

FINLAND EDUCATION SYSTEM

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Abstract

If viewed from a geographical perspective, Finland is a Scandinavian country in Northern Europe. A quarter of its territory falls within the Arctic Arctic Ocean Circle. Therefore, the population of this small country must be able to maximize the use of all its psychological and physical potential to maintain and prosper their lives. The country has an area of 338,145 km with a population of around 5,518,371 inhabitants and adheres to the socialist (Luthrean-communist) philosophy. Before 1990 Finland relied on the country's income in the agricultural sector, but now Finland is famous as one of the world's technology centers. Finland is able to produce students who are superior compared to students in America in the fields of Science and Mathematics. Like other countries in Europe Finland also adheres to pragmatism. Religious education is the responsibility of each parent. The Finnish government does not charge tuition fees to its citizens. The core curriculum is handled by tripartite training committees (government, industry and education and training providers). The change of leadership of the state does not change the education policy, so that what was previously programmed by the holders of authority on education policy can continue. The result is that in just 14 years Finland has become the number one education country in the world. In one class there are three teachers (two teachers who focus on delivering the material, one teacher accompanying students who are still lagging behind in the lesson). All teachers must have a master's degree. Undergraduate students are no longer allowed to become teachers even in primary school. Prospective teachers come from the top 10 students on campus who will still be screened more closely. In the evaluation of the Finnish education system there are no Minimum Mastery Criteria (KKM) as in Indonesia, and also no national examination (UAN), but they adhere to policies. "Automatic promotion", move up the class automatically. The teacher is always ready to help students who are left behind so that all go up to class. Their motto is "Test Less Learn More" (reduce the test multiply learning). The measure of educational progress according to them is the character of the population not national income, technological advances and military strength. The Finnish government provides a budget of 5,200 Euros per year per student.

Keywords: Finnish Education

A. INTRODUCTION

If seen geographically, Finland is a Scandinavian country in Northern Europe. A quarter of its territory falls within the Arctic Sea Circle (an area close to the north polar zone with climatic conditions that are nearly equal to the polar climate). At the northernmost point of Finland, the sun does not set for 73 days in summer, and does not rise for 51 days in winter. Thus the inhabitants of this zone must be able to adjust to their nature. Therefore, the population of this small country must be able to maximize the use of all its psychological and physical potential to maintain and prosper their lives. Since before the 12th century Finland has always been under threat of expansion from Russia. Therefore, in the 12th century Finland asked Sweden to protect it, but instead the neighbor (Sweden) even colonized Finland. Nevertheless in

1721 Russia began to occupy Finland. But on December 6, 1917 Finland became independent from Russia. Finland is bordered by Russia, Sweden and Norway and the government is a republic.

Finland officially became part of the European community in March 1992. The official name of this country is the Republic of Finland. The country has an area of 338,145 km with a population of around 5,518,371 inhabitants. The state philosophy of this small country follows the socialist (Luthrean-communist) philosophy. Perhaps this is a result of its proximity to the Soviet Union or Russia at this time. Based on data in the Global Monitoring Report 2011: The Hidden Crisis, Armed Conflict and Education issued by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) launched in New York, the index of educational development or "Education Development Index" (EDI) based on data from 2011 Indonesia ranks 69th out of 127 countries in the world, 2 while Finland ranks highest in reading, science and mathematics. Until now Finland is still one of the countries with the best education in the world.

The total EDI is obtained from adding up the acquisition rating categories, namely:

- a. Primary education participation rate
- b. Numbers are able to read at the age of 15 years and over
- c. Participation rates according to gender equality
- d. Student survival rates up to grade V in primary schools

Before 1990 Finland relied on the country's income in the agricultural sector, but now Finland is famous as one of the world's technology centers. From 2000 Finnish students entered the highest ranks in the ranks of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). This progress is a result of the development of education by the Finnish government. With limited resources and a smaller education budget (\$ 3,000 dollars, less than the US count per child), Finland is able to produce students who are superior compared to students in America in the fields of Science and Mathematics. Nokia mobile phones are one of the flagship products of this small polar country.

