

IS HONORARIUM REQUIRED? REMOVING IRREGULARITIES IN STUDENT CREATIVITY PROGRAM IN INDONESIA

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Abstract

Student Creativity Program or Program Kreativitas Mahasiswa (PKM) is a prestigious annual scientific program for undergraduate students in Indonesia. The program runs since 2001 and held by DP2M Dikti, Ministry of Education and Culture. In 2013, over 7000 program proposals are funded on a maximum budget of IDR 12,500,000 each. This program aims to improve the quality of undergraduate students in order to become a part of community who have the academic and/ or professionals ability, who can implement, develop and disseminate science, technology and/ or the arts and enrich the national culture.¹ Unfortunately, there is the corruption risk in the program. This study aims to investigate irregularities by students in PKM, revealing the root causes and offering solutions for policy reform in PKM. This study uses triangulation method (interview-observation-documentation) for data gathering. Interviews were conducted to 30 students from 10 different universities in Indonesia. The study findings show that there are irregularities in PKM, such as marking up budget funds, furthermore, a lot of the remaining funds being used for private purposes. These occur because evaluators never ask about the remaining funds at the time of monitoring and evaluation (money). Still, the budget does not include honorarium as a reward for the student's hard work. In fact, the misuse of budget allocation for private purpose is not appropriate because it is contrary to Article 2 of Law No. 31/ 1999. A total of 26 out of 30 students agreed if there is honorarium in PKM, so there will be a giving back for their energy, time and thought. This study is very potential for removing irregularities and reforming policy of PKM in Indonesia, so the program is no longer contaminated by the corruption risk.

Keywords: *Student Creativity Program in Indonesia, undergraduate students, removing irregularities, corruption risk, honorarium*

1. Introduction

Indonesia is a country in Southeast Asia which is actively fighting against corruption. The preventive efforts begin from the formulation of curriculum and character education since education is a strategic way to embed good characters. As a strategic way, the implementation of anti-corruption curriculum in education can become an alternative answer. The next generation would have a view of corruption as a lowly deed. More than that, the Indonesian education should bring its citizens to be aware of applicable laws and obey him, and no less important is the role of education to instill strong religious knowledge to every student. According to Bibit S. Rianto, this effort will actually uproot corruption to the core, to the most basic layer of the iceberg².

Behind all of that, in Indonesia there is an unnatural thing about corruption in initial level early on. Worse yet, students who are coveted as agent of change in the community

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¹ DP2M Dikti, *Panduan PKM 2013*, (Jakarta: Kemdikbud, 2013).

² Irfan Awaluddin. "Korupsi sebagai Permasalahan Teologis: Mengurai Anatomi Pemberantasan Korupsi dalam Al-Qur'an." (paper presented at the International Conference of Islamic Scholars Jakarta).

participated in the comfort zone of corruption learning. It was seen at the *Program Kreativitas Mahasiswa* (PKM). *Program Kreativitas Mahasiswa* or Student Creativity Program is a prestigious annual scientific program for undergraduate students in Indonesia. The program runs since 2001 and held by DP2M Dikti, Ministry of Education and Culture. In 2013, over 7000 proposals are funded program on a maximum budget of IDR 12,500,000 each. This program aims to improve the quality of undergraduate students in order to become a part of the community who have the academic and/ or abilities professionals, who can implement, develop and disseminate science, technology and/ or the arts and enrich the national culture. This program is geared as an attempt to facilitate the creativity of students in the field of research, creative works, entrepreneurship, and community service. It is undeniable that through this program the government has good intentions, namely to facilitate students to inflame social sensitivity, learn entrepreneurship, technological innovations, and embedded equally important concern for society. However, there are some things that need to be re-examined in the implementation of PKM regulation that potentially grows the seeds of corruption amongst students.

This study becomes an extremely important because it will reveal any irregularities that have being done by students, what are the causes, so we can find the solution to solve the problems. For this reason, it will be revealed about the facts of phenomena that occur, through triangulation data collection, represented by 30 students from 10 different universities³ in Indonesia. This study is also relevant to the present times which the corruption is seen as something that is very avoidable and combated by any country in the world. Therefore, all forms of corruption need to be solved by looking for the root causes and solutions, so those are not getting worse.

