

Analysis Of The Factors Of Difficulties Factors Of Economic Education Students In Completing Thesis

Viona Pardila Br. Sembiring¹, Sanggam Pardede², Dearlina Sinaga³

Pendidikan Ekonomi, Fakultas Keguruan Dan Ilmu Pendidikan, Universitas HKBP

Nommensen Medan, Indonesia

Email: viona.sembiring@student.uhn.ac.id

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Abstract

The phenomenon underlying this study is the delay of Economics Education students at HKBP Nommensen University Medan in completing their theses, influenced by both internal and external factors. This research aims to analyze the factors causing students' difficulties in the thesis writing process. The study employed a descriptive qualitative method using interviews, observation, and documentation, with data analyzed through reduction, display, conclusion drawing, and triangulation. The findings indicate that internal factors include limited intellectual ability in constructing logical arguments, low achievement motivation, and weak understanding of research methodology. External factors involve inflexible university policies, limited facilities, a curriculum that does not fully support research needs, and less optimal supervision from lecturers. These results emphasize that thesis completion obstacles arise from a combination of individual and academic system aspects, thus requiring improvements from both sides.

Keywords : Student Difficulties, Thesis, Internal Factors, External Factors, Economics Education.

INTRODUCTION

According to the Government Regulation of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology No. 3 of 2020, the Assessment Standards explain the completion of the final assignment, it is explained that obtaining a degree in a bachelor's program must conduct scientific research whose output is in the form of a thesis. This is closely related to the

Regulation of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology No. 53 of 2023, the quality assurance of higher education is a regulation issued by the Indonesian Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology in 2023 (Afrianti, 2018). This regulation regulates standards and quality assurance for higher education institutions in Indonesia. The contents of the regulation include various things such as academic and administrative standards that must be met by higher education institutions, higher education quality assurance procedures, including evaluation and monitoring, requirements for obtaining higher education accreditation, criteria for assessing the quality of study programs and educational institutions, as well as procedures for processing and improving the quality of higher education. Government regulations certainly have the aim of improving the standards of higher education in Indonesia and ensuring that higher education institutions comply with the standards set to provide quality education to students (Asrini, 2021).

Students, as the younger generation who have a significant influence on the continued progress of the nation and state, play a crucial role as the next generation and future leaders of the nation and state. Therefore, students must undertake their studies in accordance with applicable regulations, including the completion of a thesis to obtain an academic degree, which is used as a requirement for finding employment, advancing the nation's sustainability, and increasing economic income (Azzahra et al., 2024). A thesis is a term in Indonesian that refers to a final assignment or scientific paper written by students as a requirement for obtaining a bachelor's degree (S1) at a university. A thesis is typically the result of research or studies conducted by students under the guidance of their supervisor. The thesis aims to test students' ability to apply the knowledge they have learned during their studies and to contribute new contributions to their chosen field of study (Aziza, 2019).

In general, in the preparation of a thesis, several problems are experienced by students originating from internal or external factors. such as laziness to write a thesis, lack of time management in writing a thesis, lack of references in writing about the research topic raised in the thesis, and lack of knowledge related to the design and methodology of research being raised in the thesis research (Basri, 2018). Other problems originating from outside the student or (external factors) that occur in the preparation of a thesis such as limited time with the thesis supervisor, difficulty meeting the supervisor during guidance, and disagreements between supervisors 1 and 2 during the thesis guidance process. This will result in the preparation of a thesis that takes a very long time. In fact, it was found that the preparation of a thesis can reach 1 to 2 years or even more after the thesis submission in the study program (Brigette Lantaeda, Lengkong, & Ruru, 2002).

Based on observations by researchers at HKBP Nommensen University, specifically in the Economics Education program, some students completed their theses more than six months or even more than a year after submitting their thesis to their study program (Collins et al., 2021). This indicates a delay in completing their thesis. The following is a list of the number of graduates of the Economics Education program at HKBP Nommensen University, Medan, for the 2020-2024 period.

Table 1. Number of graduates of HKBP Nommensen University Medan for the 2020-2024 period

Year	Number of students	Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
2020-2021	33	32		
2021-2022	37	1	34	2
2022-2023	25		1	24
2023-2024	20			2

Source: HKBP Nommensen University Administration, Medan

The data above shows that there are several periods of differences in graduation speed between the classes of 2017 to 2019. There are still classes of 2017 and 2018 who graduated in the same year as the class of 2019, this indicates that there are obstacles experienced during the process of completing their thesis, where in general the completion of undergraduate studies ranges from 3.5 to 4 years in normal time (Fahmi, 2023). The data above shows that there are students who graduate not on time in completing their final assignments or theses exceeding the general time (more than 4 years) this refers to the completion of the final thesis assignment which has obstacles in its completion and is influenced by several factors both internal factors of students and external factors of students. From these data it can be concluded that there are indications of problems such as delays in completing students' theses (Dewi, Galand, Yolandha, & Windayana, 2021).

