DIVERSIFICATION OF INDONESIA’S HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

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ABSTRACT: Higher Education gives contribution of country development. Every country builds different types of higher education institutions. Indonesia government has promoted the building of various types of higher education institutions. There are seven major types of them. These types of higher education institutions have some certain significances and at the same time explains diversification of Indonesia’s higher education institutions.

KEY WORDS: diversification; institutions; significance

Introduction

After Independence until today, Indonesia higher education develops unceasingly. Government has built at least seven types of higher education institutions. According to time sequence, they are orderly university and institute, academy and advanced school, polytechnic, open university, and community academy. Besides of these seven types, actually Indonesia still has others types of higher education institutions. Due to those types of higher education institutions are little and small, and they only emphasize in certain religion as its major, we will abandon them in this research.
This research is focusing on the seven types of Indonesia main higher education institutions. These seven types are enough to explain diversification of Indonesia’s higher education institution. Each of them has its own form, characteristic and specialty. We are going to explore their origin and what contribution they have given for Indonesia development. For certain purpose we are going to divide these seven types of higher education institutions into five subtitles. By doing such, we hope we can explore out its significance.

I. University and Institute: Academic-Degree Higher Education Covers Every Provinces

It is very complicated to explain early Indonesia higher education institutions. Two days after Indonesia proclaiming Independence, government built Indonesia Higher Learning Center on August 19 of 1945. Netherland soldiers came back to colonize Indonesia again. They built *Universiteit van Indonesie* in March 1947. It was a result of merging some institutions: *Technische Hogeschool* (technic high school) at Bandung, *Geneeskundige Hogeschool* (medicine high school) and *Rechts Hogeschool* (law high school) at Jakarta, *Buitenzorg Landbouw Hogeschool* (high school) at Bogor, *School Tot Opleiding van Indische Tandarsten* (dentistry and medicine school) at Surabaya.

After Netherland acknowledged Indonesia Independence on December 1949, Indonesia government immediately nationalized Universiteit van Indonesie and at the same time merged it with Indonesia Higher Learning Center. The Result of that merger born the University of Indonesia at Jakarta on February 2 of 1950. In later progressing, faculty of dentistry at Surabaya upgraded as Airlangga University in 1954, faculty of economic at Makasar upgraded as Hasanuddin University in 1956, faculty of science and technic at Bandung upgraded as Bandung Institute of Technology in 1959 and faculty of agricultural at Bogor upgraded as Bogor Institute of Agricultural in 1963.

Some organizations and foundations offered for country higher education institutions that they have setted up. Clearly, those were originally private higher education institutions. Government transformed those private higher education institutions becoming public ones and at the same time upgraded to universities or institutes.
In 1949 Balai Perguruan Tinggi Gadjah Mada (Gadjah Mada Higher Learning Center) at Yogyakarta upgraded as Gadjah Mada University. University of North Sumatera built in 1958 at Medan.

Provisional People Consultative Assembly formulated: every provinces must have at least one public university. That idea was very excellent. Into realizising the plan, Ministry of Higher Education and Knowledge (formed in 1961) setted up many new public universities and institutes in around country. Until December 1963, Indonesia has had totally 28 public universities and institutes so that every province has at least one.1 After that, Institute of Teacher and Education Science (Institut Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan, IKIP) born in 1964. This institute was specific college to cultivate teachers and educators. As Indonesia first president, Mr. Ir. Soekarno had an idea: this institute would be built at every capital of every province. For realizising that idea, one by one IKIP was built in Indonesia. Therefore, at least every province has one university and one IKIP. All of above higher education institutions give academic degree in undergraduate and postgraduate.

Through setting up universities and institutes, government has target that higher education institutions cover all Indonesia. They have two ideals: every provinces of Indonesia have one public university and one public IKIP. Higher education institutions can spread proportionally in the country.

