INDEPENDENT CAMPUS POLICY IN THE NEW NORMAL ERA

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Abstract: The independent campus policy is a government policy in Indonesian universities in implementing the education system. The purpose of this study was to analyze the independent campus policy in the new normal era, after going through the Covid-19 pandemic. The research approach is descriptive qualitative, with a research library type. The data collection technique used is documentation, which is collecting data from books, articles, journals, and so on. The data analysis technique used is content analysis. The results of the study describe four independent campus policies; first, namely the granting of autonomy for Tertiary Education Institutions to establish or open new study programs (with stipulated conditions); second, implementing an automatic re-accreditation program; third, giving freedom for universities Public Service Bodies and Work Units to become universities Legal Entities, and fourth, giving students the right to take courses outside the study program and changing the definition of semester credit units (credits). The hope of the success of the programs set by the government and universities is to improve the quality of graduates so that they are useful for the country, nation, religion and state.

Keywords: Policy, independent campus, new normal era

Introduction

After going through the Covid-19 pandemic, now the world is entering the New Normal era, where there are changes in life behavior. Activities carried out have returned to before the pandemic, but still apply health protocols so that they can prevent the transmission of Covid-19. During the Covid-19 pandemic, there was a change in the place for activities, namely work, study and worship, as well as all activities that are usually carried out outside the home, which must be carried out indoors to prevent Covid-19 transmission. Entering the new normal era, the government has allowed several activities to be carried out from their proper places, namely studying at school / campus, working in offices, worshiping at places of worship and so on (Bismala, 2020).

Education is now a cultural phenomenon that is influenced by the social environment. That is, education does not have to be dynamic, and education must be able to design goals that are not limited to changing students themselves, but must also be oriented towards changes in social society. In order to make these changes, a comprehensive cultural construction in education must be carried out. This comprehensive change effort must be carried out holistically and in substance can be rooted in the national culture (Paul M. Muchinsky, 2012), this is what should be built into the national education system. It cannot be denied that the Government cannot alone fight Covid-19, but it needs support from the community and related institutions (Harfiani, 2020), including educational institutions.

One of the supporting instruments for the success of learning carried out during this pandemic is the readiness of students at Islamic education institutions to carry out the process online. There are many factors that influence it, but it seems important to say what is the substance of distance learning for students (Akrim, 2020).

Knowledge transfer is an important part in proving that social media is used as a medium for transferring knowledge from one individual to another or the majority can search, download, and share information so that it can provide knowledge to others (Nasution, 2020) . This is an effort that can be made so that the learning process can take place. So even though face-to-face in the classroom cannot take place, students can still get learning through various social media applications that can be used by lecturers and students.

In online learning, we can also see which sides are the advantages and disadvantages that must be understood by lecturers and most importantly government policies in dealing with a pandemic. We see a lot in terms of advantages, when online learning begins what can be used is that students only get a glimpse of knowledge that can be understood online. In terms of the many weaknesses, students cannot meet meetings with lecturers and in the end their enthusiasm for learning can also decrease. Then the other disadvantage is frequent network disruptions and internet packages. If the Covid-19 period does not end soon, the education system will be less developed and eventually the economy will also weaken (Dianto, 2020).

The description above explains why it is important for the government to issue policies, especially in the field of education, and more specifically what will be discussed in this article, namely the independent campus policy which is applied to all universities in Indonesia.

Literature Review

Disasters hit the world due to the presence of new diseases that all mankind must be aware of. The disease caused by this virus causes death, and because the transmission is so fast, the death rate is also increasing and cannot be ignored. Until now, there is no definitive therapy to treat this disease (Susilo, et al., 2020).

