

EFFORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE OF KUBU RAYA REGENCY IN PREPARING THE OPEN SCHOOL PROGRAM IN BATU AMPAR DISTRICT, KUBU RAYA REGENCY

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ABSTRACT

This research is based on the preparation for establishing an Open School in Batu Ampar District, Kubu Raya Regency. The study aims to examine the efforts made by the Department of Education and Culture of Kubu Raya Regency in preparing the Open School Program, to identify the challenges faced during the preparation process, and to explore the solutions implemented to address these challenges. The research employs a qualitative method with a descriptive approach, utilizing interviews, observations, and document analysis. The findings reveal that the Department of Education and Culture of Kubu Raya Regency has conducted preparations in accordance with applicable guidelines and regulations, including feasibility studies, preparation of the School Development Master Plan (RIPS), identification of prospective students, provision of educators and educational staff, curriculum planning, funding sources, and facilities and infrastructure. However, challenges were encountered in implementing study hours and the limited availability of teaching staff. The solutions adopted include adjusting study hours and recruiting new teachers to maintain the quality of education.

Keywords: Department of Education of Kubu Raya Regency; Efforts; Open Junior High School (SMP Terbuka).

A. INTRODUCTION

Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning environment that encourages students to actively develop spiritual potential, intelligence, morals, and skills useful for themselves and their surroundings. Education is also a fundamental right for all Indonesian citizens. To guarantee access, the government must ensure that every member of society can access educational services regardless of social status, economy, ethnicity, religion, and gender (Sarifudin in Perdana, 2015:280).

Based on this urgency, the Indonesian Government has enacted the Compulsory Education Program through Government Regulation Number 47 of 2008, which constitutionally mandates every citizen the right to

obtain a minimum of 12 years of basic education (SMA). However, in its implementation, there are still regions that face obstacles in supporting the Compulsory Education Program, especially geographical, economic, customary, social, and cultural challenges. One such area is Dusun Cabang Ruan in Batu Ampar Village, Batu Ampar District, Kubu Raya Regency, which is the outermost hamlet. The nearest junior high school, SMP Negeri 2 Batu Ampar, is approximately 30 km or 1-hour motorcycle ride from Dusun Cabang Ruan, with inadequate access roads consisting of red dirt roads in palm oil plantation areas.

This difficult access led the residents of Dusun Cabang Ruan to submit a proposal to

establish an Open School in March 2025. The difficult access also affects SD graduates who prefer to work to help their parents. To address this issue, the Department of Education and Culture of Kubu Raya Regency initiated the Open School Program in Dusun Cabang Ruan, expected to be implemented in the 2025 academic year. Until now, the program is still in the preparation and socialization stage.

In analyzing this phenomenon, the researcher uses the Open Junior High School Management Guidelines issued by the Directorate of Junior High Schools, Directorate General of Early Childhood Education, Primary and Secondary Education, Ministry of Education and Culture in 2020. This book explains the necessary preparations for an Open School such as Feasibility Study, School Development Master Plan, Prospective Students, Educators and Education Staff, Curriculum, Funding Sources, Facilities and Infrastructure, and Open School Management.

The main problem lies in the gap between citizens' rights to quality educational services and the factual conditions in the field, especially in Dusun Cabang Ruan, Batu Ampar District, Kubu Raya Regency, where far and inadequate access roads hinder children from continuing junior high school education.

The efforts of the Department of Education and Culture of Kubu Raya Regency in preparing the Open School Program focus on bridging the accessibility gap of educational services. Therefore, this study aims to: (1) understand the efforts of the Department of Education and Culture of Kubu Raya Regency in Preparing the Open

School Program in Batu Ampar District, Kubu Raya Regency, (2) identify the challenges faced by the Department of Education and Culture of Kubu Raya Regency in preparing the Open School Program, and (3) understand the solutions to these challenges.

