

THE RELEVANCE OF THE PROFILE OF VOCATIONAL SCHOOL (SMK) GRADUATES WITH THE FUTURE JOB DEMAND

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ABSTRACT

Vocational School (locally termed SMK) that responsible for providing skilled workers need to cope with the changes in work field requirements. The purpose of this research is to figure out the relevance of vocational school graduate profile with future job demand. A mixed-method research approach was employed to examine the relevance of the graduate profile with the work demand. 114 accounting teachers and 28 stakeholders/practitioners were surveyed while 10 teachers (members of teacher forum board) and 3 stakeholders/practitioners were involved in a focus group discussion. Data were analysed using descriptive quantitative and qualitative by identifying and determining the emerging themes. The result of the research indicates that 1) the formulation of the graduate profile was done by interpreting the Law of National Education System and translating the national educations standards with national qualification framework; 2) both teachers and stakeholders perceived that the 27 elements of competencies are still relevant. Ones considered less relevant because there are gaps between schools and work field, and the needs of extra competencies for the students; 3) there are five factors to be considered when formulating graduate profile including hard skills and soft skills, employability and stakeholders, teacher aspect, student's potential, and environment and culture. The results are beneficial for vocational schools in improving their practice by inviting practitioners to teach the students (collaboration).

Kata Kunci: *profile, vocational school, graduates, job demand, relevance*