

Assessing student readiness for *Kurikulum Merdeka* implementation

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Abstract

This study assesses students' preparedness for the Kurikulum Merdeka and its implementation. The subject and object of the research were 10th-grade pharmacy students at one of the vocational schools in Cirebon, totaling 19 students. There were sixteen female students and three male students. This research used descriptive-qualitative design. The researchers used questionnaires, interviews, and observations as the instruments. The result of this research indicates that student readiness is so important that students are ready to learn. Moreover, the curriculum must be implemented in all schools by 2024 according to the Ministry of Education and Culture's policy. Nevertheless, the results of this research show that students' readiness to face the Kurikulum Merdeka cannot be considered sufficient as their readiness for this curriculum stands at only 78.7%.

Keywords: *Student readiness; Kurikulum Merdeka; Implementation*

INTRODUCTION

The education system in Indonesia is a unique education system and interesting to research, especially with regard to the educational curriculum used in secondary schools. The education system in Indonesia has undergone several changes from time to time. To date, there have been 11 educational curricula that have been in effect in Indonesia, including the new curriculum launched by ministry of Cultural Education, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia. Nadiem Makarim, as Minister of Education Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia is making changes to curriculum 2013 and establishing the *Merdeka Belajar* curriculum as a form of improvement from the 2013 curriculum itself. The independent learning curriculum was implemented to restore Indonesian education which was worried and experienced an educational emergency during the Covid-19 period from 2019 to 2020 so that changes to the independent curriculum require readiness from various parties, both schools, teachers and students. (Rosidah et al., 2021).

Student readiness means students have an open mind which means a situation

where they are willing to accept changes in differences and not feel burdened by differences, such as feeling that differences in thinking are things that can increase knowledge and are willing to accept suggestions or input from various parties, even though these suggestions are not in line with our thoughts. In addition to having an open mind, students must also have a willingness to learn, which means a person's desire to continue learning amidst the changes that occur from time to time.

Student readiness is also very important in learning, because with readiness, learning will be directed and accurate. Dalyono (2019) also argues that everyone who wants to carry out learning activities must have readiness, namely with sufficient abilities, both physical, mental, and sufficient energy, as well as good health, while mental readiness includes physical, mental interests and interests, interest, motivation, and sufficient motivation to carry out learning activities, so that student readiness is considered very important.

In terms of indicators of readiness, Djamarah (2002) states that readiness factor includes physical readiness, psychological readiness, and learning material. Physical readiness is the constant effort to keep one's body in good condition so that it is always fit, healthy, and in shape (avoidance of disease, fatigue, drowsiness, and so forth). According to Darsono's (2000) earlier assessment, unfavourable physical circumstances, such as illness, are among the readiness elements that would undoubtedly impact students' preparation for learning. Psychological readiness involves maintaining a positive mood and emotional state to foster a desire to learn, concentrate, and be intrinsically motivated. Unfavorable psychological conditions, such as anxiety and stress, can impede students' readiness to learn (Darsono, 2000). Factors affecting student success in learning include physical and psychological factors, as well as fatigue factors (Slameto, 2010). Material readiness, namely the existence of material that can be studied or worked on in the form of reading books, question notes and others, as training and adding insight, so that it can help students' readiness to take the exam in question. According to some of the opinions above, it can be concluded that readiness is the overall physical and psychological condition of students to form attitudes in a certain way so that individuals have the desire to act to make efforts to prepare themselves until they are ready.

Meanwhile, the Indonesian school curriculum is subject to frequent changes, making it challenging for students to adjust. Students of SMK Kartika XIX-3 Cirebon may not be prepared for the *Kurikulum Merdeka*, which is the issue they are now facing. Students are unable to appropriately follow the learning process as a result. Additionally, students may encounter some learning challenges if they are not yet ready. A curriculum known as *Kurikulum Merdeka* was introduced by *Mendikbudristek*, the Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology. This is an assessment form that was initially developed for the 2013 Curriculum (Saeed et al., 2021). As a result, the researchers of this study concentrated on how prepared students were for the implementation of *Kurikulum Merdeka*.