This research is novel because it focuses on the Establishment Efforts of the Open School in Kubu Raya Regency, which differs from previous studies referring to SMPN 1 Pengatikan in Garut Regency.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

Metode The research method used is qualitative with a descriptive approach. This qualitative research is based on post-positivism philosophy and is used to study natural object conditions. Data collection techniques were interviews, observation, and documentation studies. Semi-structured interviews were used. Documentation includes review of related documents, such as the Open Junior High School Management Guidelines and Minister of Education and Culture regulations. Data analysis used Miles and Huberman's data analysis components.

The data obtained were analyzed interactively using the Miles and Huberman data analysis model, which includes three main stages: data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing or verification. Data reduction filters important relevant information, which is then presented in a narrative form for easier interpretation and finally verified for validity. To maintain data validity, triangulation

techniques of sources and methods were applied by comparing interview, observation, and documentation results to achieve an objective and accurate picture. This approach is expected to provide deep understanding regarding the Efforts of the Department of Education and Culture of Kubu Raya Regency in Preparing the Open School Program.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Efforts of the Department of Education and Culture of Kubu Raya Regency in Preparing the Open School

The Department has prepared the Open School Program in accordance with applicable guidelines and regulations as follows:

First, conducting a Feasibility Study to assess the feasibility of SMPN 2 Batu Ampar as the parent school and SDN 13 Batu Ampar in Dusun Cabang Anduk as the Learning Activity Place (TKB). This study refers to the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture Regulation Number 36 of 2014 regarding Guidelines for Establishment, Changes, and Closure of Primary and Secondary Education Units.

Second, compiling the School Development Master Plan (RIPS) used as a reference for future development.

Third, determining prospective students for the Open School. The target prospective students are children graduating from elementary school in the 2025 academic year and those who previously graduated but could not continue to junior high school due to existing factors.

Fourth, preparing educational staff from the parent school, SMPN 2 Batu Ampar.

Fifth, curriculum planning. The curriculum used is the nationally mandated Merdeka Curriculum, currently used by SMPN 2 Batu Ampar as the parent school. The Department ensures that the Open School services are at least equal to those of the parent school.

Sixth, funding sources come from external and internal sources. External funding comes from help provided by the community, individuals, and business groups around the area. Internal funds are government aid through applicable programs such as BOS funds and other programs.

Seventh, provision of facilities and infrastructure is conducted by the Department through the parent school. The Open School uses the TKB from SD 13 Batu Ampar.

2. Challenges Faced by the Department of Education and Culture of Kubu Raya Regency

In the preparation and implementation of the Open School Program, there were constraints faced. The identified constraints are as follows:

First, the implementation of study hours is constrained because the Open School uses the TKB owned by SD 13 Batu Ampar, which uses the TKB in the morning for its activities. Therefore, the Open School can only use the TKB starting from around 12:30 PM to 4:15 PM, resulting in fewer study hours for students.

Second, the limited number of teachers at the parent school, SMPN 2 Batu Ampar, which

also supplies educators for the Open School. Since these teachers are assigned to teach at the Open School's TKB, the demand for teaching staff automatically increases.

3. Solutions to the Challenges

To address these challenges, the Department has implemented First, adjusting study hours. The Head of the Department explained that learning activities will be made 30 minutes per subject, starting from 12:30 PM to 4:15 PM, with a 15-minute break.

Second, to solve the shortage of teaching staff at the parent school due to assignments at the Open School, the Department has concretely placed new teachers from the PPPK formation to SMPN 2 Batu Ampar. This addition is expected to sustain the teaching and learning process at the parent school while supporting the Open School's operations

D. CONCLUSION

The efforts by the Department of Education and Culture of Kubu Raya Regency in preparing the Open School Program in Batu Ampar District have been carried out according to applicable guidelines and regulations, covering feasibility studies, drafting the School Development Master Plan (RIPS), determining prospective students, provision of educators and staff, curriculum planning, funding sources, and facilities. Challenges faced include difficulties in implementing study hours and limited teaching staff. The solutions applied are adjusting study hours and recruiting additional teachers to maintain educational quality.

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