The Worl Health Organization (WHO) named the new virus Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) and the name of the disease is Coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19), and designated it as a pandemic. The transmission of this virus is from human to human. Over time, the number of cases of Covid-19 sufferers has increased. To be able to treat and control the spread of the corona virus, further research is still needed (Yuliana, 2020)

Outbreaks of contagious viruses, like the corona virus that is sweeping the world today, had previously occurred during the time of the Prophet. At that time, the most contagious viruses were plague and leprosy. To anticipate the spread of the virus, the policy taken by the Prophet was to enforce regional quarantine, which is to prohibit entry or exit from areas affected by the plague. The next step is to seek a drug or antidote for the virus, so that it can immediately treat it and stop its spread (Mukharom and Aravik, 2020).

In the view of Islam the Covid-19 outbreak is a test from Allah SWT to a people, as a warning to get closer to Allah SWT. In Islam it is also recommended to prevent disease, such as the current terms, namely social distancing and lockdown, some of the clerics call the plague that causes disease and is at risk of being transmitted by the term *Tho'un* (Supriatna, 2020).

The Covid-19 pandemic is a global problem that affects more than 200 countries in the world. The spread is so fast and deadly, and the impact of this pandemic is so widespread in almost all aspects of people's lives. Social and religious activities involving large numbers of people began to be banned, activities outside the home were restricted, this made it difficult for people to work,

and the community's economy was weakening. To control this virus, many centers of the crowd are closed, including tourism areas and educational institutions (Syafrida and Hartati, 2020).

This New Normal era has returned almost some of the activities, although some activities, such as studying at schools and campuses have not been fully carried out from schools and campuses. There are still many local governments that recommend learning from home with online learning, to prevent Covid-19 transmission. This is understandable because Covid-19 transmission occurs between people through droplets from the nose or mouth that come out when a person infected with Covid-19 coughs, sneezes or talks (Bismala, 2020).

Learning activities in tertiary institutions have a significant impact. Changing learning patterns demands the readiness of lecturers, students, and the campus to face online learning. Online learning is not an easy thing because there is no habituation, the absence of face-to-face learning causes students to be unable to understand the material completely. If online learning is intended so that anyone can learn from anywhere, it is flexible, it turns out that the readiness of lecturers, students, and the campus greatly determines the success of this learning.

This article discusses the impact of Covid-19 on the education sector, especially the manifestation of the Indonesian government's efforts to overcome the problems of the education system with the existence of the Freedom Learning-Free Campus policy, which is expected to be able to improve the education system, especially in the new normal era.

Method

The type of research used is library research with a focus on collecting, analyzing, presenting, and concluding all forms of theoretical information and documents related to the independent campus policy launched by the Indonesian government.

This type of library research makes library materials in the form of books, scientific magazines, documents and other materials that can be used as a source of reference in research (Hadi, 2004). Literature research almost all of the data comes from libraries, so this type of research is better known as descriptive qualitative literature research, because this research relies entirely on theoretical data and documents in the library.

This research is a type of research that focuses on collecting, analyzing, presenting and concluding information related to book analysis. The methodology used is the study of the text, the study of the historical context, and the study of the relationship between the text and its society.

The data collection technique used is documentation, which is looking for data sources about things or variables in the form of notes, books, papers, articles, journals, and so on. Meanwhile, the data analysis techniques used are organizing data, describing, compiling patterns, choosing which ones are important and what will be studied, and making conclusions that can be shared with others (Sugiyono, 2014). The data analysis technique used in this study is a qualitative analysis method using content analysis techniques. Content analysis techniques, namely research conducted systematically on records or documents as data sources. This technique is used to analyze all forms of communication such as newspapers, books, laws and regulations, articles, journals, and so on (Hadi, 2004).

The data analysis technique in this study was determined by the novelty nature of the library and the extent of the literature publication. In this case, the internet allows easy search for information related to research. Data information is available in various formats. Therefore, in choosing a library source must be careful and adjusted to the research theme. Data analysis used in research is to find suitable data sources and then develop or narrow them down, so that more accurate and clear information can emerge.

