EXPLORATION OF STUDYING WHILE WORKING PART-TIME SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH 15 INDONESIAN STUDENTS IN TAIWAN: A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY CASE STUDY

Anitiyo Soelistiyono\textsuperscript{A}, Fei Chuan Chen\textsuperscript{B}

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\textbf{ABSTRACT} \\
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\textbf{Purpose:} This study explores the experiences of Indonesian students studying while working at Taiwanese public universities. \\
\textbf{Design/methodology/approach:} Through a phenomenological research approach that utilizes face-to-face interview techniques, the personal experiences of 15 Indonesian students were recorded. As a student who conducts lecture activities while working, apart from having assignments from the place of study, students also have to face problems at work. \\
\textbf{Findings:} The findings from this study indicate that the main reasons from within and from outside students in carrying out learning and work activities are financial problems. Furthermore, when students devote less time to work, this causes students to divert their attention a little from the main task of learning. \\
\textbf{Research, Practical & Social implications:} From these study and work activities, students get a positive impact in the form of experience and a negative impact in the form of fatigue and problems with their time. \\
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EXPLORAÇÃO DE ESTUDAR ENQUANTO TRABALHAVA MEIO PERÍODO SIMULTANEAMENTE COM 15 ESTUDANTES INDONÉSIOS EM TAIWAN: UM ESTUDO DE CASO DE UMA UNIVERSIDADE PÚBLICA

\textbf{RESUMO} \\
\textbf{Objetivo:} Este estudo explora as experiências de estudantes indonésios que estudam enquanto trabalham em universidades públicas taiwanesas. \\
\textbf{Desenho/metodologia/abordagem:} Por meio de uma abordagem de pesquisa fenomenológica que utiliza técnicas de entrevista cara a cara, foram registradas as experiências pessoais de 15 estudantes indonésios. Como aluno que realiza atividades letivas durante o trabalho, além de receber atribuições do local de estudo, o aluno também enfrenta problemas no trabalho. \\
\textbf{Resultados:} Os resultados deste estudo indicam que os principais motivos de dentro e de fora dos alunos na realização de atividades de aprendizagem e trabalho são problemas financeiros. Além disso, quando os alunos dedicam menos tempo ao trabalho, isso faz com que os alunos desviassem um pouco sua atenção da tarefa principal de aprender. \\
\textbf{Pesquisa, implicações práticas e sociais:} A partir dessas atividades de estudo e trabalho, os alunos obtêm um impacto positivo na forma de experiência e um impacto negativo na forma de fadiga e problemas com o tempo.

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Exploration of Studying while Working Part-Time Simultaneously with 15 Indonesian Students in Taiwan: A Public University Case Study

Soelistiyono, A., Chen, F. C. (2023)
Palavras-chave: Estudante Internacional, Empregos de Meio Período, Motivo, Impacto.

EXPLORACIÓN DE ESTUDIAR MIENTRAS SE TRABAJA A TIEMPO PARCIAL SIMULTÁNEAMENTE CON 15 ESTUDIANTES INDONESIOS EN TAIWÁN: UN ESTUDIO DE CASO DE UNA UNIVERSIDAD PÚBLICA

RESUMEN
Propósito: Este estudio explora las experiencias de estudiantes indonesios que estudian mientras trabajan en universidades públicas taiwanesas.

Metodología: a través de un enfoque de investigación fenomenológica que utiliza técnicas de entrevista cara a cara, se registraron las experiencias personales de 15 estudiantes indonesios. Como estudiante que realiza actividades de lectura mientras trabaja, además de tener asignaciones del lugar de estudio, los estudiantes también tienen que enfrentar problemas en el trabajo.

Conclusiones: Los hallazgos de este estudio indican que las principales razones internas y externas de los estudiantes para llevar a cabo actividades de aprendizaje y trabajo son los problemas económicos. Además, cuando los estudiantes dedican menos tiempo al trabajo, esto provoca que los estudiantes desvíen un poco su atención de la tarea principal de aprender.