II. Academy and Advanced School: Professional and Vocational HE

Many government organs needs own specialized-skilled workers. And in fact, universities and institutes that the Ministry of Education has built could not fulfill all their need. Therefore, according to their own need, many non-Ministry of Education organs saw need to open their own higher education institutions.2 Foreign Affairs Department built Foreign Language Academy. The Navy administered Naval Electronics Academy. Health Department conducted Health Inspector Academy. These higher-learning

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1 B. Rifai, Perguruan Tinggi di Indonesia (Jakarta: Departemen Perguruan Tinggi dan Ilmu Pengetahuan, 1965), 20.
institutions often were called academy (Akademi) or advanced school (Sekolah Tinggi).

About these two types, Higher Education Law 1961 gives below explanations. Article 8 said: “An advanced school offers higher education and instruction as well as research opportunities in a single branch of knowledge. An academy offers higher education and instruction focusing on a particular professional specialization.” The former cover a single branch of knowledge and tends academical education, and the latter focuses on a particular professional specialization and tends professional and vocational education. Academy and advanced school offered undergraduate degree. Their period of study was one, two or three years only. But today, some of academies and advanced schools offer bachelor and magister degree too.

By setting up academies and advanced schools, Indonesia can cultivate quickly specialized skilled person in various area. So that Many Ministries can fulfill their own need. Many corporations, both public and especially private, also setted up their own academy and advanced school. Some private corporations train their worker in their own academies or advanced school. Some private corporations collaborate with any academies or advanced school to give trains for their workers. As time passed, more and more private academies and advanced school built.

Formerly, academy and advanced school only admitted staffs and personnel’s of certain Ministry. But latterly, academy and advanced school also open to all senior middle school graduated, especially in private academy and private advanced school. Some problems emerged. After these students (non-staffs and non-personals of Ministries) finishing their studies, they don’t directly get job. How can they continue to institute or university? Department of Education handles this problem by matriculation system.

The tuition of academy and advanced school are commonly cheaper than university and institute. Due to having any skill and specialization, majority graduates of academy and advanced school

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3 Ibid.
are easy to find jobs. Because of these two factors, many graduates from senior middle schools choose academy and advanced school as main option to continue higher education. All along time, total of academies and advanced schools occupy most quantities of higher education institutions in Indonesia. Its ratio is more than 50%.

III. Polytechnic: Technic-Skilled Professional Higher Education

Early in 1976, Switzerland Mechanic Polytechnic and Bandung Institute of Technology collaborated to open what called as polytechnic. The Program was very success. In 1978 Indonesia government opened six polytechnics in six provinces (Polytechnic Project I), and added again eleven polytechnics in 1983 (Polytechnic Project II). This institution was affiliated to any nearest known public university or institute.

Formally, polytechnic first time appears in Government Regulation No. 30 of 1990 about Higher Education. Article 6 of the Government Regulation constitutes: “Polytechnic gives professional [higher] education in some specific knowledges.” This description is emphasized again in Government Regulation No. 60 of 1999 about Higher Education and in Higher Education Law 2012. From this description and its history, polytechnic clearly trains student to become a skilled professional in technic.

In beginning, polytechnic only trains student to install, operate, maintenance of manufacturing tools. In its progressing, polytechnic expands its training including various small and large machines and vehicles. Students of polytechnic will have mastery of certain technic. It means graduates become skilled professional. This is characteristic of polytechnic.

Polytechnic gives many contributions in industry development in Indonesia. It produces technic-skilled person. Because of this factor, it is not surprisingly that polytechnic also named technology institute. Day by day, polytechnic gradually develop increasingly larger. Since 1999 some of polytechnics have segregated from their

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5 Ibid.
mother institutions. It become an independent higher education institution, called as polytechnic.

IV. Open University: Distance and Open Higher Education

Geographically, Indonesia is an archipelago country and it has most islands in the World. Besides of five big islands (Sumatera, Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Papua), Indonesia have more than 17,000 islands. Some of them are too small and even there is no inhabitant. Many of them are small with little populations. These people have no access to higher education. Although have been built in every capital of provinces, university and institute can not reach them. Academy, advanced school and polytechnic also can not reach them.

