

# *Interest And Talent Tests In Improving Student's Learning Achievement At Prayatna High School Medan City*

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**Abstract**— Interest is an interest in something that you like, while talent is a form of basic ability to learn something faster with better quality than other people who do not have talent for it. Humans are unique, never found in humans who have exactly the same interests and talents. The problems in this research are whether the students' interest and aptitude tests are conducted before the division of majors, what are the difficulties faced by the school in conducting student interest and aptitude tests. To obtain the data used descriptive qualitative research methods, interview research techniques, observation and documentation, the process of data analysis through data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions. Based on the research results that, To determine the field of study or majors followed by students, there is no interest and aptitude test. So the determination of majors is only based on the choices submitted by the students or the parents of the students concerned, so that further student development in accordance with the majors they choose, there is no direction based on their interests and talents. To administer student interest and aptitude tests, costs are needed, namely by bringing in psychological personnel from other institutions. The cost required for this per student is around Rp. 50,000/student. If these costs are borne by the parents of students, they are not willing so that it cannot be carried out until this research is completed. In the absence of these interest and aptitude tests, it is not known whether the monitoring of the field of study chosen by students is appropriate based on their interests and talents. In conclusion, the student's interest and aptitude test has never been conducted to determine the chosen field of study for students, the additional cost for conducting interest and aptitude tests for students, is an obstacle factor for conducting student interest and aptitude tests. Suggestions, to direct students' interests and talents to be carried out since they are in Class X so that they do not choose the wrong major or study program, the parents of students and the school need to work together to discuss additional costs related to the implementation of the student's interest and talent test. the additional cost to carry out interest and aptitude tests to students, is a constraining factor for conducting student interest and aptitude tests. Suggestions, to direct students' interests and talents to be carried out since they are in Class X so that they do not choose the wrong major or study program, the parents of students and the school need to work together to discuss additional costs related to the implementation of the student's interest and talent test. the additional cost to carry out interest and aptitude tests to students, is a constraining factor for conducting student interest and aptitude tests. Suggestions, to direct students' interests and talents to be carried out since they are in Class X so that they do not choose the wrong major or study program, the parents of students and the school need to work together to discuss additional costs related to the implementation of the student's interest and talent test.

**Keywords**— *Interest and Talent Test, Student Learning Achievement.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Interest is an interest in something that you like, while talent is a form of basic ability to learn something faster with better quality than other people who do not have talent for it. "Interests and talents are two things that cannot be separated, complement each other which can be a potential for someone to develop further in achieving achievements. Humans are unique, never found in humans who have exactly the same interests and talents"1). Therefore, the interests and talents of a person need to be learned to be nurtured and developed in such a way from an early age so that his potential can be developed. "As a follow-up, character education is needed in schools".2)

School is the second environment for students to receive education after the family environment. "At school, students receive knowledge transfer from their teachers. Teachers do not only provide education, but also morality and moral development. Education is not only carried out in pursuit of values, but also provides direction to everyone so that they can act and behave properly in accordance with the principles and spirit of the science being studied. In this case, "teachers have a strategic role to direct student behavior, because good teacher behavior can be an example to change negative student behavior" 4)

The progress of a nation's civilization cannot be separated from the services of teachers who devote their attention to the progress of a generation. "Teachers are individuals who shape the personalities of community leaders, politicians, military, thinkers and practitioners." 5) Therefore, the current condition of the young generation becomes a picture of the progress of a nation in the future. In other words, if the current generation is good, the nation will be good in the future, on the contrary if the young generation today is not good then the nation has a steep future.

Thus, the interests and talents of students from an early age need to be known by the teacher so that teachers at schools can direct their subject matter according to the interests and talents of these students. Likewise, in determining a student's major or specialization, it can be done according to the potential that exists in each student based on the results of tests conducted by psychologists. Events that have occurred over the years at the partner's place that the division of majors or specializations is only done based on the request of the student or the request of the student's parents so that it is possible that some of the students occupy majors that are not in accordance with their interests and talents.

With interests and talents that are not in accordance with the majors of specialization such as Natural Sciences, Social Sciences that students participate in, it can cause them not to be serious in learning and only oriented to fulfill attendance or absenteeism so as not to be scolded by the teacher or their parents. "Slowly they do not feel at home in the school environment, and look for activities outside of school".6). When they do activities outside of school, these students may meet students from other schools. At first their meeting was just joking with each other, then mocking each other so that it could lead to brawls between schools which resulted in casualties on both sides.