Implicaciones de la Investigación: De estas actividades de estudio y trabajo, los estudiantes obtienen un impacto positivo en forma de experiencia y un impacto negativo en forma de fatiga y problemas con su tiempo.

Palabras clave: Estudiante Internacional, Trabajos de Medio Tiempo, Razón, Impacto.

INTRODUCTION

Students who continue studying abroad are required to study and be able to live independently. Students who continue studying abroad on their study trips are often faced with financial problems. Life abroad requires other expenses besides tuition fees, such as food, apartment rent, and unexpected additional costs. In such circumstances, at the same time, a student is also required to work. Studying while working in between has been a general trend over the last few decades. Despite the workload assigned by the school, students have to deal with many problems at work. This research explores how a student who continues to study abroad, besides coping with the burden of university assignments, also deals with the issues in his part-time job. A student has to study and have academic achievements. Accomplishing scholastic victory and minimizing the aptitudes hole for post-employment capability requires the natural components to be tended to as an indispensably portion of the required program instead of displayed as an discretionary additional (Cachia et al., 2018).

In reality, most Indonesian students who continue their studies in Taiwan study while working, and each student has a different perception of studying and working at the same time, which will undoubtedly positively and negatively impact these students. Some students may view learning while working as a negative thing, while others see it as a positive thing (Ngan, 2021). This reality follows the opinion that students' part-time employment can affect academic performance (Wadood et al., 2018).
Students who choose college while working have various reasons for carrying out this commitment simultaneously. Declining government funding has led many students to cite financial stress as one of the top reasons for taking part-time jobs alongside their studies. Due to the loss of basic grants and increased pressure on student income, part-time jobs have likely become a regular part of student life (Robotham, 2012).

Students benefit from the responsibility that results from their dual roles as students and employees in many ways. However, they also suffer from emotional and physical stress resulting in fatigue, lack of sleep, role conflicts, homesickness, and frustration. Interestingly, these students effectively used different coping mechanisms, including seeking social support and participating in leisure and non-leisure activities, to offset the adverse effects of studying and working simultaneously (Kwadzo, 2014). International students need more financial help to cover living expenses during their studies, and financial stress hinders their academic success. Students experiencing financial pressure find it challenging to maintain relationships with more affluent peers, often creating feelings of alienation and shame (Moore et al., 2021).

Work also provides opportunities for students to expand their social network. However, when students devote too much time to work, it can distract them from the learning process, making them feel lost, and worsening their academic performance. In some cases, the time needed to complete studies is longer than for those who do not have a part-time job (Muluk, 2017).

Therefore, this research study aims to explore the reasons and impacts of Indonesian students continuing their studies in Taiwan while, at the same time, they are also doing part-time jobs. To conduct this research, the researchers selected 15 Indonesian students who had part-time jobs and were deemed eligible to participate in this study. Researchers hope that the results of this research can be an input for international students who wish to continue studying abroad to better prepare themselves while studying in other countries and can be of consideration matter to policymakers, educationists, and researchers.

Based on the phenomenon mentioned above, the researcher will explore the reasons and impacts of Indonesian students studying while working part-time, as follows:

1. What are the reasons Indonesian students study while doing part-time jobs simultaneously?
2. What is the impact of doing college while working part-time for Indonesian students?
LITERATURE REVIEW

Part-time workers are those who do jobs less than 30 hours in a week on a daily basis. (Ngan, 2021) A variety of reasons for part-time jobs to do, such as a desire to do the jobs, an employer reducing the having one's hours, or being unable to find a full-time position. Part-time jobs have many risks and effects on students' studies, then there still are problems that need to identify and considered in order to recommend steps to encourage and orientation to young people to part-time jobs, so that they can select suitable jobs and develop their learning ability (Tessema et al., 2014).