2. Content

Problem of Corruption in Indonesia

Corruption comes from the Latin word *corruptio* or *corruptus*, which literally means decay, ugliness, depravity, dishonesty. In general, corruption is defined as the abuse of public⁴. Since the mid-1990s, countless initiatives against corruption have emerged at the country and international levels. This has been largely due to the fact that the international community recognized the devastating effects of corruption on sustainable development, on political stability and, since 2001, on global security⁵. How dissatisfied with the behavior of the corrupt officials who stole public money. Experience has shown that every country in the world faces the challenges and risks associated with the phenomenon of corruption. However, the ways in which corruption creeps into and reproduces itself in a given society vary widely and depend on a set of historical, political, economic, social and cultural factors⁶.

Corruption does not only affects to one aspect of life. Corruption poses a domino effect that extends to the existence of the nation and the state. The widespread practice of corruption in a country will exacerbate the nation's economic condition, for example, the price of the goods to be expensive with poor quality, people's access to education and health becomes difficult, a country's security is threatened, environmental damage, and the image of poor governance at the international level so it could destabilize joints confidence of foreign

³ 10 universities in this study are Unnes, ITS, ITB, IPB, Unpad, UI, UGM, Unair, Unhas, Undip.

⁴ Andi Hamzah, *Korupsi di Indonesia: Masalah dan Pemecahannya* (Jakarta: Gramedia, 1991), 7.

⁵ Karen Hussmann, *Anti-corruption policy making in practice: what we can learn for the implementation of article 5 of UNCAC?* (Norway: U-4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, 2007), 16.

⁶ Karen Hussmann, *Anti-corruption policy making in practice*, 16.

capital owners, prolonged economic crisis, and the country become increasingly mired in poverty.

Damage to roads, collapsing bridges, the overthrow of the train, cheap rice that is not worth eating, exploding gas canister, unfit and uncomfortable public transport, the collapse of school buildings, those are series of fact the poor quality of goods and services as a result of corruption. Corruption causes chaos in the public sector by diverting public investment into other projects where bribes and wages are more readily available. The corrupt officials would add the complexity of the project to hide the corruption practices. At the end, the corruption results in lower quality of goods and services to the public by way of reducing the compliance of building safety requirements, material requirements and production, health and environmental terms, and other regulations. Corruption also reduces the quality of government services and infrastructure and adding pressure on the government budget⁷.

Based on the World Bank report, Indonesia is categorized as a country with severe debt, low income (*severely indebted low income country*) and included in the category of the poorest countries in the world such as Mali and Ethiopia. Indonesia is often claimed to be a religious nation, placing religion as important in life⁸. As a religious nation, Indonesia is certainly strongly against corruption. However, Transparency International survey on the "Global Corruption Barometer", put political parties in Indonesia as the most corrupt institutions with the value of 4.2 (with a valuation range 1-5, 5 for the most corrupt). Still from the data, in Asia, Indonesia ranked as the most corrupt achievement with a score of 9.25, over India (8.9), Vietnam (8.67), Philippines (8.33) and Thailand (7.33)⁹. Efforts to eradicate corruption in Indonesia have being existed since the nation's independence flag waving¹⁰. In Indonesia, the awareness of the importance of fighting against corruption becomes the main agenda in the state and nation. *Komisi Pemberantasan Korupsi* (KPK) or Corruption Eradication Commission, is a government agency that tackles corruption cases in Indonesia. The remarkable story of the KPK shows that state capture and grand corruption can be seriously tackled by an anti-corruption agency in a relatively short span of time. In just under five years, the KPK has made tremendous and unprecedented strides in the investigation and prosecution of corruption cases against high-level officials in all branches and sectors of the Indonesian government. It has also made extensive efforts in planting seeds for corruption prevention and education. It has successfully recovered sizable amounts of stolen assets and arguably prevented the theft of many more¹¹.

