

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHANCELLOR'S POLICY REGARDING THE USE OF PRACTICAL/PRACTICUM APPLICATIONS IN LEARNING AT UNIVERSITAS TERBUKA

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Abstract

This research was conducted to analyze the implementation of the Chancellor's policy regarding the use of practical/practicum applications in learning for students and tutors at the Universitas Terbuka (UT). One of the obligations of UT students who take practical/practicum courses is to make practical/practicum reports which will be assessed by the tutor or report assessor. To manage the implementation of practicums with many students more effectively, since 2020/2021.1 UT has issued a policy on the use of practicum/practicum applications on the page <http://politik.ut.ac.id>. This application is used by students to send practice/practicum reports, and for tutors to assess student practice/practicum reports, as well as sending reports on the implementation of practical/practicum guidance. This research is qualitative research using phenomenological methods, which was conducted at UT Gorontalo in 2024. The samples in this research were students and tutors from the PGPAUD Undergraduate, PGSD, Accounting, Law and Biology Undergraduate study programs who carried out practicums at the 2023/2024 Even period is determined purposively. Data collection was carried out through interviews with tutors and students, as well as documentation studies related to the use of practical/practicum applications. Data was analyzed using an interactive model. The results of the research show that the policy on the use of practical/practicum applications has been implemented quite well, where this policy has been socialized and has been implemented by students in sending reports, and tutors in assessing students' practical/practicum reports as well as reporting on the implementation of practical/practicum guidance. There are still students who do not send practice/practicum reports because they cannot use the practice/practicum applications. There are areas with poor signals that make it difficult for students to send reports, which results in students not passing practical/practicum courses. For the policy of utilizing practical/practicum applications for tutors and students to be better, the implementation of OSMB, PKBJJ and provision of tutors and at Regional UTs must be more effective.

Keywords: Application, policy implementation, practice

1 INTRODUCTION

Universitas Terbuka (UT) has 4 faculties with various study programs. Some study programs at UT have courses which are practical/practicum courses that students must take. Practice and practicum have an important position in the student learning process. Practical activities aim to test and implement in real situations between theory and reality (Susilowati, E., 2022)

As a university that implements a distance learning system, UT implements face-to-face practice/practicum and online practice/practicum (Praton). The Covid-19 pandemic occurred in 2020, limiting human interactions, including the learning process at UT. In response to this, the Chancellor of UT as the highest leader at the Open University, in the 2020/2021 period issued the Decree of the Chancellor of the Universitas Terbuka No. 353/UN31/HK.02/2020 dated 04 September 2020 concerning Instructions for Learning Techniques for Practical/Practicum and Practicum/Practicum Courses in the Covid-19 Pandemic Situation.

The contents of the Decree include policies regarding the implementation of practicums through Webinar Tutorials (Tuweb) and the use of practicum/practicum applications on the <https://politik.ut.ac.id> page for tutors and students participating in practicums. The policy in implementing these practices/practicums is still in effect today.

In practice/practicum via Tuweb, students and tutors do not meet directly. Learning is carried out through e-learning synchronously and asynchronously. To facilitate learning achievement in practical/practicum implementation, a virtual classroom application (silayar.ut.ac.id) is used which is equipped with learning features in the form of a Learning Management System (LMS). LMS is a software application for the online learning process (Andrian, D.N., & Daroin, 2022). According to Trivedi (Larasati, N. A., & Andani, 2019) LMS is an integrated and comprehensive system and is used as an e-learning platform (Larasati, N. A., & Andani, 2019). The results of research on student perceptions in implementing e-learning show that students consider e-learning easy to use and access materials uploaded by the lecturer concerned (Amirah Mustarin, 2019)

In carrying out practicals/practicums at UT, students are guided by tutors/practical/practicum supervisors. This guidance was carried out in 8 face-to-face meetings or via e-learning. For practical/practicum courses, there are practical/practicum assignments and reports that must be made by students. Practical/practicum reports will be collected and assessed by the supervisor or report assessor as a graduation requirement.

The practice/practicum application on the <https://praktik.ut.ac.id> page, is used as an application for students who take part in face-to-face practice/practicums and Tuweb for sending practice/practicum reports. This application is also used by tutors in assessing students' practical/practicum reports, as well as reporting activities for implementing practical/practicum guidance.