A college student had several reasons to do part-time jobs. Most students think that the cost of their studies is higher than they expected. Because of these problems, then they try to find ways to can finance their own studies and save money. Part-time jobs can bring in extra income and help students gain work experience. As stated in the research that states there are some reasons why more students work while studying: earning money to cover basic needs or related expenses (Wang et al., 2010). Working part-time in a restaurant is a great way to improve your communication skills, and teamwork skills, learn about time management, and also have the opportunity to meet new friends. But on the other hand, students may feel sleepy and reduce study time, so it is to be a challenge to secure a balance for students in college both part-time work and study. Very important to understand that students work a reasonable number of hours and try their best to make balance work and the responsibilities of study related that they have.

Expensive university tuition fees are an economic burden, especially for international students. Students earn money from part-time jobs to reduce their financial stress. And furthermore, the university is a bridge to a professional career in the future. Studying at university requires sufficient time to acquire knowledge to pass assignments and exams. Therefore, it is a tough test for students to manage time and balance between work and study (Ali, 2017).

METHODOLOGY

Sample

The sample that using in this study was 15 students Indonesian students at a public university in Taiwan. The students in this study have been studying in their positions for 1 - 4 years. The research participants consist that all of them done of part-time jobs students. In this
research, 15 participants give answers that represented the overall answers about the reasons and impacts of Indonesian students studying while working part-time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Categories</th>
<th>N</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
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<td>12 hours</td>
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<td>16 hours</td>
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<td>Civil and Construction Management</td>
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<td>Emerging Industry, Section Tourism Creativities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Restaurant</td>
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**Study Design**

This qualitative research uses a conventional content analysis approach. Qualitative research is research that understands concepts, opinions, or experiences that require collecting and evaluating the process of non-numeric data through process in-depth interviews to find answers to a phenomenon or question. And this research systematically applies scientific procedures for understanding and investigating the significance of several individuals or groups to social or humanitarian issues. Researchers must take an inductive approach to undertake this research type, then concentrate on specific meanings, and translate the complexity of the problem (Creswell, 2017).

The qualitative research process emphasizes deep understanding, complexity, and detail of the phenomenon being studied, and researchers are also actively involved. Most of the data of conventional content analysis is obtained through interviews. Interviews that do with individuals allow us to understand participants' experiences, participant's perceptions, and we derive richer data from their experiences. Through in-depth interviews based on relevant literature, we can collect data. In accordance with the participants' dialogue, we can use exploratory questions gradually to extract further details and clarify the interviewee's explanations and examples. Explicitly the questions were also aimed at gathering information about participants' perceptions of the concept of the reasons and impacts on Indonesian students studying while working part-time.

**Data Collection Technique**

In this research to obtain the necessary data so that the data obtained can be accounted for and perfect, researchers use data collection techniques. The researcher in this study uses data collection techniques with in-depth interviews. Subjective investigate strategies through in-depth interviews include seriously person interviews with a little number of respondents. This procedure investigates their points of view on a specific thought, program, or circumstance (Isabel & Sierra, 2006).

The process for gathering data is as follows. The first step is to confirm by email that the study will be conducted. The interviewer will explain to the interviewee the goal of the study. The second step is visiting the participants and conducting an interview as per the agreement. The interview, which lasted for roughly 50–60 minutes, was recorded with the interviewee's consent. Using content analysis tools, the interviewer examined the data (Balyer, 2012). In-depth descriptions and pertinent material that is in line with the goals of the research
can be obtained through interviews. This study achieves theoretical saturation by using a substantial research sample. In addition to acquiring data, analysis was done utilizing content analysis techniques to pinpoint "participant perspectives".

Between February 2022 and January 2023, researchers conducted interviews with 15 participants in both Indonesian and English. Participants come from various academic backgrounds. The researcher observed data saturation for the answers to the questions posed after completing in-depth interviews with the 15 participants, and no new data appeared. Gender, part-time work hours during the week, colleges, study programs, universities, and the fields of part-time employment are some of the participants' demographic features. We checked the accuracy and confirmation of the interviews. The interview's components are then related to one another utilizing a continuous comparative method to data organization and analysis. Saturation and new hypotheses will result from this continuous process. Continuous analysis and replication for more data collecting and coding in will lead to the theory's emergence (Balyer, 2017).

