

THE IMPACT OF THE LABORATORY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ON THE CAREER MATURITY OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

This study was conducted to explore the impact of the laboratory assistance program on the career maturity of students who are actively involved as volunteers in the program in question. To achieve this goal, the research team designed research using grounded theory. The research subjects who will be involved in this research are 29 guidance and counseling students who have been and are currently involved as volunteers in the laboratory assistance program in the Guidance and Counseling study program, Yogyakarta State University.

The research team designed the research using grounded theory (Corbin and Strauss, 2015) with a focus group approach (Puchta and Potter, 2004). Grounded theory usually involves an iterative process of data collection and analysis. Researchers analyzed the data inductively to identify concepts and themes that emerged from the data. These concepts and themes are then used to develop theories that explain the fundamental social processes that are occurring.

The research results show that; 1) the laboratory assistance program is an important environmental factor to support students' achievement of career maturity; 2) experience as a participant in laboratory assistance activities has a positive impact on improving the concept and practical implementation of guidance and counseling services, especially peer counseling skills and psychological test assessments, and 3) experience as a participant in laboratory assistance activities has an impact on planning and realizing career decisions as part of important aspects of career maturity.

Kata Kunci: *Laboratory Assistance, Career Maturity*