Result and Discussion

1. Impact of Covid-19 on the Education System

The impact of Covid-19 on the education system was felt in almost all countries in the world. One example of the impact of Covid-19 on the education sector is India. The Indian government issued a nationwide lockdown policy. Due to the Pandemic, all schools and colleges were declared closed, this of course disrupted the entire education system. Policy makers face many obstacles in making policies related to the education system. The change in the education system from offline to online, as well as a transformation in teaching methodology, has resulted in students, teachers and parents facing many problems. More than 90 percent of the world's student population is affected by the policy of closing schools and colleges (Tarkar, 2020).

The policies taken by the Indonesian government are not much different from those taken by other countries affected by the corona virus. The central government establishes Large-Scale Social Restrictions. However, its implementation has not been effective, because this policy is only a non-binding appeal. For this reason, it is still necessary to optimize government policies to overcome this Corono virus outbreak, whose implementation is in accordance with the conditions of the Indonesian people (Juaningsih, et al., 2020).

Optimizing government efforts in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic must pay attention to several factors, one of which is the humanitarian factor and paying attention to the rights of citizens. The government must modernize as a medium for global dehumanization. The efforts made by the government, among others, are to raise public awareness to live a healthy lifestyle, such as diligently washing hands, wearing masks, avoiding physical touch and maintaining distance. Apart from that, the government must also create economic stability so that all elements of society can live properly. The government must also prioritize interests related to the welfare of citizens. Also, the government must develop technology, this is a challenge for intellectuals to improve the quality of education and science in Indonesia (Jati and Putra, 2020).

The Indonesian government's policy in the education sector is the temporary closure of educational institutions, starting from the lowest level to higher education institutions, as an effort to control the spread of the corona virus. The implementation of online or distance learning (PJJ) online or learning from home (BDR), or school / college at home, still faces various obstacles, such as limited mastery of information technology by teachers and students, inadequate infrastructure, limited internet access and the lack of preparedness of budget providers. This burden is the responsibility of all elements of education, especially the government in facilitating the continuity of educational institutions (Aji, 2020).

Other research results also show the obstacles faced by teachers, students and parents in online learning, such as weak mastery of technology, increasing internet quota costs, additional work for parents to accompany their children to study at home, lack of socialization and communication between teachers and students. , working hours are not limited for teachers because they have to communicate with parents, other teachers, and school principals (Purwanto, et al., 2020).

Meanwhile, the application of online learning can only be carried out effectively and smoothly, if there is good cooperation between teachers, students, and parents who help study at home (Dewi, 2020). The new education system that was built due to the impact of Covid-19, requires the readiness and motivation of teachers to advance knowledge and skills, in order to improve the quality of education. Opportunities to advance the quality of online learning require support from teachers, parents and families (Duraku and Hoxha, 2020).

At the tertiary level, the problem experienced by students with online lecturing activities is the emergence of boredom and boredom, so it is hoped that lecturers will be more creative and innovate in using digital media, so that the learning process becomes more enjoyable and meaningful. This research also reveals that online using a variety of advanced features cannot replace the role of lecturers as in face-to-face lectures, because by meeting face to face, students gain motivation and enthusiasm to learn (Aswasulasikin, 2020).

Based on the exposure to education system problems as a result of the impact of Covid-19, the Indonesian government, in this case the Ministry of Education and Culture, issued a policy that is expected to be able to improve the education system in Indonesia, especially in times of crisis such as the Covid-19 pandemic that is currently hitting. The government established a policy of Merdeka Learning, for the scope of higher education, known as the Merdeka Campus.

2.   Independent Campus Policy

The independent campus policy is a continuation of the concept of Free Learning. Its application in the university environment is the most possible, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, it is hoped that this policy can be implemented immediately, because it has only slightly changed ministerial regulations and did not change Government Regulations or Laws (Malena, 2020).

An independent campus is a form of implementation of ministerial regulations number 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, 2020, which can be applied by universities in the process of providing education during the Covid-19 period. There are four main points in the independent campus policy.

