

STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS OF CAREER GUIDANCE SERVICES TOWARDS THE SELECTION OF COLLEGE MAJORS

Rizki Ajhari Panjaitan¹, Nurussakinah Daulay²

¹²Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara Medan; Indonesia

Correspondence email; rizkipanjaitan07@gmail.com

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Abstract

The purpose of this study was to determine the Perception of Class XII Students of SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir, Labuhanbatu Utara Regency, towards Career Guidance Services During the Selection Period of College Majors. This type of research is descriptive qualitative research. The data collection techniques used in this research are interviews, observation, and documentation. While data analysis uses data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. From this study, it can be concluded that students' perceptions of career guidance in choosing majors during college already have an understanding. This is evidenced by the attitude that students bring up when participating in career guidance activities. Students determine their choice of majors during college for full consideration and adjust to their potential. Students also have information on career orientation after they are later able to complete their studies in college.

Keywords

Student Perception, Career Guidance, Information Services



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INTRODUCTION

Education is one aspect that needs to be prioritized to achieve the national goal of educating the nation's life through the younger generation (Rohmah & Badriyah, 2022). Young people who have the knowledge, skills, and good morals are expected to build a better nation and minimize the causes of various cultural, social, and national character problems (Hidayat & Kurniawati, 2017). This means that the younger generation must have high aspirations by continuing to higher education (Negsih, 2019).

Continuing education to college is very important for students who want to explore their potential and abilities. However, deciding to go to college is not easy. The journey of deciding to choose a major for college turns out to require careful consideration (APRIA, 2022). This is because decision-making is carried out by individuals to solve various problems, ranging from simple problems to more complex problems because in everyday life, students are also required to be able to make decisions so that what is lived in the next life can be useful (Muri Yusuf, 2021).

The high school curriculum is designed to prepare students to continue their education to the next level. After students graduate from high school, ideally, they will continue their education at the university level (Budi Agus Sumantri, 2019). Continuing education to higher education is very important for high school students who want to explore their potential and abilities. However, deciding to choose to go to college is not easy. The journey of making a decision to choose to go to college turns out to require careful consideration. Choosing a university for high school students is the same as choosing a future (Hasanah et al., 2019). Higher education is the highest educational institution that offers a variety of disciplines which makes students sometimes have to determine attitudes in making decisions to choose study programs according to students' interests and talents (Abdul Majid., 2005). The number of alternatives is sometimes also one of the factors that affect the length of time needed to make a decision (Nelissa et al., 2018).

As for the inaccuracy of students in making further study decisions, one of them can be caused by the lack of information obtained by students regarding further education to higher education (Nurussakinah Daulay, 2021). This can result in students feeling that they have no idea about their further studies so that it is difficult to determine the direction of their future career, students choose further studies not based on the orientation of the study program, students do not explore their strengths and weaknesses in the study program to be taken, and are not independent in making a selection decision (Rafiul Muiz et al., 2022).

Further study, in other words, always depends on other people who are considered meaningful to him, where the advice is subjective, so it will cause difficulties in learning and the tendency to fail in learning, as well as the wrong assumption of the prestige of a study program, these things will hinder the process of making further study choices (Imro'atun, 2017).

To respond to the problems faced by students who lack information in the selection of further studies to college, it is necessary to help supervisors such as counseling teachers. BK teachers play a very important role in helping students and career guidance services are needed to prepare for further studies in college so that students have a broad picture of college. Career guidance is a guidance activity provided to students to choose, prepare, search, and adjust to a career that is by their interests, talents, and abilities so that they can develop themselves optimally to find a career and carry out an effective career, giving satisfaction and happiness (Defriyanto & Neti Purnamasari, 2016).

The concept of counseling services in the 2013 curriculum regarding specialization or more precisely assistance to students in understanding talents and interests, career direction, and selection of study programs or majors taken needs to be supported by students' readiness to understand the new environment during their advanced studies. One of the efforts to finalize the readiness of students' further studies (in this case high school students who will continue their studies to higher education) is to provide detailed and in-depth information about the insight into the world of higher education and students understand their potential to choose the right study program. Career guidance in high school plays an important role in developing students' independence in choosing the level of further education and can provide an overview and expectations that will be achieved by students in the future.

The comprehensive counseling program has four (4) types of counseling guidance services, namely basic services, responsive services, individual planning services, and system support. Responsive services, namely guidance services that aim to help meet the needs that students feel are very important at this time. This service is preventive or possibly curative. The strategies used are individual counseling, group counseling, and consultation (Dewi, 2022).

