

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGY IN SHAPING THE INDEPENDENCE OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AT SLB SMART SHOOOL PACET

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### Abstract

*Independence is a power that comes from within us, which is formed through the process and experience to become more independent and continue to try to achieve the best. In terms of learning, independence is very influential on a person's success. Therefore, independent attitude is the key to anyone who wants to achieve everything. The problem in this study departed from the number of many embarrassed parents of having children with special needs, finally the child did not have the opportunity to sit in school, interact with his peers and developed to be more independent. In addition, children are still difficult to develop their vocational skills. Therefore, the vocational education strategy is needed which is able to develop the potential of the students. The purpose of this study is to analyze children's vocational education, to determine the independence of children when at home before school and when they are in school through vocational education, and to find out the vocational education strategy in shaping children's independence. This research uses this type of research. Data collection methods through observation, interviews and documentation. The data analysis technique of this study with 4 lines, namely data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion withdrawal. The results of this study are: 1. The independence of children at SLB Smart School Pacet is already visible in the learning process created by the supervising teachers, 2. Vocational education for children at SLB Smart School Pacet includes make-up, batik, dancing culinary arts, and housekeeping, 3. The independence of children when they are at home before school is very different from the independence when children are already at school at SLB Smart School Pacet, children can develop their potential, 4. Vocational education strategy, namely each child will be adjusted to their respective disabilities and abilities, so that later they can be placed in a vocational field that is of interest and appropriate, in this vocational education will form their independence, so that the output of children can compete and be accepted by the industrial market, where jobs will be provided from companies that have collaborated with SLB Smart School Pacet.*

**Keywords:** Vocational Education, Independence, The Child with Special Needed.

### INTRODUCTION

Vocational education or vocational education has a very important role in providing children with special needs (ABK) with skills that enable them to independently in everyday life. Independence or independent people will show the behavior of explorations. In addition, it can also ask critically, not afraid to do something, to meet the realization of its activities, to accept environmental statements and manipulation, as well as interacting with colleagues. Lack of teen



independence will produce various types of behavioral problems such as inferiority, shy, lack of academic motivation, bad learning habits, unscrupulous feeling and emergencies.<sup>1</sup>

Vocational education provides an opportunity for ABK to acquire skills that are appropriate to their physical, cognitive, or emotional conditions, and prepare them to work or live a more independent life. However, the application of vocational education at the Extraordinary School (SLB) is still facing various challenges especially in terms of curriculum expansion in accordance with the needs of ABK.<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, in the face of various challenges, especially in terms of the expansion of the curriculum that is in line with the needs of ABK, the need for a vocational education strategy that is aimed at enabling the participants to be able to embrace their potential until it is ready to work. Vocational education strategy the special sponsorship covers: the concept of vocational program policy, skilled expansion vocational accompanying, concept of schoolmate with external, external party, implementation of school consumer programs with external parties and follow-up programs.<sup>3</sup>

At SLB Smart School Pacet, vocational education is designed to support students with special needs in order to develop practical skills that are useful in their lives. With the right curriculum, it is expected that ABK can achieve economic and social independence. Successful vocational education will enable them to access employment opportunities or independent businesses that are in accordance with their abilities and interests. The independence not only includes technical skills, but also social and emotional skills that support their interactions in the community.<sup>4</sup>

Along with that, vocational education at the Smart School SLB Pacet also faces challenges in terms of quality and relevance of the material taught. The material presented in vocational education must be in accordance with the development of the industry and market work needs, and able to accommodate individual students' needs. The right vocational adjustment in each child allows students to develop the potential possessed. Thus, vocational education based on independence will have a significant impact on the social and economic life of the students of ABK.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Monks, dkk. *development pstchology: Introduction in various parts* (Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press, 1994, p. 279.

<sup>2</sup> Suyanto, S., & Raharjo, W. (2017). *vocational learning strategies for children with special needs*. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of education and culture of the republic of indonesia. (2015). *guidelines for developing educational curricula for children with special needs*. Jakarta: Kemendikbud

<sup>4</sup> Sudjana, N. (2014). *educational of children with special needs in special schools*. Bandung: Sinar Baru Algesindo.

<sup>5</sup> Daly, A., & Smith H. (2020). "Curriculum Strategies for Vocational Education for Special Needs Students: A Case Study in Developing Independence". *Journal of Special Education and Vocational Training*, 12 (1), pp. 56-74.

Starting from the problems in the SLB Smart School Pacet, there are still many old people who are embarrassed to have children with special needs, finally the child does not have the opportunity to sit in school, interact with itself and develop to be more independent. In the study conducted, researchers chose to focus on reviewing the vocational education strategy in shaping the independence of children with special needs, because it was seen the reality of the field itself that the students were still difficult to develop their vocational skills. Therefore, the vocational education strategy is needed which is able to develop the potential of the students.

## METHOD

In qualitative research with case study approaches allowing deep exploration of a phenomenon in a real context. This approach focuses on a comprehensive understanding of certain cases in an institution. In this study there are 4 research focuses, namely: 1. Independence of children with special needs, 2. Children's vocational education with special needs at the institution, 3. Child independence when not school and has been in the institution, 4. Children's vocational education in shaping children's independence.