METHOD

This research used qualitative research using a qualitative descriptive design. Judging from the problems studied regarding the readiness of students in facing the *Kurikulum Merdeka* and how students learn using the *Kurikulum Merdeka*, this type of research is descriptive research. According to Sugiyono (2008), qualitative descriptive research is research that seeks to describe and interpret data with objective measurements of phenomena. The aim is to provide detailed knowledge about various phenomena, especially for students' readiness in facing the *Kurikulum Merdeka*

Respondents

There were nineteen students as the participant in this research. The researchers gave a questionnaire to all participants and interviewed five students.

Instruments

There are three instruments in this research, namely interview, questionnaire and observation.

Procedures

The purpose of this research was to determine the readiness of students in facing the *Kurikulum Merdeka* when it is implemented. to answer research questions, researchers distributed questionnaires as a research instrument to collect data. Apart from that, the researchers also combined it with interviews and observations for data collection regarding the implementation of the *Kurikulum Merdeka*. After getting an overview of the data, it was processed in data analysis.

Data analysis

Through questionnaires, interviews, and observations, pharmacy students in class 10 at SMK Kartika Xix-3 Cirebon provided the research data. Sugiyono (2008) contends that interactive qualitative data analysis is carried out until completion unless the data is saturated. Data analysis is conducted in qualitative research from the outset and throughout the study process. Students in grade 10 were given a questionnaire, which the researchers used to provide an answer to the first query.

Paper surveys with questions about students' preparedness for the *Kurikulum Merdeka* were distributed by the researchers. Afterwards, they generated a percentage using the overall student count. Subsequently, the researchers employed observations and interviews to address the second query on the implementation. Five students were questioned by the researchers, who then changed the interview results by summarising them in writing. This type of data is known as transcription data. After that, the researchers made some interpretations based on the data regarding the percentage whether the students ready or not to face the implementation of *Kurikulum Merdeka*.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Readiness according to Djamarah (2002) includes physical readiness, psychological readiness, and material readiness. Below is a diagram of participants who

have prepared their readiness to face the *Kurikulum Merdeka*, such as physical readiness, mental readiness or material readiness.

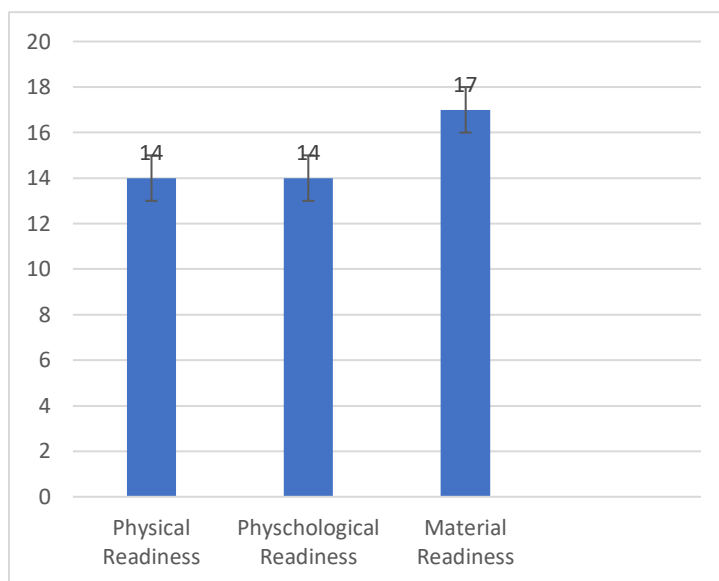


Figure 1 Questionnaire result

Based on the results of a questionnaire with 10th grade students of SMK Kartika XIX -3 Cirebon, the diagram above shows the readiness of students to face the *Kurikulum Merdeka* in grade 10 of SMK Kartika XIX -3, as follows. From the results of the 19 student's questionnaire above, it can be seen that only 14 students are physically ready with a percentage of 24.5%. and 14 students who are Psychological prepared with a percentage of 24.5%. while 17 students were ready in the material with a percentage of 29.5%. Where the average readiness of students in facing the *Kurikulum Merdeka* for class 10 pharmacy at SMK Kartika XIX-3 Cirebon is 78.7%. Further explanation about the gained data can be shown as follows.

