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## The Profile Improvement of Vocational School Teachers' Competencies

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*Abstract.* This study is aimed to reveal the improvement in the competency of productive teachers of both state and private vocational high schools in Sleman Regency after participating in a self-development program in terms of psychological maturity and socio-cultural aspects. This study was carried out in two state vocational high schools SMKN 1 Sedayu and SMKN 1 Seyegan, and one private vocational high school SMK Muhammadiyah Pakem. It was a qualitative study in nature using interview and documentation as the means of collecting the data. Fifteen produc-



tive teachers of the three vocational high schools with expertise in Building Engineering Drawing (BED) were purposively selected to be the research subjects. The obtained data in the form of interview tapescripts, photos, and documents were triangulated to ensure data validity. The data were then analyzed systematically through three main stages including open coding, axial coding, and selective coding. The results show that through self-development, the BED productive teachers in state vocational high schools can improve their pedagogical and professional competencies. In addition, this program also develops their knowledge and skills in the areas of curriculum, expertise, technology, as well as teaching strategies and methods. Even so, in the case of BED productive teachers in private vocational high schools, this self-development program does not significantly improve their competencies.

Keywords: pedagogical competence, professional competence, self-development, vocational high school

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### Introduction

To create quality education, it is imperative to create quality teachers as well. Law Number 14 Year 2005 on Teachers and Lecturers mentions that quality teachers are those who can meet the demands of life changes by making continuous quality improvements in accordance with the development of science and technology. Low quality teachers will make national human resources difficult to develop. O. Marijan reveals that most Indonesian teachers are of low quality and this is because national examination scores tend to be used as a standard for teacher assessment and there is no cadre regeneration of quality teachers [1]. Teachers are not the main reason behind low quality education, but the improvement of teacher quality is an absolute requirement that must be fulfilled to realize quality education [2]. In addition, the uneven distribution of teachers has made it difficult for teachers in remote areas to develop their self-quality. D. Maulipaksi says that the number of teachers in Indonesia is quite large [3]. The ratio of teachers and students in Indonesia (1:17) is generally better than that in Korea (1:32) and Japan (1:26). However, this will not have a positive impact if the quality of the existing teachers is not good.

The certification program in an effort to improve teacher competency and quality has not yet fulfilled the expected goals [4]. Susanti states that all this time the government has made a number of efforts to improve teacher competencies, among others through technical guidance, workshops, seminars, training on classroom action research, mentoring, and revitalization [5]. R. Hartono adds that the government has tried to improve the quality of teachers by increasing the capacity and professionalism of teachers through continuous education and training [6].

Some government policies regarding teacher competency improvement, specifically Law Number 14 Year 2005 regarding Teachers and Lecturers, state that in carrying out professionalism tasks, teachers are obliged to continuously improve and develop their academic qualifications and competencies in line with the development of science, technology, and the arts. Furthermore, it was also stated that teacher empowerment was carried out through selfdevelopment programs that were carried out in a democratic, fair, non-discriminatory, and sustainable manner by upholding human rights, religious values, cultural values, national plurality, and professional codes of ethics. Various teacher capacity building programs through the preparation of teacher certification have been implemented by the government as mentioned earlier, but one thing that is still rarely implemented is self-awareness to develop their own capacity as professional teachers.

Self-development without careful planning will not be able to improve the quality of the teachers. Self-development of teachers can be done through educational and training activities or through teacher collective activities. S. Creten and S. Huyghe emphasize that through self-development, participants are able to create their own training programs, have freedom in managing their time, and are able to make changes at the curriculum level through collaboration with colleagues to optimize the learning outcomes [7]. Furthermore, Y. Gulec-Aslan argues that teachers' knowledge and skills will increase when the training offered is truly well-designed [8].

Vocational high schools (VHS) play a role as a means for developing student skills in which the level of success is largely determined by the role of productive teachers. Al W. Hijriyah reports that the increasing public interest in continuing education in vocational high schools does not match the available number of productive teachers [9]. For example, data from the Central Java Education, Youth, and Sports Office show that vocational high schools in Boyolali are short of 99 productive teachers. On the other hand, Boyolali urgently needs vocational schools with study programs that can support the industry development in Boyolali, given the increasing number of enthusiasts such as in the field of Building Engineering. Building Engineering is a study program that is increasingly in demand by the public as growth and equity in the infrastructure sector continue to increase.

#### Method

It was a qualitative study with as many as fifteen state and private vocational school teachers in Building Engineering Drawing study program as the research subjects. This study was carried out in two state vocational high schools SMKN 1 Sedayu and SMKN 1 Seyegan, and one private vocational high school SMK Muhammadiyah Pakem. The data were collected through interview and documentation. The obtained data were analyzed through three main stages including open coding, axial coding, and selective coding. The data were then presented descriptively.