This policy also supports the implementation of practice/practicum via Tuweb, which is separated between students and their supervisors, so that practice/practicum reports can be sent via the application. However, now this application is used for students who carry out practice in TTM, Tuweb, and for the Professional Capability Strengthening (PKP) course for those who take part in online practice (Praton) in submitting practice/practicum reports.

Policy is a collection of actions, attitudes, plans and decisions carried out by actors (related parties) to solve problems (Herdiana, 2018). According to Grindle, a policy has clear objectives as a form of policy value orientation (Tachjan, 2006). Policy implementation is a dynamic process where policy implementers carry out an activity or activities so that in the end, they get a result that is in accordance with the goals or objectives of the policy itself (Yuliah, 2020).

Policy implementation includes three things; namely 1) the existence of policy objectives or targets, 2) the existence of activities or activities to achieve the objectives; 3) the results of activities. Policy targets are those who are asked by policy to adopt new interaction patterns. This target group is the people most affected by the policy (Arifin, S., 2021). In this case, it is UT tutors and students.

In carrying out practicals/practicums at UT Gorontalo, there are students who have not maximized their use of practical/practicum applications, where there are students who do not upload practical/practicum reports on the praktik.ut.ac.id application. This condition almost occurs every semester. The following is data on students who did not upload practicum reports at UT Gorontalo

Table 1. Implementation of UT Gorontalo Practicum/Practicum

No	Academic Year	Praktical Students	Submitting Practice Reports	Not Submitting Practice Reports
1.	2022/2023 Genap	586	524	62 (10,6%)
2.	2023/2024 Ganjil	850	751	99(11,6%)

Research Result Data 2024

From the table above, more than 10% of students who take part in practicums do not submit reports on the merdeka.ac.id page. This condition causes quite a lot of students to fail the practical/practicum course.

There are quite a lot of students who don't upload practice/practicum reports on the practicum.ut.ac.id page. It is necessary to investigate why this happens. Policy implementation is the most difficult thing, because problems are sometimes not found in the concept, but appear in the field (Alwi & Kasmad, 2018). Implementation is considered a very decisive stage in the policy process (Sutmasa, 2021). The success of policies in implementation is measured by the process of realizing the results.

George C. Edward III said that the implementation of a policy to be successful must be supported by four factors, namely communication, resources, implementation disposition, and bureaucratic structure (Mirza & Aisyah, 2020).

In this regard, it is important to research the implementation of the policy on utilizing the <https://politik.ut.ac.id> page in implementing practicums/practicums for students and tutors at UT. This research aims to analyze the implementation of the Chancellor's policy regarding the use of practical/practicum applications in learning for students and tutors at UT Gorontalo, in terms of communication, resources, implementation disposition, and bureaucratic structure.

2 METHODOLOGY

This research is research with a qualitative approach, which was conducted at UT Gorontalo in 2024. This research uses a phenomenological method to implement the Chancellor's policy regarding the use of practical/practicum applications in learning at UT Gorontalo. The population in this study were UT Gorontalo students and tutors from the Undergraduate PGPAUD, Undergraduate PGSD, Undergraduate Accounting, Undergraduate Biology and Undergraduate Law studies programs who carried out practicums during the 2023/2024 Even. Determining the research sample was carried out comprehensively on the existing population. Data collection was carried out through interviews with tutors and students participating in practicums. Secondary data was obtained through studying documents related to the implementation of practicums and the use of practicum applications in learning at UT Gorontalo. Research data was analyzed using an interactive model approach (Huberman, 2014).

3 FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The analysis of the Chancellor's policy implementation in the use of practical/practicum applications in the learning process at UT Gorontalo

The analysis of the Chancellor's policy implementation in the use of practical/practicum applications in the learning process at UT Gorontalo uses policy analysis of the Edward III Policy Implementation model which measures policy implementation from four aspects, namely communication, resources, disposition and bureaucratic structure.

3.1.1 Communication

Communication is an important component in policy implementation. The success of communication variables can be measured by indicators 1) transmission (distribution of communication); 2) clarity of communication; 3) consistency of orders given (Sutmasa, 2021). A policy that has been created must be communicated to policy implementers. To be effective, policy communication must be clear, and implementation orders must also be consistent and clear (Yuliah, 2020).