Based on President Decree No. 41 of 1984 issuing on September 4th 1984, Indonesia government built what called as Open University. It becomes the 45th public university in Indonesia. This was a very unique university. Open University emphasizes two characteristics: distance and open. The term “distance” means using of media (printed materials, radio, television, e-book, and internet) substituting conventional higher education system (face to face and classroom). The term “open” means all people will be admitted, there is no limitation of period of study, age of student, frequency of exams. The only one prerequisite is students must graduate from senior middle school or equivalent. Like its slogan, this institution offers “Making Higher Education Open to All.” Open University offers academic education in bachelor and master degree.

By Open University, higher education can reach every border areas in Indonesia. It means people living in rural, village even virgin land and every parts of country can have access to higher education. Not only the one, peoples who must work in day time also have access to higher education. By building Open University, Indonesia higher education starts to apply distance learning system. This is a


8 Ibid.
breakthrough of higher education in Indonesia. Until today, Open University is formally the only one distance learning HE in Indonesia.

V. Community Academy: Higher Education Based on Local Superiority in County Town

This type of higher education institution first time formally appears in Higher Education Law 2012. Article 59 verse 7 of the Law formulates: “Community academy is higher education institution to provide diploma I [one year non-degree] or diploma II [two years non-degree] of vocational education in one or some knowledges and/or technologies which bases on local superiority and/or fulfill special need.”

It is clear that its period of study only need one or two years. Community academy offers local superiority as its major. For instance: Bali island can build tourism community academy, Batam (a nearest city from Singapore) can build commercial or business community academy. Additionally, article 81 of the Law explains: community academy will quicken local construction and increase society welfare. By building community academy, government has purpose to develop economy of local region.

As pilot project, The Ministry of Education and Culture will set up 20 community academies in different county town (Akademi Komunitas 2012). Government promises its tuition will be cheaper than polytechnic. Many county towns want to build community academy as soon as possible. Some private corporations give respond to open community academy too. It is seemingly that county town government and private corporations have enthusiasm with community academy. It is very clear that community academy has prospect in future. This higher education institution definitely will increase more and more tertiary gross enrollment ratio of Indonesia. That is also purpose of government.

This newest higher education institution has its own characteristic. Comparing with polytechnic, community academy has study period shorter and it focus on local superiority. Of course,

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graduates of community academy will be easy to get job. At the same time, local society will get many advantages. Still further important, the born of community academy will enrich higher education institutions and increase tertiary gross enrollment ratio in Indonesia. It makes Indonesia HE institutions more diversified.

**Some Comparisons**

Now we would make some analyses about these institutions. From above seven types of higher education institution, they looks to have certain similarities and differences. We can make a comparison in some area. They have different degrees, different faculties or programmes and its characteristic. We could list the below table to describe their comparison.

**Comparison of Higher Education Institutions in Indonesia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Faculties/programme</th>
<th>Characteristic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>University</strong></td>
<td>Bachelor, Master, Doctoral</td>
<td>At least three faculties, various majors</td>
<td>Academic, degree, professional, vocational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institute</strong></td>
<td>Bachelor, Master, Doctoral</td>
<td>At least three majors</td>
<td>Academic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Academy</strong></td>
<td>Diploma III or IV</td>
<td>One major</td>
<td>Skill, professional, vocational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advanced School</strong></td>
<td>Bachelor, Master, Doctoral</td>
<td>Some majors</td>
<td>Academic, professional, vocational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Polytechnic</strong></td>
<td>Diploma III or IV</td>
<td>Some majors</td>
<td>Skill, professional, vocational in technic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Open</strong></td>
<td>Bachelor, Master,</td>
<td>At least three faculties, various majors</td>
<td>Academic, distance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University</td>
<td>Doctoral majors learning, open</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Academy</td>
<td>Diploma I or II One major</td>
<td>Skill, vocational, local superiority</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary**

By exploring above these seven types, we can know diversification of Indonesia's higher education institutions. Every type of them has its significance. University and institute provide academic HE opportunity that covers every provinces of Indonesia, both undergraduate and postgraduate program. Advanced school and academy provide professional and vocational higher education. Polytechnic cultivates technic-skilled vocational higher education. Open University applies distance and open principles to higher education so that it can cover border area peoples and offers higher education for day-worker who want to study higher education. Community academy emphasizes non-degree higher education of local superiority in any county town. They have given some certain contributions for Indonesia development.

**Bibliography**