One of the service areas in comprehensive counseling is career guidance. Career guidance is one aspect of guidance and counseling. It is incorrect to assume that career guidance is the only guidance that needs to be addressed. This needs to be emphasized to avoid misunderstandings that may arise. If it is seen that career guidance is the only guidance that needs to be addressed, then

other aspects or types of guidance will be left out, even though many problems exist outside of career guidance (Safitri et al., 2020).

One of the goals of this career guidance is to have the ability to form a career identity, have a positive attitude towards careers, and have the willingness to improve career-related abilities. In line with this, Rahayu Dewany's research results Lack of ability to understand themselves causes many high school students to be confused in choosing a college major that suits them for their future careers (Dewany & Iswari, 2022).

Guidance on choosing a college major at SMAN 1 Kualuh Hilir aims to help students prepare themselves to continue their education to a higher level or work directly. This is an important step in facing a better future. With this guidance, students will have a clearer picture of the major to be chosen and their abilities so that they can maximize their potential.

Education Experience in the field shows that many students are still confused about choosing a major / study program to be taken. This is especially true for students who come from remote areas such as SMAN 1 Kualuh Hilir which is far from the city. Therefore, guidance on choosing a college major is needed so that students can make the right decision by their abilities and interests.

Often students only make career plans based on their desires without considering their abilities. This can harm the students' future as they may not be able to fulfill the requirements for admission to their chosen major. Therefore, guidance on choosing a college major is essential to help students find a major that suits their abilities and interests.

Guidance on choosing a college major also helps avoid students from making the mistake of choosing the wrong major. Sometimes students leave career choices to peers or others without considering their abilities and interests. As a result, they may take a major that does not match their abilities and interests, potentially making them uncomfortable and unsuccessful in the field. Therefore, guidance in choosing a college major will help students choose the right major that suits their abilities and interests.

Guidance and counseling (BK) are one of the important services in the school environment to assist students in dealing with various personal, social, and academic problems. At SMAN 1 Kualuh Hilir, BK has a very important role in helping students prepare themselves to continue their education to a higher level or work directly. However, the question that often arises is why should we use the BK service at SMAN 1 Kualuh Hilir, and not use other services such as homeroom treatment, student affairs, or cooperation between student guardians and committees.

Of course, each service has its role and function. However, BK services have their advantages compared to other services. First, BK is specifically designed to provide guidance and counseling to students in a professional, structured, and systematic manner. This is different from other services such as the treatment of homeroom teachers or the head of student affairs who may not have special expertise in providing guidance and counseling. Secondly, counseling services at SMAN 1 Kualuh Hilir are conducted by counselors who have been trained and certified in the field of guidance and counseling. They have the necessary knowledge and skills to assist students in overcoming various personal, social, and academic problems effectively and professionally. Third, BK services at SMAN 1 Kualuh Hilir are conducted privately and confidentially. This means that students can freely and comfortably talk about their problems without fear of being found out by others. This is very important to create a safe and comfortable environment for students to overcome various problems (Putri et al., 2020).

Therefore, using BK services at SMAN 1 Kualuh Hilir is the right choice to help students overcome various problems and prepare themselves for a better future. This service provides advantages that other services do not have such as homeroom treatment, deputy head of student affairs, or cooperation of student guardians and committees.

Research (Dewany & Iswari, 2022) di SMA Negeri 2 Kuta Cane. Some XII-grade students have not been able to understand themselves so it is difficult to choose a major for their continued studies in college. The purpose of this study is to help students through the trait and factor counseling approach to understanding themselves so that it is easy to choose a major in college that suits them. Thus, they are easy to achieve career success in the future. This type of research is a literature study utilizing articles or journals related to the career counseling approach, trait and factor theory, and major selection. The findings of this study reveal that the trait and factor career counseling approach is effective in helping Class XII students at the high school level to choose a major in college that suits their talents, interests, and characteristics. Thus, they are easy to achieve a successful career in the future.

Resti Susanti's research in her research on the Implementation of Career Guidance to Prepare Students to Enter College at SMAN Se Jakarta explains that the implementation of career guidance is very important to find information about the college, have insight into college, and find out students' interests regarding further studies to college (Susanti, 2019).

Apart from that, Ade Silvia's research (2018) explains that students' perceptions of career guidance in facing the world of work at SMKN 1 Padang Panjang obtained a percentage of 85.916% in the very good category, meaning that the mentor teacher has implemented career guidance services in facing the world of work by paying attention to the steps in implementing career guidance to students so that students can understand themselves, be able to understand the environment and be able to plan for the future in a directed manner.