B. DISCUSSION

The rapid development of education in Finland is closely related to the following elements:

1. State and political philosophy

As it is known that philosophy and politics is the spirit of education in a country even considered as aqidah of the education system that is being run. Finland's state philosophy is socialist (communist). This is a result of the influence of Sweden and Russia as a country that had colonized it. This socialist ideology helped color the education system in Finland, which is the school of pragmatism. Religious education is given to each parent. Schools only teach ethics, discipline and values of kindness alone. Before 1990 the Finnish executive body wanted Finland to advance in technology. For this reason in 1990 the Finnish government did decentralizing education and holding a number of major policies in education such as a rigorous national curriculum changed to be very flexible. The National Board of Education compiles a national core curriculum and qualification guidelines, specifying objectives, content and assessment indicators. The core curriculum is handled by tripartite training committees (government, industry and education and training providers) in the form of a body consisting of experts under the Ministry of Education to provide advice in planning and developing education including vocational education and training. Like other countries in the world, Finland always changes its leadership (its president and executive body), but this political change does not change educational policies, so what was previously programmed by the power holders on educational policy can continue. The result was that in just 14 years Finland became the number one education country in the world.

2. Teacher

In Finland teachers are a highly valued profession even though their salaries are not high (3400 Euros equivalent to 42 million rupiah per month). This is reinforced by a very strict teacher recruitment policy in Finland so that teachers become a prestigious profession. In comparison, in America 47% of teachers come from 1/3 students from the lower rank (academic), in Finland prospective teachers come from the top 10 students on campus who will still be screened more tightly. The best students of high school graduates choose the teaching faculty as the first choice then the new medicine and engineering. In the training period prospective teachers are accompanied by one senior teacher who will provide feedback on the material to be taught and how to teach in class. Thus teacher candidates will have more to gain from the experience of senior teachers. The teaching profession in Finland is very interesting and challenging. Teachers even have an important role in curriculum development and change. Assessment (assessment) of student learning outcomes is greater

carried out by teachers in the classroom not by the national examination system. This is made because the classroom teacher is more familiar with the ability of children in detail and overall.

In Finland teachers are not only teachers but they are also experts in the field of curriculum, the curriculum in Finland differs between schools but still runs under official government guidelines. In one class there are three teachers (two teachers who focus on delivering the material, one teacher accompanying students who are still lagging behind in the lesson). The Finnish government also sets high standards for the teaching profession. All teachers must hold a master's degree (S1 is no longer allowed to become a teacher even in primary school). The selection process for teaching staff is very strict, only those who occupy the top 10 ranks of college graduates / teacher faculties can be accepted as teachers. Those who pass this selection still have to go through a complex training process first before being declared ready to engage in the teaching profession. Finland believes that teachers are the main capital to produce students or citizens who excel.

3. Educational process

Education in Finland emphasizes the importance of early diagnosis and intervention on difficulties or obstacles faced by students in learning. Unlike most countries which generally detect difficulties by conducting evaluations which usually only measure one component (cognitive test). Finland acts in a different way. Education in Finland believes that early diagnosis or detection and early intervention are part of the teaching and learning process that must be carried out. So that every child who has difficulty in learning will be detected early and provided individual assistance as soon as possible to avoid or deal with the problem.

Class teachers in Finland can do this because the number of teachers can reach three people for one class. In addition only 4 hours a teacher teaches a day in Finland and added 2 hours for self-development in a week. Teachers in this OECD teach an average of 703 hours a year, whereas teachers in Finland teach only 592 hours a year). Extra teacher time in Finland is more widely used to support students who need special attention. Students who need special attention will be taken to separate classes and individual learning plans are provided. In this way, education in Finland guarantees that no student is left behind in learning. This action they do very elegantly. In Finland there is even a saying that "special students are students who have never received special attention during their education". This indicates that in Finland giving special attention to students is very important. Support for teachers who find students

who need special attention is provided through the "student development team" in every school in Finland. The student development team consists of class teachers, school psychologists, education counselors, and school principals. This team meets every week to discuss cases encountered by students such as violence, learning difficulties, and non-social behavior, so the teacher does not feel alone in handling students who need special attention. Each case is sought individually.

4. Evaluation and education products

In the evaluation of the Finnish education system there are no Minimum Mastery Criteria (KKM) as in Indonesia, and there is also no national exam (UAN), but they adhere to the "automatic promotion" policy, move up the class automatically. The teacher is always ready to help students who are left behind so that all go up to class. If most countries believe that examinations and evaluations for students are a very important part of the quality of education, Finland thinks otherwise "Test Less Learn More". Many evaluations that destroy student learning goals. The effect of examinations (many examinations) is that teachers tend to teach students to pass exams solely. Studying only wants to get good and special academic grades. The understanding and application factors are underestimated. Evaluation of learning outcomes nationally is done without the slightest government intervention. Because every school and even the teacher has full power to arrange their own curriculum in accordance with the needs of the school and make their own exams. Students who are less responsive will get more intensive guidance.