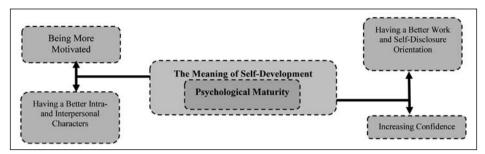
### **Results and Discussion**

In general, the importance of training successful (productive and effective) teachers has been repeatedly noted by us [1; 10–15] and other researchers [2; 4; 6; 16–18].

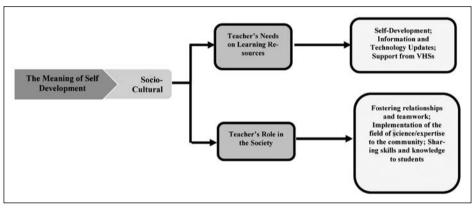
Teachers who are active in developing themselves can be more confident in delivering the materials, both knowledge and skills, to the students. Through a self-development program, they change themselves to a better teacher, especially in their expertise field. Along with their increasing knowledge, they can be more determined in teaching. Moreover, they would become more confident for the students can get actual information that is not based on textbook only.

Teachers who often participate in self-development programs will become more active in carrying out activities, either within the school, industry, or community. They will always make movements in the effort to develop student competencies. Various movements that they do include: trying to get competency certificates in the hope that they can establish their own competency test center in the scope of the vocational school and have the right to issue competency certificates to students after they pass certain competencies.

The picture above describes that self-development in productive teachers in vocational schools has provided significant changes to the aspect of psychological maturity. In terms of psychosocial aspect, teachers have a better work orientation and time management, have better self-disclosure, and show high enthusiasm as their determination increases. They become more confident and feel more motivated. Furthermore, changes also occur in their intraand interpersonal characters, for example, they become more disciplined, more adaptive, more active, and more determined to carry out their roles and duties as educators.



*Fig. 1.* The Meaning of Self-Development to Productive Teachers of Vocational High Schools on Psychological Aspects



*Fig. 2.* The Meaning of Self Development of Productive Vocational Teachers on Socio-Cultural Aspects

From the findings, it is obvious that the number of teachers participating in self-development efforts improve their motivation and selfconfidence. The analysis was carried out based on the categorization of the interview data related to motivation and self-confidence by using four criteria, namely: (a) criterion I – improvement of teacher motivation and self-confidence: (b) criteria II – improvement of teacher's confidence, but not motivation; (c) criteria III – no improvement in terms of teacher's motivation and self-confidence; and (d) criteria IV - improvement of the teacher's motivation, but not their confidence. Based on the results, the percentage of criteria I was 73.3%; criteria II and III amounted to 13.4%; and criteria IV by 0%.

The meaning of self-development in the socio-cultural aspects can be seen as a reciprocal relationship between teachers and their social environment (*Fig. 1*). Teachers need the roles of the social environment in meeting the needs of learning resources to be able to improve their competencies. In addition, teachers also play an important role in carrying out their duties as educators in their social environment. Through self-development efforts among teachers, they can be co-motivators for each other as no teacher can truly master all the sciences in one scientific field.

Based on *Figure 2*, self-development of productive teachers in state vocational schools has provided various benefits meaningful for the socio-cultural aspects. The benefits may include: (1) helping the teachers to meet the needs of learning resources due to the role of the social environment, including: self-development, technology and information updates, and support from the VHSs; (2) improvement of the roles of teachers in the society, among others: teachers can foster teamwork with the external parties (relationship with colleagues, self-development implementing agencies, and industrial parties), teachers can convey their knowledge and skills to students, and teachers can apply their knowledge for the public needs.

Additionally, the psychological maturity aspect tends to change the psychological development of the teachers towards a certain level of maturity, giving changes to them in the forms of rewards, namely feelings of pleasure, satisfaction, and appreciation, while in the sociocultural aspect, the teachers will disseminate the benefits to students, the school environment, colleagues, and the wider community. The psychological maturity aspect provides a big change for them, in which the changes that are felt will bring benefits to the socio-cultural aspects of the teacher in the school environment and outside the school. Besides, the meaning of self-development for teachers in terms of psychological and socio-cultural maturity aspects in the improvement of pedagogical and professional competencies can create a pattern based on relationships between the existing categories. In this case, one core category was identified which became the central point of the research, namely "meaningful self-development" with quality, intensive and measurable indicators.