Therefore, if conducted, this research can help understand the factors that prevent students from completing their theses and help educational institutions adapt and improve their learning and guidance processes. This will not only benefit students personally, but also provide lecturers and institutions with insights to maintain high graduation rates and minimize lengthy study periods (Fitriana & Kurniasih, 2021).

Based on this background, the researcher was motivated to investigate and analyze the problem in more detail and present his findings in the form of a thesis entitled "Analysis of the Factors of Difficulties of Economic Education Study Program Students in Completing Their Thesis at Hkbp Nommenesen University, Medan".

RESEARCH METHODS

The type of research used by the researcher is descriptive qualitative, where data is obtained from interviews, observations, and documentation. Therefore, the research is conducted in natural conditions or existing backgrounds, so the conditions of the objects studied are largely unchanged before the research enters the field, during the field research, and after the research (Hafizhuddin, 2019). This is why qualitative research methods are also called naturalistic research methods. To provide as realistic a picture as possible of the

challenges faced by students of the Economics Education Study Program at HKBP Nommensen University in completing their final thesis, this study uses descriptive research types (Nazara, Lase, Hulu, & Harefa, 2024).

This research was conducted at the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, HKBP Nommensen University, Medan, located at Jalan Sutomo No. 4 A Medan, Perintis, Medan Timur District, Medan City, North Sumatra. The research was conducted in the even semester of the 2023/2024 academic year.

The research subjects are the sources of research data information, while the research objects refer to the information obtained from these sources. The research data were obtained from two groups of informants: key informants were 10 randomly selected students of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education (FKIP) of Economic Education. Supporting informants were 5 randomly selected lecturers of Economic Education. Meanwhile, the research objects, which are the sub-focus of this research, are intelligence, achievement motivation, higher education, and supervisors (Hanifah, Susanti, & Adji, 2020).

The criteria used in sampling the 10 student objects are as follows:

1. Economics Education students who experienced problems when submitting their thesis title so they have not yet held a proposal seminar,
2. Students who are still actively registered and have not completed their final thesis assignment.
3. Eighth semester students who were delayed in completing their final thesis assignments.
4. Economic Education students who have completed their thesis.

An inductive qualitative descriptive data analysis approach was used in the study to examine information obtained from interviews with other sources. The following steps were taken by the researcher to analyze the data:

Data reduction is used in this study to select relevant data from a large amount of unnecessary data provided to gather accurate information about the elements that hinder students in completing their theses (Karunia, 2016).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

HKBP Nommesen University Medan was founded on October 7, 1954. This university is a private university managed by the Huria Kristen Batak Protestant Church (HKBP) and named after Ludwig Ingwer Nommensen, a German Lutheran missionary who contributed greatly to the spread of Christianity among the Batak people. UHN has two campuses: in Medan and Pematang Siantar. Since its founding, it initially had only three faculties: Law, Economics, and Theology. Over time, it has grown to include many faculties: Social Sciences, FKIP, Engineering, Animal Husbandry, Agriculture, Language and Arts, Psychology, and Postgraduate. Until now, UHN offers dozens of study programs at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels (Kholilulloh, 2014).

The Economics Education Study Program at the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education (FKIP) of HKBP Nommensen University, Medan, was established on May 31, 2011, as part of the university's efforts to expand its educational field. Since its inception, the study program has focused on producing superior, professional, and character-based economics teachers. Throughout its development, the study program has continuously developed its curriculum, improved the quality of its lecturers, strengthened its research, and expanded its collaboration with various parties (Lemiyana & Septiatin, 2022). These efforts have resulted in significant quality improvements, and on March 24, 2025, the Economics Education Study Program successfully achieved Superior accreditation from LAMDIK with a score of 362. This achievement marks official recognition of the quality of its academic, research, and community service programs, and serves as a motivation to continue innovating in the development of economics education to this day.

Discussion

From the research results that have been explained by the researcher, there are several factors that make it difficult for students of the Economic Education study program to complete their thesis at HKBP Nommensen University Medan, namely there are 2 internal factors (from within the student himself) and external factors (from outside the student himself) as follows:

Internal Factors

1. Intelligence

Intelligence is the most important thing in compiling a thesis from the results of research on the difficulty factors of Economic Education study program students in completing their Thesis at HKBP Nommensen University Medan is influenced by student intelligence, difficulty in connecting theory with findings in the field and emphasizing the importance of logical, critical thinking, and understanding theoretical and scientific writing concepts. This finding is in line with research conducted by (Prieto, 2022) in compiling theories designed logically from concepts, definitions, assumptions and generalizations. The two main functions of theory are to describe conditions in the field and as a tool to express something so that students need intelligence in compiling arguments and theories that are in accordance with the facts in the field. Thus, the difficulty of Economic Education study program students in completing their Thesis at HKBP Nommensen University Medan is influenced by the lack of student intelligence (Rahayu, 2019).

