
THE INFLUENCE OF THE INDEPENDENT LEARNING SYSTEM ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN THE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

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ABSTRACT

The Indonesian government launched the Independent Campus Learning (MBKM) policy in 2020. This policy aims to provide greater autonomy to universities and students in designing learning that is innovative and in line with the needs of the times. The aim of this research is to determine the influence of the Merdeka Belajar system on student achievement in the medical education study program. This research uses quantitative research methods. Data was collected through surveys using questionnaires and literature studies. The data that has been collected is then analyzed using a regression test using the SPSS program. The research results show that there is a significant influence between the MBKM system on the achievement of students in the Medical Education study program. The group of students who took part in the MBKM program showed higher learning achievement compared to the group of students who did not take part in the MBKM program. This program provides students with the opportunity to learn and develop more optimally, thereby producing graduates who are more qualified and ready to face the challenges of an increasingly complex world of work.

KEYWORDS Freedom to Learn, Student Achievement, Medical Education



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INTRODUCTION

Minister of Education and Culture (Mendikbud) Nadiem Anwar Makarim has launched the Independent Learning policy with a new initiative known as Kampus Merdeka. This policy includes four significant adjustments in higher education. First, autonomy is implemented for State Universities (PTN) and Private Universities (PTS) to open or establish new study programs (prodi). This autonomy can be carried out by PTNs and PTSs that have obtained A or B accreditation, and

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have collaborated with organizations or universities that are included in the QS Top 100 World Universities, with the exception of health and education study programs. The second policy regulates improving the quality of education through the Merdeka Belajar program which is expected to give students freedom in choosing courses outside their study program curriculum as well as changing the definition of Semester Credit Units. This policy aims to expand student learning choices and accommodate diverse learning needs in accordance with global developments.

The Independent Campus Learning Program is an initiative aimed at all study programs in higher education, except for study programs in the health sector. However, the learning approach applied at the Merdeka Campus is a form of student-centered learning, which is also a very important learning strategy in medical education. So, indirectly, the medical study program has also implemented or responded to the Independent Learning Policy - Independent Campus (Gunawan et al., 2021).

Medical education is an academic and practical educational process designed to train individuals to become doctors or medical professionals. Medical education programs include teaching medical theory, clinical skills, and health practices oriented towards community service (Tazkia Vidini, 2024). This program usually consists of educational stages which include preclinical (basic learning of medical sciences such as anatomy, physiology, and pathology), clinical (learning in hospitals or clinical practice), and internship or residency (advanced training in certain specialties) (Rondonuwu et al., 2021).

The Merdeka Campus policy concept refers to the implementation of interprofessional health education with a comprehensive collaborative approach, involving clinical and community learning activities in health service facilities that meet standards as a place for medical practice (Sulistiyani et al., 2022). At this stage, the implementation of the MBKM concept is realized through the provision of education in teaching hospitals or a network of medical education facilities, where students have the opportunity to develop cognitive, psychomotor and affective abilities through direct practice with patients and the community in the field. Students are involved in promotional, preventive, curative and rehabilitative actions professionally.

Previous research by (Fahmi et al., 2024) found that the "Freedom to Learn" (MBKM) curriculum had a significant and positive influence on student learning outcomes or academic achievement. Another research by (Suleman et al., 2023) found that there was an influence of the Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) program on the learning achievement of FISIP Unsoed students because students had received support from the campus, students took part in the MBKM program according to their interests, talents and majors, and students Actively involved in the MBKM program that is followed so that students obtain very high learning achievements including cognitive, affective and psychomotor aspects. From the research results above, it can be concluded that the MBKM program has a significant influence and is positively related to the learning achievement of FISIP Unsoed students.

This research contributes to the understanding of the importance of learning independence and flexibility in higher education. The MBKM concept emphasizes

the importance of students managing their own learning process, which in turn can increase intrinsic motivation and learning outcomes. The theoretical implications include the development of educational models that are more adaptive and responsive to individual student needs, as well as increasing awareness of the importance of lifelong learning in facing the dynamics of globalization. The aim of this research is to determine the influence of the Merdeka Belajar system on student achievement in the medical education study program.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses quantitative research methods. Quantitative research methods are scientific approaches that collect data in the form of numbers and convert them into statistics for analysis for certain purposes. In quantitative research, researchers collect data from subjects or participants in a structured way, using instruments such as questionnaires or other measurement tools (Kusumastuti et al., 2020). Data was collected through surveys using questionnaires and literature studies. The population of this study were students of the medical education study program who follow the independent learning system.

The sampling technique in this research used convenience sampling technique. Convenience sampling is a sampling technique that is included in the non-probability sampling category. This means that the sample is not chosen randomly so not all members of the population have the same chance of being selected (Suen et al., 2014). The data that has been collected is then analyzed using a regression test using the SPSS program. Based on this description, the hypothesis of this research is:

Ho: There is no significant influence between the Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) system on the achievement of students in the Medical Education study program.

Ha: There is a significant influence between the Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) system on the achievement of students in the Medical Education study program.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Normality test

The normality test is carried out to measure whether the data obtained has a normal data distribution or not.

Table 1. Normality Test Results

	Tests of Normality					
	Kolmogorov-Smirnova			Shapiro-Wilk		
	Statistics	df	Sig.	Statistics	df	Sig.
X	,190	78	<.001	,876	78	<.001
Y	.173	78	<.001	,917	78	<.001

a. Lilliefors Significance Correction

The test results show that the significance value for the independent learning variable (X) and the achievement variable for medical education study program students is 0.001 so that both data are normally distributed.