Physical readiness

From the results of the questionnaire, the students' answer which are classified in physical readiness are number 7,11,12, the questions are:

(7) Have you prepared yourself physically to face this Kurikulum Merdeka?

Of the 19 students, only 14 had prepared themselves physically, the other 5 were not ready. Among them, TDAs who answered "yes" had prepared themselves physically to face the *Kurikulum Merdeka*. it is different with the AD which says "no" in preparing itself physically to face the *Kurikulum Merdeka*.

The second question is question number 11:

(11) Do you go to school always on time?

Of the 19 students who answered that they always go to school on time, only 14 students answered, the other 5 did not. For example, AAZ who answered the questionnaire "yes" always went to school on time while NW answered "no" always went to school on time.

The third question is question number 12:

(12) Do you before going to school have breakfast first?

Of the 19 people who answered had breakfast before going to school, only 14 people, 5 others did not have breakfast. Among them MI answered "yes" to have breakfast before going to school, while IV said "no" breakfast before going to school.

Psychological Readiness

Some questions which are classified into psychological readiness including question numbers 6 and 9, the questions are:

(6) Have you ever asked the teacher a question while researching?

Of the 19 students who answered that they had asked questions while researching, only 14 students answered, the other 5 did not. Among them, NA who answered the questionnaire question "yes" had asked questions to the teacher while researching, while AA answered "no" had asked questions to the teacher while researching. The second question is question number 9:

(9) Do you go to school every time you research first?

Of the 19 people who answered that they had studied before going to school, only 14 answered, the other 5 did not. Like SFR who said "yes" every time he went to school, he studied first, while DS said "no" studied first.

Material Readiness

Some questions which are classified into material readiness including question numbers 8 and 10, the questions are:

(8) Do you prepare school equipment in advance before going to school?

Of the 19 students who answered preparing school supplies before going to school, only 17 students answered, 2 others did not. As FF said he answered "yes" to prepare school tools before going to school, while DS answered "no" to prepare the tools before going to school.

The second question is question number 10:

(10) Do you each have a task that is always done?

Of the 19 students who answered each assignment, only 17 did it, the other 2 did not. Among them according to AR who answered "yes" every time he has a task he always does, while IV answered "no" does it when there is a task.

Based on the analysis, it is not possible to declare that all 19 students in class 10 pharmacy at SMK Kartika XIX-3 Cirebon are prepared for the *Kurikulum Merdeka*, as only 78.7% of them are. Students fall into two categories: those who are 24.5% psychologically ready

and those who are 24.5% physically ready. whereas up to 29.5% of students are prepared with the material. According to the data, students' preparedness for the *Kurikulum Merdeka* is generally lower than expected. This is in contrast to the findings of Rosidah (2021), which state that higher learning achievement is attained by students with greater learning readiness, and that students who have been accepted are considered ready when their readiness for learning reaches 80%.

CONCLUSION

The readiness of students to face the *Kurikulum Merdeka* in class 10 pharmacy at SMK Kartika XIX-3 Cirebon cannot be said to be ready because out of a total of 19 students, only 78.7% of students are ready to face the *Kurikulum Merdeka*. with the category of 24.5% students are physically ready, and 24.5% students are Psychological ready. while students who are ready with the material as much as 29.5% of students. The data shows that the readiness of students in facing the *Kurikulum Merdeka* is generally not as expected, this is not in line with the results of Rosidah (2021) which says that the better the student's learning readiness, the higher the learning achievement achieved and the readiness of students who have been accepted is said to be ready when it reaches 80%.

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