First, namely the granting of autonomy for PTNs and PTS to establish or open new study programs (with specified conditions). In addition, it is ensured that each university must collaborate with the appropriate organization or institution in compiling a collaborative curriculum for several activities that have been programmed by the government or established by the university. This organization can also be used as an internship or work practice for students according to their field of expertise. Higher education and related stakeholders are required to carry out tracer studies to ensure the sustainability of this program (Kemendikbud RI, 2020).

Second, the Merdeka Campus implements an automatic re-accreditation program for all rankings and is voluntary for study programs and colleges that are ready to move up the rankings. The accreditation set by BAN-PT will be valid for 5 (five) years, and will be renewed automatically. For universities that have received international accreditation, accreditation will be given A. To ensure accreditation commitment, evaluation will continue to be carried out by BAN-PT, as well as regular tracer studies every year (Kemendikbud RI., 2020)

Third, the Merdeka Campus provides freedom for Public Service Agency (BLU) State Universities and Work Units (Satker) to become Legal Entity PTNs (PTN BH). The Ministry of Education and Culture will provide easy requirements to become a BH PTN without being bound by accreditation status (Kemendikbud RI., 2020).

Fourth, the Merdeka Campus gives students the right to take courses outside the study program and changes the definition of semester credit units (credits). Higher education is obliged to give students the right to gain a wider learning experience and space to deepen their horizons for 3 (three) semesters outside the study program. Namely 2 (two) semesters (equivalent to 40 credits) outside the campus and 1 (one) semester (equivalent to 20 credits) in other study programs on campus. Programs that students can choose from include internships, practical work, teaching assistants in educational institutions, entrepreneurship, student exchange, research, and so on. In undergoing the program, students still have to be accompanied by a supervisor. The definition of

credits has changed in meaning, now credits are defined as "hours of activity", no longer hours of study, so credits have a broader meaning (Kemendikbud RI., 2020).

In an effort to realize this policy, the government provides opportunities for study programs in all universities in Indonesia to submit proposals for funding, both for credit transfers at the national and international levels, as well as to get funds in running collaborative programs with organizations or institutions outside the study program support the implementation of the policy of Merdeka Learning-Free Campus (Kemendikbud RI. (B), 2020).

The challenges in implementing the Merdeka Learning-Free Campus policy are technical matters, namely the established program implementation mechanisms, be it collaboration or collaboration with parties outside the campus, changes in the paradigm for PTN with legal status to compete on an international scale, and strategies that need to be implemented so that this policy can be implemented effectively, efficiently and productively (Arifin and Muslim, 2020).

It is hoped that the Independent Campus Policy will erode the gap between the world of education and the real world. So far, students are not given the freedom to choose lecture activities according to their interests, especially if that interest is outside the study program they have undertaken. Now students are given the right to choose a series of activities outside the study program, to strengthen their learning experience, attitudes, and skills, so that they are more honed, because during the learning process outside the study program, they will interact directly with learning resources, media, and teaching materials. encountered in the field. The implementation of the Merdeka Campus policy is relevant to the competency needs of graduates in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0, because it equips students with various skills and experiences directly. (Priatmoko and Dzakiyyah, 2020)..

Conclusion

The test given by Allah SWT for mankind, as the presence of the corona virus in almost all parts of the world has had a tremendous impact in various sectors of life. Not only problems of physical, mental, social, religious, economic health, resilience, but also have an impact on aspects of education. As a religious community, we should think positively about the pandemic that has occurred. There must be a lesson to be learned from this tragedy. For example, now people are starting to pay attention to health, live a right and healthy lifestyle, keep a distance, cover their genitals, all of which are Islamic teachings.

One of the lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic is the emergence of new policies from the government, one of which is the Freedom Learning-Free Campus policy which is expected to be able to overcome the problems of changes in the education system that have occurred due to the impact of Covid-19.

Strong cooperation between government elements, educational institutions (universities), the community (organizations / institutions as partners for cooperation), is needed in supporting the successful implementation of the Merdeka Learning-Free Campus policy. The hope for the future is the success of programs that have been set by the government and universities to improve the quality of graduates so that they are useful for the country, nation, religion and state.

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