At the age of 18 students only need to take a matriculation examination to enter college. This is also for students who plan to enter college only. Only about two-thirds of high school graduates continue their education to college. The rest entered the workforce. The Finnish education system has ranked Finland as the best in the world, the United States ranks 17. The student achievement record is the best in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries and in the world in reading skills, mathematics and science. This is the result achieved by Finnish students in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) test. The United States and Europe and the rest of the world are shocked at what the North Pole has gained, because previously it was an unknown little agrarian country.

5. Culture of Education

Finnish society highly values education. This can be seen mainly from the community's appreciation of the teaching profession. The familiar family

atmosphere between students' parents and teachers is very much felt in Finnish homes. Very few parents force their children to achieve high and even this they do within reasonable reach. Finland uses an educational philosophy which states that everyone has something to contribute and those who have difficulty in certain subjects should not be left behind. The parents of Finnish students also contribute to this impressive school achievement. There is a culture of reading among children at home and families must hold regular contact with their children's teachers. Teaching is a prestigious career in Finland. Children learn in a relaxed and informal atmosphere.

6. Education costs

Finland's education budget is indeed slightly higher than the average European country. The Finnish government provides a budget of 5,200 Euros per year per student. Leo Pahkin, education counselor from the Finnish National Education Agency said, every year there are around 52,000 students who enter primary school. Thus, the budget provided by the government for primary education students reaches Rp 3.64 trillion per year.

7. The Finnish education system

The government pays more attention to education than other sectors, because in this way other sectors will automatically develop themselves. If in developed countries impose a "standardized test" to measure student progress in school, Finland does not do this. The Finnish education system believes that students' abilities are not the same, so conducting standard tests for all students does not produce good quality education at all. In addition, education in Finland does not motivate students to be the smartest in their schools (no competition), but rather emphasizes how to form a "learning community" that combines teachers as educators, students as students, and the community as part of education, so that collaboration this makes education superior because everyone feels responsible for the education process. Another interesting thing, the majority of schools in Finland do not "sell" names. But the quality of all schools in Finland is the same, so there is no difference. Parents can easily choose any school for their children without having to doubt the quality of the school. What distinguishes it is only on two things: Each school has a different foreign language lessons and special sports, so parents can choose the foreign language and the best sports for their children.

Primary and secondary schools are combined, so students do not need to change schools at the age of 13. In this way they avoid the transition period

that can interfere from one school to another. Education in Finland also does not require students to do a lot of homework or assignments, when compared to America which imposes students to do homework for 2-3 hours / day then Finland only imposes a maximum of 30 minutes / day. They believe "homework doesn't make you smart". Every student does not have the same ability to do the same test. For example when doing a "medical checkup" there is no need to suck up all the blood in the body to find out what disease is contracted, but just by taking a few drops. Likewise in the scope of education, there is no need to test all students but enough with a "randomized sample" to represent, but with valid procedures and systems. Finland also applies anticipatory education for every baby born to its family given a "maternity package" containing 3 books to read for the mother, father, and baby itself. The reason is that early childhood basic education is the first and most critical stage of learning in lifelong learning. 90% of brain growth occurs in toddlers and 85% of brain paths develop before children enter elementary school (7 years).

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a small country can achieve rank one while other small countries that have also been developed such as Iceland, Norway, New Zealand have not been able to achieve the best ranking in PISA. Eventually all OECD members were recognized that Finland's education system was the best in the world because its educational policies were consistent for more than 40 years even though the governing party changed. In general, the educational policies of China and South Korea (and Singapore) are also consistent and the results are growing rapidly. The Finnish education system emphasizes guidance for students who have learning difficulties. Finland is optimistic that the best results can only be achieved when paying more attention to students who are less than over-emphasizing targets to students who excel. Thus, no children feel left behind. Finland has proven capable of producing outstanding students in the academic field without having to follow conventional academic standardization.

8. Vocational / vocational education

When viewed in terms of levels, in Finland vocational education is the same as in Indonesia, which starts at the secondary education level. After nine years of comprehensive public school (16-year-old student), students can choose to go to a high school, an educational institution that prepares students for tertiary education, or can also enter vocational / vocational high school. Both forms of secondary education are three years long, and provide formal qualifications for graduates. Graduates of general education can continue to public universities and polytechnics, but vocational education graduates can only enter polytechnics or directly work. Education in vocational high schools is also free as in public schools. Students from low-income families can get scholarships from the state for higher education. The curriculum emphasizes vocational material and is always adapted to the needs of the workforce. Vocational schools are mostly managed by the city government.