It is undeniable that brawls are a form of misbehavior by students who can endanger themselves and those around them. "From several brawl cases in Indonesia, it is suspected that the brawls between students were ridden by motorcycle gangs, so that the clashes that occurred became increasingly anarchic, increasingly disturbing the community."8) The police have not been able to do much. This is marked by the widespread excesses of brawls to other areas. With the increasing number of brawls, residents around the location of the incident as well as parents are worried about the condition of their children, because some cases of brawls often end in death. That said, students who are not involved in the brawl but because they come from the same alma mater as the brawlers, become the target of the opponents of different schools. Like the brawl between high school students that occurred in Jakarta in 2012 which resulted in the death of one student. (Tempo. Wednesday 28 Sept. 2012). In fact, it is not uncommon for brawls to begin with a feeling of being uncomfortable at school because school is not interesting for him. Such feelings arise because the chosen field of study is not in accordance with the interests and talents of students.

With this background, the problem is whether the student's interest and aptitude tests are conducted before the division of majors, what are the difficulties faced by the school in conducting student interest and aptitude tests.

## **II. RESEARCH METHODS**

This research was conducted from May 2021 to December 2021. The research location is at SMA Prayatna Medan City. The selection of the research location was based on the consideration that this school is on a strategic route that connects the city of Medan Batang Kuis so that it is prone to brawls and needs attention from the school so that students feel comfortable in the school environment. This research is a qualitative descriptive study.

According to (Suyanto, 2005) the mechanism of research on research informants includes several types, namely key informants, main informants, and additional informants. In this study, the informants consisted of key informant are principal, main informant are homeroom teacher, main informants are teachers and main informants are prayatna high school students. Additional informants are parents of students.

Selection of informants using the snowball throwing technique. If the object asked to the informant is the same, then the interview process will be stopped. To obtain accurate data, a qualitative historical approach is used, in which the research process is carried out with a natural or natural background, the process forms a cycle that focuses on understanding the object being studied

using field research and the research team's form of reference. In carrying out the field research, the following data collection techniques were used: 1) direct observation, namely, (Moleong, 2014) "is an observation technique carried out by researchers directly in the situation under study".

With direct observation, researchers will be able to see factually the condition of tourist objects. In direct observation, the author will be involved with the object being studied to see the real facts at the research site, 2) In-depth interviews, namely, (Burhan, 2011), "a method of collecting data that is carried out directly face to face with informants with the aim of getting a complete picture of the subject that is carried out carefully and repeatedly", 3) literature study, which is to obtain secondary data to explain the condition of the research motorcycle taxi. The secondary data sources include official documents from government agencies such as the Medan City Education Office, the Medan Tembung Sub-district Office.

Related to the data collection mechanism, the data analysis mechanism is carried out through three steps, namely data reduction (data reduction), data display (data display), and drawing conclusions as follows; First data reduction, namely selecting relevant and meaningful data, focusing data that leads to problem solving, discovery, meaning or to answer research questions. Then simplify and compile it systematically and describe the important things about the findings. In the data reduction mechanism, only data findings relating to research problems are reduced.

Meanwhile, unrelated data will be discarded, making it easier for researchers to draw conclusions. Secondly, presentation of data, which can be in the form of writing or words, pictures, graphs and tables. With the aim of combining information so that it can describe the situation that occurred. In this case, so that researchers have no difficulty in mastering information either as a whole or certain parts of the research results, the researchers make narratives, matrices or graphs to facilitate the mastery of information from the data. In this way, researchers can stay in control of the data and not get lost in conclusions that can be boring. Third, conclusion Drawing/verification, which is carried out during the research mechanism as in the case of data reduction mechanisms, after the data is collected and sufficient, then temporary conclusions are drawn and after the data is completely complete, final conclusions are drawn

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Prayatna High School (SMA) is located at Jalan Letda Soedjono Number 403 Medan Tembung, which was established in 1988, which is managed by the Prayatna College Association Foundation, Medan City. The educational institutions under the Prayatna College Association Foundation, Medan City, consist of Junior High Schools (SMP), Senior High Schools (SMA), Vocational High Schools (SMK). The status of land and buildings owned by the Prayatna College Association Foundation in Medan City is property rights, namely based on the Establishment Permit/Year :420/186/DIKMENJUR/2010/10 MAY 2010. With this status, the management of the education and administration system is carried out by the The Foundation works closely with the board of teachers involved in the school according to their level.

In order to advance education in Medan City, Deli Serdang Regency and its surroundings, Prayatna High School (SMA) has a firm vision, namely, "Educating the Nation's Life by Educating Students to Produce Skilled Human Resources and Mastering Science Towards the Era of Globalization. In connection with this vision, the vision is, "Creating Students Who Master Science and Have Noble Morals According to Faith and Taqwa as Religious People in the Middle of Society".

In connection with the Vision and Mission launched by the Prayatna High School, the goal of education is not only to produce intelligent and professional graduates, but also to produce virtuous graduates filled with faith and piety, so that graduates This is not only being a smart person but also being a professional person who has good morals and religious understanding.

