

## **Counseling on the Implementation of Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) Program at Indragiri Islamic University (UNISI) Tembilahan City, Riau Province**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) program, which the Ministry of Education and Culture has launched, a study program is needed that is ready to implement the MBKM program in the curriculum of the study program. For this reason, the MBKM program needs to be disseminated to all state universities and private universities to prepare themselves to implement this government program. Not all universities have the resources to socialize the implementation of MBKM activities in their respective campuses. For this reason, it is necessary to propose Community Service (PKM) activities by the Universitas Riau team for helping the government to socialize the MBKM Program to Private Universities in Riau Province. Especially for universities that are far from the reach of assistance by the central government through the PKM Postgraduate funds of the Universitas Riau. Therefore, this PKM activity chose private partner universities, namely the Indragiri Islamic University (UNISI) in Tembilahan, Indragiri Hilir Regency, Riau Province. The PKM Team conducts MBKM activities in the form of counselling at partner universities in Tembilahan. The activity preparation period to activity reporting is carried out for eight weeks. The target of the resulting activity is the implementation of outreach activities and socialization of the Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) Program at UNISI and the documentation of UNISI's MBKM activities through social media and scientific publications.

**Keywords:** Community Service, Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) Program, Partner Universities

### **INTRODUCTION**

This community service activity is an activity to improve the quality of graduates and lecturers in line with the development of new regulations related to the Independent Learning-Independent Campus (MBKM) for non-health undergraduate students in all universities in Indonesia. The government expects higher education institutions to facilitate, encourage, and accelerate study programs to achieve 8 (eight) Main Performance Indicators (IKU PT). IKU PT is stipulated through the Decree of the Minister of Education and Culture Number 754/P/2020 concerning IKU PTN and LLDikti within the Ministry of Education and Culture 2020 (Dirjen DIKTI Kemendikbud, 2020).

A study program is needed that is ready to implement the MBKM program in the curriculum of the study program. For this reason, this program needs to be disseminated to all state universities and private universities so that they can prepare themselves to implement this government program. Various independent-learning patterns were applied by the study program, including those used by the Language and Literature Education Study Program (Sudaryanto, Widayati, & Amalia, 2020) and various study programs in other fields of science (Baharuddin, 2021). Implementing MBKM requires readiness from higher education institutions (Widiyono, Irfana, & Firdausia, 2020). Not all universities have the resources to socialize the implementation of MBKM activities in their respective campuses. It is necessary to provide guidance and assistance in Community Service (PKM) activities by the Universitas Riau team to participate in helping the government socialize the MBKM Program to private universities in Riau Province. Especially for universities that are far from the central government's reach through PKM funds. Postgraduate Universitas Riau. Therefore, this PKM activity carried out MBKM socialization activities for private university partners, namely the Indragiri Islamic University (UNISI) in Tembilahan.

The history of the establishment of UNISI began with the commitment of the Datuk Bandar Education Foundation (YPDB) in improving human resources in the field of education, namely by establishing the Sri Gemilang Economic College Tembilahan. This College of Economics was established based on the Decree of the Director-General of Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Culture Number: 2559/D/TR/97 dated October 20, 1997, and a further step in the implementation of higher education in Indragiri Hilir Regency. Its establishment was based on the Recommendation Letter of Kopertis X Number: 287/004/KL/1999 dated April 23, 1999, as well as the results of the assessment and observation of the Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia in July 1999, which was later stated in the Decree of the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia Number: 17/D/O/ 1999 dated July 13, 1999, concerning the Establishment of the Sri Gemilang College of Economics in Tembilahan (UNISI, 2021).

In 2007, on the initiative and idea of Dr H. Indra Mukhlis Adnan, SH., MH. Tasik Gemilang Foundation was formed. The formation of a team tasked with preparing for establishing the Indragiri Islamic University (UNISI) in Tembilahan worked through this foundation. The merger between STIE Sri Gemilang and the Indragiri Agricultural Polytechnic was carried out as the initial step of the establishment. Indragiri Islamic University, which consists of 5 (five) faculties and 11 (eleven) Study Programs, was inaugurated on June 16, 2008, at the Engku Kelana Tembilahan Building. Dr H. Sufian, SH., M. Si as the first Chancellor of the Islamic University of Indragiri (UNISI, 2021).

UNISI needs to collaborate with various related partners, both state universities and private parties, in carrying out academic tasks. One of the university partners for UNISI is the Universitas Riau, a state university in Riau located in Pekanbaru. The location of the UNISI campus is approximately 293 KM from Pekanbaru City. This location is in the city of Tembilahan and can be reached by driving by land for about 5 hours drive. The topography of the town of Tembilahan, known as the city of a thousand trenches, consists of peatland and can be reached more than 5 hours away due to road infrastructure that is undergoing repairs.

UNISI is a private university and an Islamic-based university located in the Tembilahan area, Riau - Indonesia. Aspects of human resources owned by UNISI consist of 212 permanent lecturers and non-permanent lecturers. There are 83 male lecturers and 50 female lecturers among the permanent lecturers. Based on the functional position, UNISI has two lecturers with the status of Head Lector, 89 lecturers with the active position of Lector, 31 Expert Assistants and 11 lecturers who do not yet have a functional level. (Kemendikbud, 2021).