9. Educational objectives

What measures the progress of education according to them is the character of the population not national income, technological progress and military power are not benchmarks for the progress of a country. In certain fields (eg police schools, training of personnel to control ground traffic, etc.), entry requirements for vocational schools such as this must be graduated from public high schools, this causes students to graduate vocational high schools to be forced to complete their secondary education two times if you want to enter special education like this.

10. Finnish education policies

1. Homework (PR) is given as little as possible. It only takes a maximum of half an hour to study at home.
2. Teachers who teach in elementary schools must all graduate S2 and even then must be the top ten from the teaching faculty.
3. In Finland the teacher is free to choose the learning plan (RPP) and the textbook according to his consideration.
4. In the learning process almost all teachers create a method of teaching that is fun (learning is fun) intrinsic motivation is the key word for student success.
5. In class settings in Finland there are no class caste (special or plus classes and regular classes, regular and non-regular classes or bilingual schools). Private schools get the same amount of funds as public schools.
6. English begins to be taught in grade III elementary school.
7. The number of days of schooling in Finland is only 190 days per year (Indonesia 220 days per year. The number of days off is 30 times more than in Indonesia). They are of the view that more and more holidays children are getting smarter, and during the holidays there should be no homework. This will make school holidays not fun. The learning atmosphere is very relaxed, because many instructions will make a child depressed.

11. Matters that support the advancement of education in Finland

- 1) Every child is required to learn English and read one book every Sunday. Education fees are not collected at all from kindergarten to college.
- 2) Compulsory education is applied to every child from the age of seven to 16 years.
- 3) During education takes place the teacher accompanies the learning process of each student, more so to students who are rather slow. Even for students who are weak the school prepares teachers to assist the teacher and they are given a private course.
- 4) Every teacher must make an evaluation of student learning progress every day.
- 5) There is special attention for students in primary school (age 7 years), because for them solving problems of learning in primary school is much easier than for students who are 14 years old.
- 6) Parents are free to choose the school for their children because the quality difference between schools is very small.

- 7) All learning and teaching facilities are paid for or prepared by the state.
- 8) The state pays approximately 200 thousand Euros per student to be able to complete their studies up to the tertiary level.
- 9) All students (poor and rich) have the same opportunity to learn and achieve their goals because they are borne by the state.
- 10) The government does not hesitate to spend funds to improve the quality of education.
- 11) Food and drink at school and transportation are all borne by the state.
- 12) Education costs are obtained from local, provincial and national level taxes.
- 13) Regarding teacher welfare, each teacher receives 3400 Euros per month or equivalent to 42 million rupiah. The teacher is not only a teacher but also prepared as an education expert.
- 14) Elementary and junior high schools no longer issue diplomas, bearing in mind the demands of the world of work today, they do not require diplomas from these two levels of education. To enter junior high school is enough to show only report cards as well as from junior high school to high school. Diplomas are only given at the high school level.
- 15) Finland publishes more books for children than any other country in the world.
- 16) The outcome of this policy of a 25% increase in Finland's national income is contributed by improving the quality of education.
- 17) According to them the measure of a country's progress is not national income, not technological progress, not military power, but the character of its population. This can only be fostered through education.
- 18) Finland's education curriculum is not as dense as the curriculum applied in other countries, especially Asian countries. Children in Finland spend less time at school than children in other countries. School breaks are also longer, which is 75 minutes, compared to countries such as the United States that limit 30 minutes of rest. They were also given fewer tasks. In addition, Finnish children start academic education at the age of 7 years, in contrast to most countries that start academic education of children at a younger age (Indonesia 6-year-old children are allowed to elementary school).

C. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that when viewed in terms of philosophy, education in Finland is subject to the philosophy of pragmatism which only concerns worldly education. The school curriculum is made by tripartite (schools, education experts and companies / industrialists). In the process of learning education in Scandinavia, they embrace the concept of a humanistic curriculum that

is centered on students, students are the central point of education (student centered). Students are given the broadest freedom. Students are not given homework. In the evaluation system, education in this country does very little to evaluate even the national final examination (UAN) does not exist. Educational administration is decentralized and education costs are all borne by the state (free). The teacher gets a very respectable place. Therefore the teaching faculty in this country are more in demand than the faculties of medicine, engineering and others. The teacher screening process is very strict. Which may be accepted as a teacher is that has a master's degree and he entered into the top 10 academic grades in his class. Lesser study hours compared to other countries (countries in the OECD). School breaks are longer at 75 minutes, compared to countries such as the United States, which limit 30 minutes.

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