Data collection is done through interviews, observation, and document analysis, with validity reinforced through triangulation. This ensures that the data collected is more accurate and richer in insight. Besides that, this study was in examination of the validity of the data following the criteria submitted by Lexy J. Moleong, namely, the degree of trust (credibility), transferability, fortune), certainty (confirmability).

Despite providing a deep understanding, this approach has limitations in generalization and vulnerable to subjectivity. However, case studies remain an effective method for researching complex phenomena and developing the theory in various fields, as well as this study can develop the theory where data is taken from case studies that occur in the institution.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Independence of children with special needs

Child independence in the learning process at SLB Smart School Pacet has appeared in the learning process designed by mentor teachers. The learning strategy applied not only emphasizes aspectors, but also trains children to be able to play an active role in everyday life. The teachers guide children gradually with methods tailored to their individual needs. This approach allows children to be more independent in completing their duties, both in cognitive, social and motorized aspects. In addition to the inclusive and supporting schools provide space for children to explore their abilities without fear or pressure. This independence also appears in

various learning activities that prioritize independent behavior, such as regulating learning schedules, responsibly the assignments provided, and manages time well. With the appropriate assistance, children are able to increase their confidence and skills in making decisions independently.

## 2. Vocational education

Vocational education at SLB Smart School Pacet as a means of developing skills, at SLB Smart School Pacet provides a variety of vocational education programs as part of efforts to equip children with applicative life skills. Some vocational fields given include:

- a. The dresser is to train the child in the success of the face and self-care, which can be a provision to work in the field of beauty.
- b. Mailing is giving the skill of the artistic art, so that children can produce good product fabric products.
- c. Dancing is to practice dance art skills as a form of self-expression as well as an opportunity to appear in various cultural events.
- d. Tata boga is to teach cooking skills and kitchen management that can be used to work in the culinary industry or open independent businesses.
- e. Tata graha is helping the child understand the household's staircase and environmental hygiene, which can be a provision of working in the field of hospitality or hygiene services.

## 3. Difference in child independence before and after attending school at the Smart School SLB Pacet

That is to experience significant changes. Before entering the child's school tends to be more dependent on parents or families in carrying out daily activities. The limitations of access to structured learning make them less likely to have the opportunity to expand their maximum potential. But after undergoing education at SLB Smart School Pacet, the child began to show developments in the sense of independence. They become more capable of managing personal needs, solving the tasks given, and interacting with social environments more confident. The main factor that supports this change is an adaptive learning method, supporting environment, and support from teachers and educators who understand the special needs of children.

In addition, vocational education also has a positive impact on increasing positive impacts on the increase in child independence. With skills that have been mastered, they feel more confident to work and take advantage of their expertise in various fields. This not only has an impact on their personal life but also increases their chances of getting work and contributing economically.

#### 4. Vocational education strategy for meeting children's independence of special needs

The vocational education strategy in increasing the independence of children, namely the strategy in the SLB Smart School Pacet is tailored to the type of use and the abilities of each child. Each child will be placed in the vocational field that corresponds to their interests and abilities. With a more personal approach, the vocational learning process can learn more effectively and provide optimal results. This strategy involves several important stages, including:

1. Identification of interest and talents, namely the teacher conducts the initial assessment to determine the potential and interest of children in certain fields.
2. Practice-based learning, namely children are given direct experience in doing vocational tasks in accordance with the selected field.
3. Gradual Penture, namely the teacher provides gradual guidance until the child is able to do the task independently.
4. Evaluation and development, namely child performance continues to be monitored and evaluated to ensure that the skills obtained can be applied well in everyday life and the world of work.

Through this strategy, vocational education is not only a means of learning, but also serves as the rest of the children to enter the world of work. SLB Smart School Pacet has worked with various enterprises to provide job opportunities for the children of vocational program graduates. Thus, the skills are mumped but also get the opportunity to compete and be accepted in the industry.

#### Discussion

Vocational education is one of the important keys in shaping the independence of children with special needs. With the sketchy that is in accordance with their interests and abilities, children can be more confident in living life and have the opportunity to work or entrepreneurship. This independence is not only about meeting its own needs, but also about giving them a role in society. However, there are still many challenges in its implementation, such as the limitations of facilities and lack of educators who truly understand their needs. In fact, education should not only focus on the academic field, but also help each child find their best potential. If vocational education is well run, children with special needs not only have the skills to survive, but also their confidence and hope for a better future.

## CONCLUSION

The results showed that the Smart School SLB Pacet successfully implemented effective learning and vocational education methods in increasing children's independence of special. Through adaptive learning and diverse vocational programs, children are able to develop their potential and become more ready to face life outside the school environment. The success of the vocational program is not only seen from the increase in child skills but also from their readiness to enter the world of work. With the support of various parties, both from schools, families, and industry, children with special needs have a greater opportunity to live independently and economically empowered.

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