This explanation is reinforced in the perspective of national education, the importance of career guidance began to be felt along with the birth of the guidance and counseling movement in Indonesia in the mid-1950s, starting from the needs of students' majors in high school at that time. The provision of career guidance for high school students is intended so that students can recognize their abilities, recognize the values that exist in themselves, understand the surrounding environment, and recognize the world of work or higher education situations.

METHOD

This research is qualitative. Qualitative research is a procedure that uses descriptive data using written or spoken words from people and observed behavior. The assumption underlying qualitative research is that reality is plural-dimensional, unitary, and changing (Matthew B. Miles & A. Michael Huberman, 1992). The purpose of this study is to further explore how students' perceptions of career guidance services during the selection period of college majors at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir. The subject of this research focuses on Student Perceptions of Career Guidance Services During the Period of Selection of College Majors at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir. In this study, researchers used informants to obtain research information. This study involved subjects in the form of Class XII students with six groups who were studying at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir. The population of students who were the focus of the study amounted to 183 people, but in this study, the authors only took samples through probability sampling with random sampling technique informants as many as 40 students. Data collection can be obtained from observation, interviews, and documentation. a. As for Observation In this study, researchers conducted direct observation activities at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir. Researchers observed all student activities when carrying out career guidance activities at school. In this observation, the researcher records and records both in a structured and semi-structured manner of activities at the research location. In this case, what will be observed is students' perceptions of career guidance services towards the

selection period for college majors in the 2022/2023 academic year. b. Interviews In this study, researchers conducted direct interviews with XII-grade students at SMA Negeri 1 Kulauh Hilir. c. Documentation In this study, the career guidance program documents at SMA Negeri I Kualuh Hilir. which contains information about the objectives, strategies, and methods used in providing career guidance services. The data analysis uses a. Data reduction: The author will conduct data collection through questionnaires or interviews with students of SMAN 1 Kualuh Hilir who have undergone Guidance and Counseling (BK) services. After that, the author will reduce the data by sorting and selecting relevant and valid data on students' perceptions of counseling services towards the period of choosing majors. .b. Presentation of data: After the data has been successfully reduced, the author will present the data in the form of tables or diagrams that make it easier for readers to understand students' perceptions of counseling services towards the period of choosing a major. The data presented must also include aspects that are relevant to the research objectives. Concluding: In this stage, the author will analyze students' perceptions of counseling services towards choosing a major using relevant theories. After that, the author will conclude the analysis to show the extent to which the counseling services at SMAN 1 Kualuh Hilir are effective in helping students in choosing the right major. This conclusion should be based on valid and relevant data that has been successfully presented in the previous stage (Lexy J. Moleong, 2012).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

Implementation of Student Career Guidance services at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir

Career Guidance is a process of providing information, assistance, and support to individuals in developing their potential, understanding the world of work, and preparing themselves to choose and enter the world of work. Career Guidance has an important role in helping students understand themselves, find information about careers that suit their interests and talents, and prepare themselves to enter the world of work at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir. Career Guidance services are organized to assist students in developing their potential, exploring various career options available, and preparing themselves to enter the world of work.

From the interview data, most of them feel supportive of career guidance services towards the period of choosing a college major. However, some of them also said that they did not support career guidance services in the selection of college majors The following is a graph of Students'

Perceptions of Career Guidance Services During the Selection Period of College Majors at SMA 1 Kualuh Hilir.

Figure 1. Students' Perceptions of Career Guidance Services Towards the Selection Period of College Majors

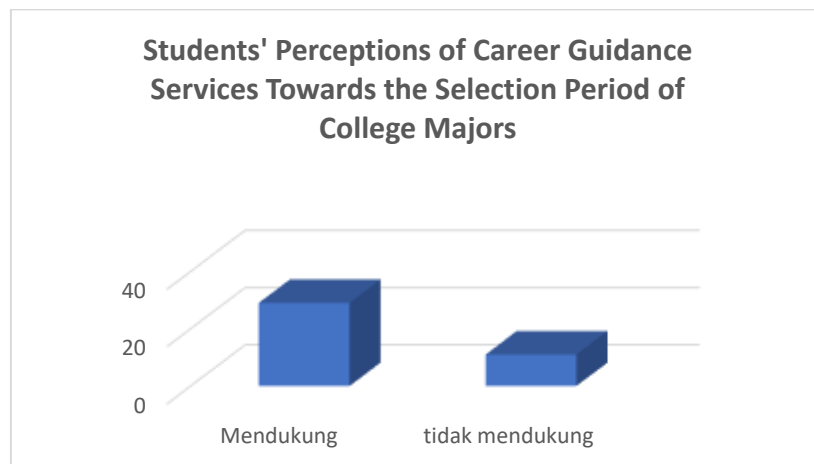


Figure 1. Shown above from a total of 40 respondents, 29 people, or around 72.5% of respondents stated that they supported students' perceptions of career guidance services in choosing a college major at SMA 1 Kualuh Hilir. This shows that the majority of respondents have a positive view of career guidance services at the high school and consider it useful to help them choose a college major. However, 11 respondents, or around 27.5% of respondents did not support students' perceptions of career guidance services in choosing college majors at SMA 1 Kualuh Hilir.

