

Education in Career Prospects: Understanding the Impact of Social Contribution to the Humanities During Student Mobility Programs

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Abstract. In an increasingly globalized world, higher education institutions are constantly seeking innovative methods to equip students for the demands of a competitive job market. One significant approach is the implementation of student mobility programs, which allow students to study outside their home university. The Indonesian Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology has recognized the importance of these programs through the *Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka* (MBKM) initiative, specifically the Indonesian International Student Mobility Awards (IISMA) and *Pertukaran Mahasiswa Merdeka* (PMM). Utilizing a literature review approach, the research shows how these programs enhance academic understanding, cultural awareness, and professional skills. The research highlights several key outcomes: students develop a deeper appreciation for the humanities, gain valuable experiences, and develop an excellent basis of soft skills. The findings indicate that participation in IISMA and PMM significantly improve students' critical thinking, self-leadership, and cross-cultural competencies, which are crucial for career development. Social contributions, such as community service and cultural exchanges, further enrich students' personal and professional growth by fostering a sense of citizenship and enhancing adaptability, communication, collaboration, and problem-solving abilities. This paper reported that these programs helped them build networks, understand diverse perspectives, and engage in meaningful social contributions, which collectively enhanced their resumes and professional profiles. Moreover, the study highlights the importance of integrating humanities and social engagement into student mobility programs. By promoting these elements, educational institutions can better prepare students for diverse and dynamic career opportunities. The research underscores the potential of MBKM programs in shaping well-rounded graduates who are equipped to navigate and contribute positively to the workforce.

Keywords: Career, Humanity, Social contribution, Student mobility programs