Corruption should be viewed as an extraordinary crime which requires extraordinary efforts to eradicate it anyway. Efforts to combat corruption - which consists of two major parts, namely (1) the prosecution, and (2) prevention - would never work optimally if it is only done by government alone without involving community participation. Therefore, this is not excessive if we say that Indonesian students are the important part of the society which is the future heir-expected to be actively involved in efforts to eradicate corruption in Indonesia¹².

Corruption in the land of the country, like the "unlawful legacy" without a will. He remains sustainable even prohibited by applicable law in any order that came and went. Almost all aspects of life affected by corruption. The causes of corruption include two factors: internal factors and external factors. Internal factors are the corruption causes that come from inside, while external factors are the corruption causes from outside.

⁷ Nanang T. Puspito *et al.*, Pendidikan Anti-Korupsi, (Jakarta: Kemendikbud RI, 2011), 37.

⁸ Awaluddin, "Korupsi sebagai Permasalahan Teologis."

⁹ Puspito *et al.*, Pendidikan Anti-Korupsi, 28.

¹⁰ Awaluddin, "Korupsi sebagai Permasalahan Teologis."

¹¹ Emil P. Bolongaita, An Exception to the Rule?: Why Indonesia's Anti-Corruption Commission Succeeds Where Others Don't - a Comparison with the Philippines' Ombudsman (Norway: U-4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, 2010), 23.

¹² Puspito *et al.*, Pendidikan Anti-Korupsi, v.

Internal factors consist of the moral aspect, for example lack of faith, honesty, shame, attitude or behavioral aspects e.g. consumptive lifestyle and social aspects like family to encourage a person to behave corrupt. External factors can be traced to the economic aspects such as income or salary is not sufficient for, political aspects e.g. political instability, political interests, achieve and maintain power, management and organizational aspects, namely the lack of accountability and transparency, legal aspects, seen in the form of bad legislation and weak law enforcement and social aspects of the environment or society that is less supportive of anti-corruption behavior¹³.

Nur Syam gives the view that corruption is caused by a person who tempted to the material world or assets that are not capable of holding. When the urge to be rich can not be hold on while the access to reach it can be obtained through graft, it will be one of corruption. Thus, if the point of view of corruption cause that way, so the causes of corruption is the perception of wealth. The perspective of the richness would lead to a wrong way to access the wealth¹⁴.

Student involvement in efforts to fight against corruption is certainly not the enforcement effort under the authority of law enforcement agencies. The active role of students is expected to be more focused on anti-corruption to help build a culture of anti-corruption in the society. Students are expected to act as an agent of change and driving force of the anti-corruption movement in society. To be able to play an active role, students need to be equipped with enough knowledge about the ins and outs of corruption and its eradication. No less important, to be able to play an active role, students should be able to understand and implement anti-corruption values in everyday life.

PKM and Corruption in Initial Level

In Indonesia, there is a prestigious annual scientific event for higher students named Student Creativity Program or *Program Kreativitas Mahasiswa* (PKM). Thousands of proposals have been received by DP2M Dikti¹⁵ every year and every proposal to get maximum funding of IDR 12.5 millions each. National Students Science Week or *Pekan Ilmiah Mahasiswa Nasional* (PIMNAS)¹⁶ is the peak of PKM activity, held at the college set by Dikti for the willingness and agreement of all university leaders. PIMNAS as a forum for student scientific meetings and communication about creation and product, followed by a student or group of students selected through the PKM and non-PKM ways. PIMNAS also serves as a forum for discussion and dialogue on issues of national development and other current issues. PIMNAS involves public and private universities across the country¹⁷.

PKM demonstrates good purposes of government to develop research activities amongst students. PKM is a manifestation of Entrepreneurship Cultural Development Program in Higher Education or *Program Pengembangan Budaya Kewirausahaan di Perguruan Tinggi* (PBKPT) which is launched by DP2M Dikti. This is the only program that can be accessed and implemented by students as other programs such as Entrepreneurship Lecture or *Kuliah Kewirausahaan* (KWU), Work Effort Lecture or *Kuliah Kerja Usaha* (KKU), Entrepreneurship Internship or *Magang Kewirausahaan* (MKU), Business Consulting and Employment or *Konsultasi Bisnis dan Penempatan Kerja* (KBPK), and the New

¹³ Puspito et al., Pendidikan Anti-Korupsi, 39.