2. Cognitive Ability

Cognitive ability is a mental ability related to the process of thinking, understanding, learning, remembering, and solving problems. The difficulty factor for Economic Education students in completing their Thesis at HKBP Nommensen University Medan is influenced by their lack of cognitive ability where students' understanding of research methodology (METOPEL) is still not fully in-depth, causing difficulties in compiling and completing their

Thesis on time. This finding is in line with the results of research conducted by (Ristianti, 2017) one of the factors that takes a long time to complete a thesis is due to a lack of thorough preparation such as studying research methodology courses because it is the basis for creating scientific or research work. Thus, the difficulty for Economic Education students in completing their Thesis at HKBP Nommensen University Medan is influenced by a lack of understanding or understanding of research methodology.

External Factors

1. College Policy

University policies also contribute to the difficulties faced by Economic Education students in completing their theses at HKBP Nommensen University, Medan. Some students work while studying. The university's policies regarding providing guidance and mentoring schedules and timeframes are also important, as students admit to having difficulty managing their time between work and academic obligations. This finding aligns with research conducted by (Rohma, 2023) that found it difficult and took a long time to complete their theses due to the busy schedule of marriage or other commitments, such as working and teaching. Therefore, the difficulties faced by Economic Education students in completing their theses at HKBP Nommensen University, Medan, are influenced by the busy schedule of working while studying.

2. Facilities and infrastructure

Facilities and infrastructure are factors that will cause difficulties for Economics Education students in completing their theses at HKBP Nommensen University. Inadequate facilities will make the thesis completion process take longer when students are on campus (Sihotang, 2022). The lack of public WIFI facilities that can be enjoyed by students makes the thesis work longer because journal references come from the internet network that students can search for via public WIFI on campus. This finding is in line with research conducted by (Ronzon et al., 2025) Students have difficulty obtaining references from journals, books, and articles for thesis research, and students have difficulty working on their thesis because they do not have an internet network on campus (Wahjuningsih, Siswanto, & Sulistyorini, 2022). This is one of the factors that makes it difficult for Economics Education students in completing their theses at HKBP Nommensen University, namely inadequate WIFI facilities that are not evenly available on campus (Sena, 2022).

3. Conformity of Curriculum and Guidelines

The curriculum also provides the foundation and basis in compiling a scientific work or thesis, with the curriculum constantly changing, it provides adaptation for both lecturers and students to follow the new guidelines for the new curriculum for writing scientific works or theses (Saputra, Ratumbuysang, Rahmattullah, & Hasanah, 2024). The difficulty

factor for Economic Education students in completing their theses at HKBP Nommensen University is the constantly changing curriculum or guidelines used in compiling scientific works because students and lecturers need adaptation in the new curriculum. The results of this study are in line with the findings of research conducted by (Rusitayanti, Ariawati, Indrawathi, & Widiantri, 2021) When expectations change due to changing circumstances, the curriculum must adapt to meet the needs being sought so as to provide new adaptations for educators and students, thus slowing down the administrative process and academic work both schools and universities and colleges. Thus, one of the factors that make it difficult for Economic Education students in completing their theses at HKBP Nommensen University is the constantly changing curriculum.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research results and the results of the discussion of data regarding the factors that cause difficulties for students of the Economic Education study program in completing their theses at HKBP Nommensen University, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. Internal factors include: student intelligence, difficulty in connecting theory with findings in the field, and cognitive ability, students' understanding of research methodology is still not fully understood.
2. External factors include: Insufficient facilities and infrastructure, namely insufficient wifi, the suitability of the curriculum and changing curriculum guidelines provide new adaptations for thesis preparation guidelines.

Suggestion

Based on the research that has been conducted, the researcher provides several suggestions, namely:

1. **For Students:** Students are expected to participate in training and workshops to deepen their understanding of research methodology, and they are also expected to manage their time effectively for guidance and time management in completing their theses.
2. **For Lecturers:** Supervisors are expected to make changes to increase the intensity of their mentoring sessions with their students, utilize online media for online mentoring, and maximize time management for mentoring students who work while studying.
2. **For Universities:** Universities are expected to provide digital literature, update thesis guidelines, relax cumbersome administrative regulations, and improve campus facilities to support accelerated student thesis completion.

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