This shows that some respondents have a negative view of career guidance services at the high school and may feel that these services are not enough to help them in choosing a college major. The total number of respondents who became research subjects regarding students' perceptions of career guidance services in choosing a college major at SMA 1 Kualuh Hilir was 40 people. This shows that the data obtained is quite representative and can be used as a reference in evaluating the quality of career guidance services at the high school. The proportion of respondents who support students' perceptions of career guidance services is 72.5%. This proportion shows that the majority of respondents have a positive view of career guidance services at the high school and consider it useful in choosing a college major. The proportion of respondents who did not support learners' perceptions of career guidance services was 27.5%. This proportion indicates that some respondents have a negative view of the career guidance services at the high school and may feel that the services are not enough to help them in choosing a college major. From the data provided, it can be concluded that the majority of respondents (72.5%) support students' perceptions of career guidance services

at SMA 1 Kualuh Hilir, but some respondents (27.5%) do not. Therefore, further evaluation of the quality of career guidance services is needed to increase their satisfaction and effectiveness for students.

In the context of SMAN 1 Kualuh Hilir, the majority of respondents stated that the career counseling services provided by the counseling guidance teacher had provided a clear view regarding the choice of majors to be taken in college. The students also reported that the career counseling services provided useful insights in determining their major college choices. Moreover, the service has succeeded in facilitating students to become independent in adjusting their abilities to the majors to be taken in college.

The following is a table explaining the results of interviews related to the perceptions of SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir students about career guidance services:

Table 1. Students' Perceptions of Career Guidance Services Towards the Selection Period of College Majors

No	Aspect	Description
1	Student Perceptions of career guidance services	Very good because it provides a broad insight into college, work orientation, and major selection
2	Benefits of career guidance services	Improves students' insight into higher education, and orientation to the world of work, and helps in determining the selection of majors
3	BK teachers' perceptions of career guidance services	Very good and useful in helping students prepare to enter college.
4	Students' decision in choosing a college major	The students can determine the direction of the major selection decision after receiving career guidance services and can adjust their abilities to the chosen major.

The table above explains the existence of career guidance services provided at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir, students have understood the stages of taking college entrance tests, both public and private. In addition, the service also provides insight to students in analyzing the needs of the world of work and adjusting to the majors that will be chosen during college. The results of the interview with the Principal of SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir also show that students who take part in career guidance activities have the maturity of thinking in determining major selection decisions. This fact was proven when the author conducted interviews with students of SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir when they took their graduation certificates. These students have a good understanding of the selection of college majors and the right reasons for choosing these majors. Therefore, it can be concluded that career guidance services at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir have provided significant

benefits for students in preparing for their future.

Obstacles to Student Career Guidance Services at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir

The following is a table of the results of interviews, observations, and documentation regarding the obstacles to student career guidance services at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir:

Table 2. Barriers to Student Career Guidance Services at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir

No	Obstacles to Student Career Guidance Services at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir
1	Lack of time for career guidance is scheduled
2	Lack of information about future career opportunities
3	Lack of individual counseling provided by counseling teachers
4	Lack of cooperation between counseling teachers and students' parents
5	Limited access to career information through the Internet and social media
6	Lack of BK teachers' knowledge about careers in specific fields
7	A mismatch between students' interests and talents with career choices
8	Lack of awareness of the importance of career guidance
9	Limited resources to assist students in career guidance

Based on the data table above, there are nine barriers faced by SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir students in receiving career guidance services. The first barrier is the lack of scheduled time for career guidance. This makes students feel that the time scheduled for career guidance is lacking, so they cannot obtain sufficient information. Second is the lack of information regarding future career opportunities. Students feel that they do not get enough information about future career opportunities, so they have difficulty choosing the right major. Third is the lack of individual counseling provided by BK teachers. BK teachers are considered to provide less individual counseling to students, so they have difficulty obtaining relevant information.