¹⁴ Puspito et al., Pendidikan Anti-Korupsi, 40.

¹⁵ Direktorat Penelitian dan Pengabdian kepada Masyarakat (DP2M) Dikti (Direktorat Jenderal Pendidikan Tinggi), is a government agency which supports and stimulates the growth of research activities, community service, and creativity amongst college students, it has orientation to improve the quality of higher education, the nation's competitiveness and welfare in a sustainable manner. See: <http://dp2m.dikti.go.id/>

¹⁶ In PIMNAS over 400 teams from all over Indonesia compete annually to grab the medals as an honor for their PKM.

¹⁷ See: <http://pimnas26.unram.ac.id/>

Entrepreneurial Incubator or *Inkubator Wirausaha Baru* (Inwub) is reserved for lecturers only¹⁸.

Unfortunately, there is always a gap between concept and application. As the theories are difficult to apply, many obstacles that make PKM achieve the goals set. Precisely PKM inadvertently teaches students perform acts of corruption. According to the 30 respondents from 10 different universities in Indonesia, the data shows that in their opinion, the mechanism of PKM issued by DP2M Dikti is unrealistic and demanding students involved in breaking the rules. To see the potential for corruption, need to see three things, namely regulators, parenting, and the students themselves. All three led to a corrupt act.

First, as a regulator, DP2M Dikti sets the unrealistic rules that almost impossible to do. For example, in a guidance which is published by DP2M Dikti, the cost of the program will be launched up to IDR 12.5 millions for a proposal. This makes the determination of the student filed a nominal maximum budget even though the program does not need cost that much. If then the proposal is funded, the remaining cost of the program would be used for other purposes. In this context, students are trained to mark up the budget to enrich themselves, which in Article 2 of Law No. 31 of 1999 is threatened with a fine of between IDR 20 millions to IDR 1 billion.

In practice, the cost of the program is not issued by DP2M in one step. In some colleges, the cost of the program was issued in three steps, in early, the middle of the program, and after the report is completed. It is a strange reality because it makes the students reported their actual funds have not been used. The submitted report is a fictitious report tampered with so that will spend the entire cost of the program. A report should be prepared after the program has been completed as a form of accountability. However, in PKM, the report into a file that is formal, just to fulfill the obligation because the report is made before the issuing of the third steps of funds, so these funds are not detected in the using. Very likely the students to use for other personal purposes. Using the budget on things that are not necessarily is belong to corrupt behavior. In addition to reform the regulation, the potential of corruption is fertile due to improper parenting. DP2M Dikti as the organizer did not prepare a proper assistance, monitoring, and evaluation mechanism so that the program is not well controlled.

It must be recognized there are the limitations of DP2M Dikti in controlling all student in the program. As the programs that run in the thousands of amount, DP2M Dikti may not supervise them one by one. Therefore, DP2M Dikti handed assistance to lecturers in each college. Unfortunately, they are also not doing well as assistance. Moreover, they are also occupied in lecturing, community service programs, as well as research.

Although mentoring escapes, those irregularities in PKM should read by DP2M Dikti on monitoring and evaluation session (monev). However, once again to be unfortunate because the monev of DP2M Dikti only performed twice during the program. During this time, the monev is only done with the interviews and only occasionally do the review so that students can make progress reports at will. Expended funds and the rest was never asked.

The potential of corruption also occurs when students notice the final report of the program. Because the report should be submitted even before the fund of the program issued, the report only contains a variety of possibilities. Report on the use of funds tampered with so entire of cost runs out. It means, students are accustomed to make fictitious reports that potentially harm the state.

The fact is unfortunate because PKM is organized and funded by the government. PKM is able to develop scientific treasures, but if the mechanism is not changed it will familiarize students with corruption. Because refer to Article 2 of the Law of Corruption,

¹⁸ "Belajar Korupsi di Program Kreativitas Mahasiswa," Surahmat, accessed February 2, 2014, <http://edukasi.kompas.com/read/2009/11/09/17042321/Belajar.Korupsi.di.Program.Kreativitas.Mahasiswa>.

corruption is not merely acts of corruption, but also in the form of potential. The participation of corruption in national life must be in clear because corruption violating the rules of Pancasila¹⁹.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) recognises that corruption is a multifaceted phenomenon that results, among others, from weak governance systems and institutions failing with multiple interactions among each other²⁰. Accordingly, if there is corruption, there is actually a weak policy, especially the lack of supervision. These are things that should be fixed in the form of better supervision.