Some of the improvements in pedagogic competences that can be felt by teachers after participating in various self-development programs include: (1) obtaining a lot of knowledge about the understanding and development of teaching instruments; (2) becoming more organized in managing their teaching administrative documents; (3) being able to apply Problem Based Learning and Project Based Learning methods; (4) being capable of applying appropriate teaching concepts in classes and becoming more skilled in delivering the learning materials, so that the teaching and learning process becomes more effective; (5) being able to further develop the scope of knowledge taught to students as outlined in a standard of assessment; (6) getting a lot of input and description about the strategies and teaching methods for effective learning; (7) being able to make the learning objectives

clearer, so does the learning materials and sequences, so that teachers become more ready and confident in teaching. Furthermore, they (8) can develop their understanding of new and sophisticated learning media through modules obtained from self-development activities. In addition to pedagogical competencies, teachers also may experience improvements in terms of professional competences, including: (1) updating their knowledge in the vocational field; (2) understanding the contents of the materials and the teaching sequences; (3) standardizing the sequences of competencies that will be taught with teachers of other schools; (4) being more skilled in providing demonstrations on practical subjects; (5) finding out the latest software in the building engineering field in accordance with technological development; and (6) exploring teaching materials through the Internet.

### Conclusions

It is clearly stated from the results of this study that self-development for productive teachers of Building Engineering Drawing Study Program in Vocational High Schools (VHSs) can cause some improvements on their pedagogical and professional competencies. Some of the improvements in pedagogic competences that can be felt by teachers after participating in various self-development programs include: (1) obtaining a lot of knowledge about the understanding and development of teaching instruments; (2) becoming more organized in managing their teaching administrative documents; (3) being able to apply Problem Based Learning and Project Based Learning methods; (4) being capable of applying appropriate teaching concepts in classes and becoming more skilled in delivering the learning materials, so that the teaching and learning process becomes more effective; (5) being able to further develop the scope of knowledge taught to students as outlined in a standard of assessment; (6) getting a lot of input and description about the strategies and teaching methods for effective learning; (7) being able to make the learning objectives clearer, so does the learning materials and sequences, so that teachers become more ready and confident in teaching, and (8) developing their understanding of new and sophisticated learning media through modules obtained from self-development activities. Besides, productive teachers enrich their knowledge and skills in the field of curriculum development, vocational skills, technological development, and learning strategies and methods. However, the competency profile of productive teachers in the Building Engineering Drawing Study Program in Private Vocational High Schools has not experienced a significant increase in self-development activities and this shows their difficulties in improving their competences.

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# Оптимизация деятельности профессиональных школ в повышении компетенций педагогов

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Аннотация. Исследование направлено на оценку возможностей выявления и повышения компетентности и развития отдельных педагогических компетенций у преподавателей инженерных дисциплин в средних и частных профессиональных средних школах в Слеман-Ридженси (Индонезия). Оценка проводилась по итогам участия педагогов в программе, направленной на развитие личностной психологической, а также партнёрской и профессиональной зрелости (социокультурных аспектов профессиональной компетентности). Исследование было проведено в двух государственных профессиональных средних школах Индонезии и одной частной профессиональной средней школе. Оно носило качественный характер, предполагало использование интервью и документации в качестве средства сбора данных. Пятнадиать наиболее успешных преподавателей трёх профессиональных средних школ, имеющих опыт в области инженерного рисования зданий (BED), были отобраны в качестве объектов исследования. Полученные данные в виде записей интервью, фотографий и документов были сопоставлены для обеспечения достоверности полученных данных. Затем данные были систематизированы и рассмотрены в ходе трёх основных этапов исследования, включая открытое кодирование, осевое кодирование и выборочное кодирование. Результаты показывают, что благодаря направленному саморазвитию преподаватель может улучшить свои педагогические и профессиональные компетениии. Такая программа также побуждает его к развитию и совершенствованию своих знаний и навыков в области основной и смежных учебных программ, включая технологические аспекты экспертизы, стратегий и методов обучения и т.д. Тем не менее если речь идёт о наиболее успешных преподавателях, работающих в частных профессиональных средних школах, предложенная программа саморазвития повышает их компетентность незначительно: они развиваются эффективно и продуктивно без дополнительных внешних стимулов. Это говорит о том, что педагогическая деятельность ориентирует специалиста на постоянное совершенствование сама по себе.

Ключевые слова: педагогическая компетентность, профессиональная компетентность, саморазвитие, профессиональный вуз

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НАУЧНАЯ ЭЛЕКТРОННАЯ БИБЛИОТЕКА

Пятилетний импакт-фактор BRARY. RU РИНЦ-2018, без самоцитирования

Вопросы образования	2,255
Психологическая наука и образование	2,040
Социологические исследования	1,709
Высшее образование в России	1,124
Образование и наука	0,945
Интеграция образования	0,905
Вопросы философии	0,858
Университетское управление: практика и анализ	0,751
Педагогика	0,653
Эпистемология и философия науки	0,540
Инженерное образование	0,397
Философские науки	0,319
Высшее образование сегодня	0,276
Alma Mater	0,257