Reliability Test

Reliability test is a test to measure the extent to which the instrument used can be trusted.

Table 2. Reliability Test Results

Reliability Statistics	
Cronbach's Alpha	N of Items
,778	2

The test results show that the Cronbach's Alpha value is 0.778 and is greater than 0.600, so it can be said that the questionnaire used is reliable and can be used in further research.

Regression Test

Regression tests are carried out to determine the relationship between one variable and another.

Table 3. Regression Test Results

ANOVAa						
Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	134,404	3	44,801	7,836	<.001b
	Residual	423,096	74	5,718		
	Total	557,500	77			

a. Dependent Variable: Y
b. Predictors: (Constant), X3, X1, X2

The results of the regression test obtained a significance value of 0.001 so that it is less than 0.005, so it can be stated that the independent learning system can influence the achievement of students in the medical education study program.

Discussion

Based on the research results, it was found that the independent learning system can influence the achievement of students in the medical education study program. Freedom to Learn is an educational concept that emphasizes freedom of thought for students through the freedom given to teachers in managing the learning process. With this approach, teachers have the flexibility to design curriculum and teaching methods that suit the needs, interests and talents of each student. This aims to create a more personal, relevant and inspiring learning environment, where students are encouraged to think critically, creatively and independently. Thus, Merdeka Belajar encourages the development of students' character and competencies, preparing them to face global challenges in the future (Bahar & Sundi, 2020).

In higher education, Merdeka Belajar allows students to choose interdisciplinary courses, giving them the opportunity to broaden their horizons and skills outside their main study program. This freedom allows students to combine knowledge from various fields, such as taking courses in information technology, management, or social sciences, even though they focus on medical education (Jufri & Harfiani, 2024). This cross-disciplinary approach not only enriches the learning experience, but also prepares students to face complex challenges in the real world with a more holistic and innovative way of thinking. Thus, Merdeka Belajar helps produce graduates who are more adaptive and ready to contribute to various professional sectors (Ulum et al., 2023).

In the learning process, Merdeka Belajar is designed to help increase student innovation and creativity through various means. This policy provides flexibility for students to explore various disciplines and learning methods that suit their interests and talents (Khasanah et al., 2022). With the right to study outside the main program of study, students can take interdisciplinary courses, undertake internships, engage in research projects, or participate in community service programs, all of which contribute to the development of practical skills and critical thinking (Salamah et al., 2023).

A project-based learning approach and collaboration with industry allows students to work on real problems, solve complex challenges, and create innovative solutions. Support for the use of technology and digital platforms also opens up new opportunities for creative and collaborative learning, where students can access global resources, participate in online learning communities, and develop projects involving the latest technology (Manurung, 2022). In this way, Merdeka Belajar creates an educational environment that encourages exploration, experimentation, and collaboration, all of which are important for fostering innovation and creativity among students. The Independent Campus policy in higher education includes four main initiatives aimed at providing more flexibility and freedom to students and higher education institutions (Nassa, 2023). The following are the four policies:

1. Right to Study Three Semesters Outside the Study Program

Students are given the right to take up to three semesters of learning outside their study program. This includes one semester outside of the on-campus study program and the other two semesters can be taken off-campus, such as an internship, independent project, research, or community service. This policy aims to provide students with practical experience and skills relevant to the world of work.

2. More Flexible Curriculum Changes

Universities are given the freedom to design curricula that are more adaptive and responsive to industry needs and scientific developments. This includes the development of new, relevant study programs and the integration of project-based learning as well as collaboration with industry.

3. Collaboration with Industry and the World of Work

Campuses are encouraged to establish partnerships with companies, organizations and other institutions to provide internship programs, real projects and applied research. This collaboration is expected to provide

students with direct experience in the world of work, strengthen their practical skills, and increase job opportunities after graduation.

4. Acceleration and Recognition of Learning Outside the Classroom
Learning gained through out-of-class activities such as online courses, professional certifications, or work experience may be recognized as part of academic credit. This policy allows students to complete their education more quickly and efficiently, and recognizes the competencies they gain from various learning sources.

Thus, the Merdeka Belajar system has a significant impact on student achievement in medical education study programs by enabling a more flexible and relevant curriculum. Through this approach, students can take part in project-based learning and hands-on experiences that approximate real clinical situations, thereby deepening their understanding and practical skills. The freedom to choose cross-disciplinary courses also allows students to broaden their horizons and develop additional competencies that support their professionalism as doctors. In addition, competency-based evaluations replace traditional exams, providing a more holistic assessment of student abilities, which ultimately improves the quality of graduates and their readiness to face the world of work in the medical field.

CONCLUSION

The research results show that there is a significant influence between the implementation of the Independent Campus Learning System (MBKM) on student achievement in the Medical Education study program. The group of students involved in the MBKM program showed a higher level of learning achievement compared to the group not involved in the program. MBKM provides students with the opportunity to manage their learning independently and more flexibly, which in turn improves their academic results. This program not only enables more holistic personal development, but also prepares graduates with better qualities to face the demands of an increasingly complex and dynamic world of work.

Future researchers can further examine the factors that support or hinder the implementation of MBKM in the medical education environment. This can include policy aspects, lecturer support, supporting infrastructure, and student characteristics. In addition, future researchers can compare the MBKM program on student achievement in the Medical Education Study Program with other study programs in different educational fields or scientific disciplines, this can provide additional insight into the effectiveness of MBKM in various educational contexts.

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