In some countries, such as Georgia, Indonesia, and Tanzania, governments and development partners believe that (good) governance reforms will be more effective in eventually reducing corruption than anti-corruption strategies²¹. The fact should pave the steps to reform the PKM policy or its mechanism.

From 26 of the 30 respondents believe that there are some things that need to be re-examined in the implementing of PKM regulation, because it potentially grows the seeds of corruption amongst students. First, in the PKM budgeting rules, DP2M Dikti does not allow students to include honorium to their proposal. They say that research activity is a professional activity that its quality is measured through track record performance, ranging from needs analysis, proposal writing, drafting instruments, data retrieval, report preparation and continuing until the evaluation. Is professional activity was not eligible for an honorarium? To get around the policies that do not favor, students seek to maximize the budget in PKM proposals. This is done solely to obtain the honor of which have been cultivated. Therefore, the PKM rule should be changed, i.e. in proposing a PKM program, students should be given space to ask honorium in allocation, of course within reasonable limits. If this is enforced, corruption learning opportunities will be closed.

Second, the issuance of PKM funds is not issued in one step, but as in previous years the distribution of funds is issued in three steps, namely at the beginning, middle of program, and after the report is completed. This is strange because the students prepared a report of budget that actually they have not used the budget. This is clearly an opportunity to learn corruption. The report is a fictitious report submitted tampered with in such a way, so as to run out the entire cost of the proposed program. In fact, a report should be prepared after the program has been completed as a form of accountability. That is why there needs to be a strict supervision with tough sanctions, for example students must return the entire grant if proven doing the corruption. DP2M Dikti should ask the rest of the funds when money session.

Honorarium will make their mindset changed, that the budget surplus in the proposal will be focused on PKM areas, no longer on a personal interest in this case each participant fees. Most students thought indeed diverse. Start of want to add to the experience as the initial provision to hold a link to the community, or the first step of a dedication. Actually, this program is a proper choice that helps students to develop their creativity, or invite students to develop an idea. But with better monitoring and evaluation from DP2M Dikti as the organizer, it can at least minimize irregularities in PKM.

¹⁹ Pancasila is the official philosophical foundation of the Indonesian state. Pancasila consists of two Old Javanese words (originally from Sanskrit), "pañca" meaning five, and "sīla" meaning principles. It comprises five principles held to be inseparable and interrelated: belief in the divinity of God; just and civilized humanity; the unity of Indonesia; democracy guided by the inner wisdom in the unanimity arising out of deliberations amongst representatives; and social justice for all of the people of Indonesia.

See: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pancasila_%28politics%29 – accessed March 5, 2014

²⁰ Karen Hussmann, *Anti-Corruption Policy Making in Practice: What We Can Learn for the Implementation of Article 5 of UNCAC?* (Norway: U-4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, 2007), 12.

²¹ Hussmann, *Anti-Corruption Policy Making*, 30.

3. Conclusions

Indonesian students as agents of change should be actively in the fight against corruption because the students are the generation that will receive the baton of leadership in the coming era. It is time for PKM as a venue for the prestigious scientific event for Indonesian students to be reformed because it has been found many irregularities so far. One of the most important cases is the manipulation of budget funds in order to get the fee, since implementing program in PKM needs extra hard struggle. The allowing of honorarium inclusion in the program proposal would make their mindset changed, that the budget surplus in the proposal will be focused on program areas, so no longer run on a personal interest (in this case, as illegal honorarium). The fact mentioned above need to be followed by DP2M Dikti as the creator of PKM policy. The noble goal must be reached by a process that is well too. There needs a change to create a realistic mechanism. Do not let the government's effort to develop the scientific treasures defiled by potential of corruption. The study about the corruption risk in PKM must be done in the future as this study is a pioneer that still revealing the surface of the problem.

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