The exploration of each data set (interview transcript), such as a significant issue, a recurrent occurrence, or an activity transformation into interview data information, is required for this technique. Once the researcher was able to classify the data into useful categories to address the study objectives, she repeatedly evaluated the interviews for participants' affirmative and disconfirmative statements. Without guiding the participants' responses, the interviewer in this method just asks questions and records the responses. Researchers used their own self-developed semi-structured questions during interviews. The interviews were successful in assuring the participants of the research's secrecy, allowing them to freely answer questions. The research aims and confidentiality were discussed after agreeing on the interview site (partially at the participant's home, college, and place of employment), adhering to the norms of research ethics. Obtaining participant consent for research participation and using the protocol to record conversation. Each participant wrote down and signed the data they had collected.

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

The expected findings from this study are the reasons and impacts of Indonesian students in Taiwan studying while part-time jobs.
Findings

The findings obtained are as follows:

The main reasons why Indonesian students study while part-time jobs simultaneously

From the interviews conducted by the researchers with the participants, the participants provided answers regarding the main reasons originating from themselves, why they carried out college activities while working, namely as follows:

“Financial problems, paying tuition and boarding fees, as well as living expenses, due to reduced scholarships obtained”
"Looking for experience"

Another reason that comes from the participants themselves, namely:

“Want to learn time management, as entertainment, no longer have classes, and bored”
“Want to earn extra money, want to save, and for a vacation”

Based on the results of the interviews, all participants gave the same answer, that is, the reason they did college activities while working part-time was that they had financial problems, namely to meet living expenses abroad and seek experience, so because they no longer had classes and to fill their spare time, as well as to relieve boredom, some of them work part-time to gain experience while looking for additional money and saving so they can set aside the money they earn part-time for vacations to relieve boredom from studying and working.

On the other hand, based on the results of interviews conducted by researchers, participants gave answers to reasons that came from outside themselves or from their surroundings why they did college activities while working, as follows:

“Take advantage of existing job opportunities”
“Seeing friends work, so want to try to work”
“Parents are no longer supporting the cost”

Participants also conveyed other reasons for carrying out lecture activities while studying that came from outside the participant, namely:

“Educating children, helping families, and getting more connections”

Regarding the answers from the participants about the reasons external to the participants that caused them to go to college while working part-time, this was because they
wanted to take advantage of job opportunities that existed after seeing their friends working part-time, so they tried to work like them. Some of the participants gave answers about why they were studying while working part-time because they were required to pay for their children's education, help their families, and wanted to make more friends or connections.

The impact of doing college while part-time jobs for Indonesian students

After conducting interviews regarding the impact that occurred while doing lectures while doing part-time jobs, all participants gave the following answers as follows:

“Gain a lot of experience and survive”
“Time management control skills improve”
“Building relationships with local people”

Other answers from participants regarding the positive impact of conducting college activities while working part-time, are as follows:

“Practice language skills, reduce boredom, gain motivation to complete education, and be able to pay tuition and boarding fees”

Based on the answers obtained, most of the participants gave answers to questions regarding the positive impact of studying and working at the same time, namely that they gain a lot of experience, are able to survive, have good time management skills, and are able to build relationships. On the other hand, they also have the opportunity to practice language, have a means of refreshing, make part-time jobs a motivator for learning, and not experience financial problems anymore.

On the other hand, based on questions about the negative impact of doing college activities while working part-time, the participants gave the following answers:

“Loss of study time, friendship, and family”
“Limited break time”
“Very tired, and have to maintain time management”
“Not getting enough sleep”

In this interview, only one participant gave the answer that there was no influence regarding the negative impact of doing college activities while working part-time, namely:

“Not a big impact”
The answers of most of the participants regarding the negative impact that was obtained when carrying out study and work activities at the same time were that the participants experienced problems with the time they had and the fatigue they got after working part-time. This more or less affects the learning process and their lectures.