Fourth is the lack of cooperation between counseling teachers and parents. Students feel that they lack support from their parents in choosing a career major, so they have difficulty making the right choice. Fifth is limited access to career information through the internet and social media. Students feel limited in accessing career information through the Internet and social media, so they have difficulty obtaining relevant information. Sixth is the lack of knowledge of counseling teachers about careers in specific fields. BK teachers are considered to lack knowledge about careers in specific fields, so students have difficulty obtaining relevant information. Seventh is the mismatch between students' interests and talents with career choices. Students feel that they do not get enough information about career choices that match their interests and talents, so they have difficulty making the right choices. Eighth is the lack of awareness of the importance of career guidance.

Students are less aware of the importance of career guidance so they are less interested in following the career guidance program. Ninth is the limited resources to assist students in career guidance. There are limited resources to help students with career guidance so the career guidance program is not optimal.

In addition to students, obstacles are also experienced by counseling guidance teachers in implementing career guidance services, namely related to time constraints, so the implementation of career guidance to prepare students to enter college is not optimal. Likewise, based on the results of interviews with the BK teacher coordinator at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir, explaining that students' perceptions of career guidance services are very good and very useful to support the selection period of college majors. The students already have the direction of the major selection decision after obtaining career guidance services. Students of SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir can adjust their abilities to the majors they will choose.

Discussion

Alex Sobur explains that perception is opinion, thought, interpretation, and understanding. This means that perception is related to external factors that are responded to through the five senses, memory, and mental power (Alex Sobur., 2023).

In line with the description above, Nurussakinah Daulay explains that perception takes place when a person receives a stimulus from the outside world captured by his five senses which then enters the brain, in which a thinking process occurs which is finally realized in an understanding. This understanding is what is referred to as perception (Daulay, 2014).

The choice of study program in college for students is very important because it determines the career that will be obtained in the future. This is explained by Supriatna that the career problems felt by high school students include students who do not have a certain choice of college or further education after high school and students who still do not understand how to choose a study program that suits their abilities and interests. Therefore, students need to have good planning so that they are not wrong in determining their choice of majors or colleges.

The implementation of career guidance for further studies is carried out to provide insight and provide a good perception for students towards choosing a major. Winkel explains that one of the efforts to finalize students' readiness for further studies is to provide extensive information about themselves and insight into the world of higher education (Daulay, 2016).

Accurate information about college insight and oneself is important to influence students' perceptions of their career decisions so that students can adjust the choice of majors to their abilities, by considering the needs of the world of work and career orientation in the future.

The data obtained from the results of interviews, with counseling guidance teachers at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir about student perceptions of career guidance services, namely, students have good perceptions and are mature in addressing the selection of college majors and can direct themselves according to their potential. Students have been able to prepare themselves well to determine their major selection decisions when they graduate from SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir. The provision of career guidance services with information services provides maturity of student perceptions of career guidance services and the selection of majors in college (Putri et al., 2020).

Class XII students have good confidence in making their major choices after getting career guidance services using information services. Students' perceptions are increasingly directed by the existence of career guidance activities at school.

The obstacles to counseling guidance teachers in developing students' perceptions of career guidance with information services are time constraints that are less than optimal. Providing career guidance services with information services does not yet have detailed and programmed scheduling. Counseling guidance teachers carry out career guidance activities only utilizing certain times to carry out these activities. BK teachers are aware that students who will continue their studies to college, must have information about the college, and have knowledge about self-understanding, namely the potential possessed and adjusted to the choice of study majors to be followed while in college (Saifuddin et al., 2017).

Meanwhile, Junaidi Jauhari said that the Career Guidance Program in Improving Students' Career Decision Plans is one of the obstacles to career guidance that students do get information about further schools or colleges, but the number of colleges offered to students, actually makes students confused to choose which majors and colleges will be where students continue. based on this, it can be concluded that counseling teachers should provide individual guidance to students who have not been able to make choices about their career direction (Jauhari & Maryani, 2018).

CONCLUSION

Students' perceptions at SMA Negeri 1 Kualuh Hilir are very good about career guidance activities using information services. Career guidance activities provide broad insights and can make students have mature thoughts in determining their choice of majors. When students have not

received career guidance activities, students' perceptions about choosing a major are just waiting for the lucky result where they will graduate. The implementation of career guidance is important to continue to be implemented for class XII students, and they are very enthusiastic and eager to participate in career guidance activities at school. Students' perceptions are well developed after the provision of career guidance activities. Students determine the decision to choose a major during the lecture period with full consideration and adjust it to the potential of each of them.

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