The Higher Education Database (PD-Dikti) reporting Odd Semester 2019/2020 (Kemendikbud, 2021) shows that UNISI has 2472 active students spread over seven faculties and 19 study programs. With the number of students exceeding two thousand people, it is appropriate for the MBKM program to be implemented at this university. The MBKM activity is a right for students, while the university is obliged to facilitate it. Due to limited lecturer resources and the varying level of understanding of MBKM activities, the Universitas Riau team felt the need to help UNISI implement MBKM activities on campus through outreach activities and outreach for MBKM activities. This service activity aims to help partner universities understand the government's program for the MBKM through outreach activities to facilitate and accelerate the implementation of the MBKM program in study programs within the university. Extension activities in academic institutions such as this have also been successfully carried out in mentoring activities for pedagogical and professional skills training of educators by Ghasya & Kartono (2021) and in mentoring activities for making problem-based learning worksheets by Handayani, Andayani, & Warsihna (2021) for elementary school teachers.

It is hoped that this activity can contribute to partner universities, namely UNISI, in implementing MBKM activities and preparing MBKM implementation documents and can improve the quality of graduates. The target community involved in this activity is the academic community of partner universities, namely the Indragiri Islamic University (UNISI) Tembilahan, which includes

students, lecturers and university leaders. The target of the activity is to provide counselling and socialization of the MBKM program to the UNISI academic community.

### **METHOD**

The activity began with online discussions with partner universities to dig up information and plan outreach activities and prepare socialization materials and mentor for implementing the MBKM Program at the UNISI Tembilahan Campus. The design of the work starts from the analysis of the problem. The implementation steps in this counselling are:

- a) The team understood the implementation of the MBKM Program through outreach activities.
- b) The team assists in the preparation of the MBKM curriculum document of study program.
- c) The team provides good practice from Universitas Riau's experience in implementing MBKM Program.
- d) The form of service activity is in the form of counselling which will be held on September 13, 2021, at the Inhil Pratama Hotel meeting building, which was attended by 30 participants from UNISI lecturers representing all faculties.
- e) Activities are published in various print and electronic mass media and broadcast through local television channels.
- f) The final condition that is expected in this activity is the formation of the Partner College MBKM team and the availability of MBKM Program implementation documents at partner universities.

Furthermore, to measure the success of the activity, it can be measured from the indicators of the success of the outputs that have been planned at the initial stage of the activity proposal, namely in the form of:

- a) The existence of the Indragiri Islamic University MBKM Team and a draft document for the implementation of MBKM at the Indragiri Islamic University
- b) The existence of a Sinta accredited Publication Journal
- c) Publication on print and online social media

### **RESULTS**

The implementation of MBKM and UNRI's experience in obtaining grants from the ministry from 2020 to 2021 are presented in the 2nd material. The closing activity of the counselling was carried out with a photo of the activity participants. This outreach activity was published in printed and electronic social media, including through the Riau Pos Daily newspaper, on September 23, 2021. In addition, this service activity is also posted on local television media Gemilang TV (GGTV) and uploaded on the youtube channel at the link: [https://youtu.be/rL7IJz\\_6NXA](https://youtu.be/rL7IJz_6NXA) on September 14, 2021, in the program Inhil News event. This community service activity was warmly welcomed by the campus as conveyed by the Deputy Chancellor for Academic Affairs Gunawan Sahrantau, SP. M. It is hoped that in the future, such outreach activities can be transmitted to partner institutions of Private Higher Education (PTS) in Riau Province.

### **DISCUSSION**

The implementation of the activity began with remarks from the head of the community service activity team at the University of Riau. The team leader explained the purpose of socializing the MBKM Activity for partner universities to establish cooperation between institutions and give students the right to study 3 semesters to learn outside their study program. Thus, students get a learning experience with additional competencies that can enrich the student experience before entering the world of work. In this counselling and mentoring activity, participants consisted of representatives from the head of the study program at UNISI. The latter was present to get enlightenment about the preparation and implementation of the MBKM Program on the UNISI Tembilahan campus.

The activity's opening was continued with remarks from the Chancellor of UNISI, Dr Najamuddin, Lc.MA explained the condition of aThe academic atmosphere at UNISI is starting to improve towards a private university campus that implements the MBKM program. The first material for the socialization activity was the implementation and sharing of experiences in implementing MBKM at the Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB) Universitas Riau (UNRI)

### **CONCLUSIONS And RECOMMENDATIONS**

Community service activities in the form of counselling and socializing the MBKM activities at the Indragiri Islamic University (UNISI) Campus were held on September 13, 2021, attended by 30 university leaders and lecturers representing study programs at UNISI. The activity lasted one whole day by presenting three materials which included socialization of MBKM directions and policies, sharing experiences related to MBKM implementation at the University of Riau and MBKM implementation strategies for the UNISI campus. Through MBKM activities, students get new experiences by studying three semesters or the equivalent of 60 credits outside their study program. It is hoped that through MBKM activities, students can improve their skills and skills before entering the world of work after completing their studies in their study program in the future. Based on observations in the field, the service team recommended that the implementation of counselling and mentoring activities for the MBKM activities be carried out continuously and need to be evaluated in its performance. The condition of partner universities located far from the provincial capital makes it difficult for partners to carry out student exchange activities offline. Still, the MBKM partnership program through online student exchange is beneficial for universities in implementing MBKM on the UNISI campus. In addition, a good speed internet network is needed to connect with partner institutions. The implementing MBKM can be budgeted in the finances of each university. Thus, any difficulties related to MBKM activities can be anticipated immediately before its implementation in the following semester.

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## APPENDIX



**Figure 1.** The leader of the service team is giving a speech



**Figure 2.** Counselling participants consist of representatives from the head of the study program at UNISI



**Figure 3.** The community service team at the Universitas Riau with extension participants consisting of the Chancellor and UNISI lecturers