**Discussion**

Based on the results of interviews with Indonesian students to explore the reasons and impacts of Indonesian students studying while part-time jobs, the following participants were obtained:

As a student continue to study abroad, they will experience unexpected situations. The situation is a financial problem. From the results of the interviews conducted with the participants, overall the participants gave the same answers regarding the reasons the participants themselves carry out college activities while doing part-time jobs because they had financial problems. Existing financial problems cause them to take part-time jobs to fulfill them, so they work part-time to overcome their financial problems and hope can be financially independent. On the other side, they no longer have classes, then to fill their free time, and relieve boredom they do part-time jobs. This is in accordance with the opinion of study that states their ultimate reason was to be financially independent (Chantrea et al., 2017)

Meanwhile, regarding the reasons external to the participants that caused them to go to college while having part-time jobs, the participants gave the same answer, namely because the scholarships they had received had decreased, so they had difficulty paying for college, paying for boarding, as well as for daily living expenses. This situation causes participants to carry out lecture activities while having part-time jobs by taking advantage of existing job opportunities, and after seeing their college friends they can carry out lectures while having part-time jobs. Some of the participants even gave other reasons why they went to college while working part-time, namely because circumstances required them to pay for their children's education, to help their families. This shows that the participants face financial constraints. In addition, they also want to make more friends or connections when working part-time. This is in accordance with the opinion which states that What characterizes international students from other sojourners are their academic goals and school environment. During cross-cultural adaptation processes various challenges may face, such as finding living recommendations, learning the academic culture and different education systems, making new friends, and developing a new social support system.
From the question about the positive impact on participants, in this case, Indonesian students, in studying while working part-time jobs, participants said that they gained a lot of experience when they worked part-time. This is in accordance with the opinion that the reason why more students work while studying is to gain work experience or practical skills (Wang et al., 2010). Some of them also answered that they were studying while working part-time, namely as a means of refreshing, building new relationships, and practicing language skills.

The negative impact of part-time work while conducting lectures for participants, in this case, Indonesian students, is that participants experience problems with study time they have and the fatigue they get after working part-time, so they have difficulty managing time between study and work. This situation more or less affects their learning process and lectures. This is in accordance with the opinion which states that after their receipt of both final year marks and degree results, term-time working can have a harmful effect on them. The student will have a greater negative effect if they had more hours worked (Callender, 2008).

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of interviews with 15 participants in this study, the majority of whom work in restaurants, the researchers concluded that places, where they do part-time jobs, have high employee turnover rates. Where they do part-time jobs is not related to their career path, and participants do work according to set working hours. The time they use when doing part-time jobs is between 8 to 20 hours a week. This study further reveals that students from different backgrounds have different perspectives and attitudes toward part-time jobs. Furthermore, the researcher concluded that, first, overall the participants gave the same answers regarding the reasons both from the participants themselves and reasons from outside the participants that influenced the participants to carry out college activities while doing part-time jobs, namely because they had financial problems. These financial problems arise because the scholarships obtained have decreased, so they have difficulty paying for college, paying for boarding fees, as well as for daily living expenses. By doing part-time jobs, students earn money through the hard work of part-time jobs to reduce their financial problems. This shows that the participants face financial constraints. In addition, they also want to make more friends or connections when working part-time. Second, participants said that after doing part-time jobs, they felt the impact on their learning activities. These impacts include positive impacts and negative impacts. The positive impact that they get after doing college activities while working part-time is that they gain experience from the part-time job they do. However, they also get a
negative impact from the part-time jobs they do, namely, these part-time jobs not only reduce study time but also make them feel too tired to concentrate on their studies. With this situation, students who have a study plan will know better how to manage time such as study hours and part-time work hours. The study plan can help them to manage their studies and work well. So that they are expected to be able to choose which one should be prioritized and have a target to complete their studies. Higher education providers can play an important role to teach students to put study plans into practice. The study plan must be an integral part of the teaching curriculum for international students.

REFERENCES


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