According to an interview with the High School Administration Head, Prayatna, "the status of teachers at the Prayatna High School (SMA) can be divided into 2 (two) groups, namely, teachers with the status of State Civil Apparatus and teachers with the status of Foundation Teachers". With the status of a State Civil Apparatus, it means that the teacher is placed and seconded by the government through the North Sumatra Provincial Education Office, while a teacher with the status of a Foundation Teacher means that the appointment is carried out by the Prayatna Education College Foundation, Medan City.

The composition of teachers at the Prayatna High School (SMA) Medan City in 2021 is 21 people, of which 19 (nineteen) are female and 2 (two) are male. All teachers registered at the Prayatna High School (SMA) are subject teachers according to their respective fields.

In relation to the number of teachers, in the 2020-2021 academic year, the number of students enrolled at the Prayatna High School Medan City is 518 people, of which 178 people consist of Class X students, Class XI students as many as 195 people and students class 3 consists of 145 people. Based on an interview with the principal, he stated, "Out of 178 students in grade 1, class XII is in the field of Natural Sciences (IPA) and 2 classes of Social Sciences (IPS). Meanwhile, Class XI students consist of 3 fields of study in Natural Sciences (IPA) and 3 fields of study in Social Sciences (IPS), while class XII consists of 3 classes in the field of Natural Sciences (IPA) and 2 classes in the fields of Social Sciences."

Of the 178 students in class X, 98 of them chose the field of Natural Sciences (IPA) and 82 of them chose Social Sciences (IPS), while out of 195 students of class XI, 100 of them chose the field of Science. Natural Sciences (IPA) and 95 people in the field of Social Sciences (IPS). Meanwhile, students in Class XII consisted of 100 students choosing Natural Sciences (IPA) and 45 students choosing Social Sciences (IPS). When viewed from the gender of students at the Prayatna Senior High School (SMA) Medan City, most of them are female, as many as 287 people (55.405 %), while the male sex is 231 people (54.595).

Based on interviews with the principal and homeroom teachers stated, "to determine the field of study or majors that students take, there is no interest and aptitude test. So the determination of majors is only based on the choices submitted by the students or the parents of the students concerned. Based on the observations made by the research team, this situation also occurs in almost all high schools in Medan City, so that further student development in accordance with the majors they choose, there is no direction based on their interests and talents.

In addition to accepting new students for the academic year, the Prayatna High School (SMA) Medan City also accepts transfer students from other schools, both from equivalent schools in Medan City, Deli Serdang Regency and from other regions. The reason the transfer students become students at the Prayatna AStas Middle School (SMA) Medan City, is usually because they follow their parents who have changed assignments, and some others want to find a new atmosphere. The number of high school students (SMA) Prayatna by class and gender, as shown in the table below.

Table of The number of high school students (SMA) Prayatna by class and gender

No	Class	Male	Female	Amount	Information
1	X. IPA.1	12	22	34	
2	X. IPA.2	13	19	32	
3	X. IPA.3	12	18	30	
4	X. IPS.1	18	22	40	
5	X. IPS.2	21	21	42	
<b>Amount</b>		<b>76</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>178</b>	
No	CLASS	Male	Female	Amount	Information
1	XI. IPA.1	12	21	33	
2	XI. IPA.2	11	22	33	
3	XI. IPA.3	11	23	34	
4	XI. IPS.1	21	11	32	
5	XI. IPS.2	18	15	33	
6	XI. IPS.3	18	12	30	
<b>Amount</b>		<b>91</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>195</b>	
No	CLASS	Male	Female	Amount	Information

1	XII.IPA.1	14	20	34	
2	XII.IPA.2	15	18	33	
3	XII.IPA.3	17	16	33	
4	XII.IPS.1	9	13	22	
5	XII.IPS.2	9	14	23	
<b>Amount</b>		<b>64</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>145</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>231</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>518</b>	

Source: Research Data, 2021

Based on the description of the table above, since the students of Prayatna Middle School (SMA) Medan City sat in Class X, the division of fields of study had been carried out. The development of this field of study is usually carried out in the second semester. With this division of fields of study, it becomes the basis for every student to continue their education, both to enter higher education and to enter the world of work.

As stated in the previous description that, to carry out student interest and aptitude tests in determining their majors, costs are needed, namely by bringing in psychological personnel from other institutions. The cost required for this per student is around Rp. 50,000/student. If these costs are borne by the parents of students, they are not willing so that it cannot be carried out until this research is completed. In the absence of the interest and aptitude test, it is not known whether the monitoring of the chosen field of study by students is appropriate based on their interests and talents.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

There has never been a student interest and talent test at the Prayatna High School (SMA) to determine the chosen field of study for the student concerned. The additional cost to carry out interest and aptitude tests for students is an obstacle factor for conducting student interest and aptitude tests at the Prayatna High School (SMA) Medan City. In determining students' further study, there is no clear standard for choosing majors. The location of the school, which is on the Medan-Batang Quiz route, which is inhabited by high school buildings, is classified as prone to brawls between students.

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