing questionnaires, (3) observation and (4) documentation. The data is presented in the form of qualitative descriptive analysis, an analysis carried out to provide a general description of the object being studied through the research subjects.

Results and Discussion

1. Fastrack Student Strategy

Based on the Chancellor's decree regarding the implementation of the fast track program from undergraduate to master level, Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University Malang in 2020, the fast track program is an educational program organized by Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University Malang to facilitate students who excel in academics, English , and have high motivation, and can complete their studies in bachelor's and master's programs within a maximum of ten semesters (MALANG, 2020).

The implementation of the fast track program at the State Islamic University of Malang is (1) to facilitate undergraduate students who excel in academics, English, and have high motivation to continue their master's degree; (2) increasing the number of superior students in master's programs; (3) increasing scientific

publications at the Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University of Malang. The requirements for participating in the fastrack program are (1) Active students from Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University Malang (2) Have completed semester 5 and have passed at least 105 credits with a GPA greater than or equal to 3.5 (3) Have TOEFL or TOAFL score greater than or equal to 450 (4) Obtain a recommendation from the guardian lecturer and head of the undergraduate study program (5) Obtain approval and ability to finance the Fastrack program education from parents or guardians or from other parties (UIN-MALANG, 2022).

In this fastrack program, students are given relief in educational financing, namely the UKT (Single Tuition Fee) fees for semesters 1 and 2 of the postgraduate program which are included in the undergraduate program for semesters 7 and 8. So in the postgraduate program, fastrack students only need to meet the financing education in semesters 3 and 4. However, students who enroll in the fastrack program have an obligation to maintain their GPA, which must not be below 3.00 and must complete their undergraduate program on time.

The following results were found by researchers regarding the learning strategies used by Fastrack students in the Islamic education management study program at the Maulana Malik Ibrahim State Islamic University Postgraduate Program in Malang, namely (1) Discipline. In this case, Fastrack students in the Islamic education management study program carry out two activities, namely the first, making deadlines or task lists between assignments in undergraduate and postgraduate programs and making priority lists and task groupings. With the aim of showing which tasks need to be completed first and all work can be completed effectively and efficiently. Second, don't delay work. If there is an assignment given by the lecturer, students immediately look for reference materials to prepare for the assignment and do not delay in doing it.

(2) Planning. There are many factors that influence a person's success in pursuing their education, one of the factors that influences a student's success in achieving optimal achievement is self-regulation (SR). Students who have a good level of intelligence, personality, a supportive home and campus environment, need to be supported by self-regulation skills to achieve optimal achievement (Susanto, 2006) . Self-regulation ability means a person will be able to develop and organize plans so that their desired goals can be achieved. Students who have better self-regulation occur in students who have high academic achievement (Mulyani, 2013) . In the planning steps , several things were found that were carried out by Fastrack students in the Islamic education management study program. First, make a task plan. This activity includes making a structured task work plan and prioritizing tasks over things that are not useful. Second, on the division of time. Try to divide your assignments in S1 and S2 as best as possible.

(3) Collaboration. One of the factors that can help students overcome problems related to college life is social support (Oktarina, Abdul Munir, 2020) . Peer groups are also learning communities in which social roles and standards related to work and achievement are formed. Friendship becomes increasingly important in adolescence, and even popularity among peers is a strong motivation for most teenagers (Ayu & Fauziah, 2016) . What is meant by collaboration here is that Fastrack students choose to work together with friends, with the aim that when there are things they don't understand or don't yet understand, they can discuss together, ask each other questions and help each other to find solutions.

(4) Motivation. Basically, motivation occurs because of the desire to fulfill factors that have not been fulfilled (Wijaya, 2007) . Motivation can be said to be one of the facilities or tendencies of students to achieve goals. Students who are motivated will have enthusiasm and persistence to carry out their activities (Afryan, Saputra, Lisiswanti, & Ayu, 2019).

In the activities and activities of Fastrack students which are so busy because they have to carry out lectures in undergraduate and master's programs simultaneously, it cannot be denied that sometimes a feeling of boredom and fatigue arises while doing it. The strategy that can be used to overcome this problem is by looking for motivation from inspirational figures on social media, then by self-introspection, remembering that there are many people out there who want to be in the place or position of being a student and by praying for their parents, because prayer is a manifestation to remember the hopes that both parents want to be realized.

2. **Obstacles and Challenges for Fastrack Students**

Apart from that, there were also several challenges and obstacles faced by fast track students, namely the first was scheduling or time allocation where there were several remaining courses in the undergraduate program which were scheduled at the same time as courses in the postgraduate program. Then, secondly , regarding assignment load, students said that there was an overload of assignments because they had to immediately complete their final assignments in the undergraduate program while also having to complete coursework in the postgraduate program. And the three students still felt they lacked learning experience, because when they entered the postgraduate program they automatically had to mingle with classmates who already had more learning experience because they had already completed undergraduate studies.

Conclusion

Some of the learning strategies used by fast track students of the Islamic education management study program at the Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang University graduate school are (1) discipline, such as making a task list and not delaying work; (2) planning, fast track students make plans and divide their time between undergraduate and postgraduate programs; (3) collaboration, students choose to have group discussions with friends when working on assignments; (4) motivation, looking for motivation to maintain enthusiasm for learning.

In the strategic steps taken, obstacles and challenges faced by Fastrack students were also found, namely scheduling. It was found that several schedules coincided between undergraduate and postgraduate programs, workloads were overloaded and students were less confident in their abilities because they felt they had less experience in learning compared to their friends in the postgraduate class who had completed undergraduate education.

This article complements previous research which only explains self-regulation, the challenges and obstacles faced by Fastrack students. Meanwhile, this research explains more about the strategies or ways Fastrack students learn and deal with the many problems in the field when they have to take two lectures at once.

Due to research limitations, suggestions are needed for future researchers to continue more significant research on Fastrack student learning strategies, the obstacles and challenges they face and find solutions to problems that occur in the field. This

research could involve further analysis of the fastrack program that has been organized by universities regarding the direct impact on the progress of education in Indonesia. It is hoped that this research can provide contributions and benefits in efforts to develop the quality of human resources and the quality of education in Indonesia.

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