Socialization regarding the policy for implementing practicals/practicums at UT Gorontalo to students was first delivered during the New Student Study Orientation (OSMB). In this OSMB activity, it is explained how to upload practice reports on the practice.ut.ac.id page. Activities continued with the implementation of Distance Learning Skills Training (PKBJJ). This activity was strengthened during the implementation of the Assignment Workshop.

Information about the implementation of practice/practicum and the use of practice/practicum applications is also conveyed to tutors during tutor training and tutor debriefing before implementing the tutorial. Tutors are expected to be able to guide students in carrying out practicums and direct students to submit practice/practicum reports.

Socialization regarding policies for implementing practicals/practicums to tutors and students at UT Gorontalo was provided by the Director, Manager, lecturers and staff of UT Gorontalo. Information about practical/practicum implementation activities is also conveyed via social media, including the UT Gorontalo website and the WA group for tutors and students.

In connection with socialization activities, students who did not take part in practical/practicum guidance said, "I was waiting for information about the implementation of practical/practicum from UT Gorontalo, they said I would be informed about the schedule for practical/practicum implementation, but I was waiting, there wasn't any" (Prodi Student Legal Studies, Gorontalo City).

"I can't use the practice/practicum application yet, can I study again with you?" (New tutor for PGPAUD Study Program). "I didn't send a practice/practicum report because I didn't know how to make a practice report and didn't know how to use the practice.ut.ac.id page" (Nopriani Moby, NIM 858591334 from Gorontalo City).

3.1.2 Resource

Resources are an important factor in an organization, for the implementation of policies well. Edwar III in Nugroho states that resources are divided into human resources and non-human resources (facilities or infrastructure) (Nugroho, 2023). Human resources are the most important resource in implementing policies, because they are the implementers of policies in the field.

UT Gorontalo is the part of UT that deals directly with students. UT Gorontalo has human resources consisting of Directors, Managers, lecturers and staff. Everyone gets information about practical/practicum implementation policies and collaborates in providing services to students. UT Gorontalo also has good facilities and facilities to support services to students such as office space, service rooms, and tutorial rooms equipped with computers and a good internet network.

UT Gorontalo has students with different backgrounds and come from various regions with varying conditions. To support the use of practical/practicum applications in implementing practical/practicum, tutors and students must have information and skills in carrying out practical/practicum and be able to use practical/practicum applications. Students and tutors are also expected to have devices (laptop and Android), as well as a good internet network.

From the results of interviews with students regarding sending practice reports in the practice/practicum application, "my other friends and I did not send practice/practicum reports because the signal conditions in our area were not good, so it was difficult to send reports in the practice/practicum application" (undergraduate student PGSD Working Group Dolong).

"I didn't send the practice/practicum report because I couldn't use the practice/practicum application" (PGSD undergraduate student, Togean Islands). "I didn't send a practice report because the internet network was not good, it spun around and finally broke" (Nurfadila Y Suklan, NIM 858590705 from Wakai Island).

3.1.3 Disposition

According to Edward III in Winarno, disposition is a desire, will and tendency of policy actors to implement and realize policies seriously (Winarno, B, 2002). For policy implementation to be effective, policy implementers must know what will be done, but also can translate the policies that are formulated and directed for implementation.

In terms of implementing the policy of using practical/practicum applications in the learning process, in the 2023/2024 semester at UT Gorontalo, in general, practical/practicum guidance activities will run in accordance with the provisions. Tutors and students carry out practical/practicum guidance activities according to the predetermined activity schedule. Students work on assignments, and upload assignments, as well as practice/practicum reports. However, from the results of interviews with tutors/supervisors as well as data from practical/practicum implementation, there are several conditions for implementing practical/practicum in the 2023/2024 Even semester at UT Gorontalo: 1) There are students who are registered, but are not present, or only a few are present During practical/practicum activities, and they were also among the groups who did not send practical/practicum reports; 2) students take part in practical/practicum guidance, but do not upload practical/practicum reports in the practice.ut.ac.id application according to the specified time; 3) students never attend lectures or attend only a few times, but send practice/practicum reports.

Table 2. Implementation of UT Gorontalo Practicum/Practicum at 2023/2024 Genap

No	Department	Praktical Students	Submitting Practice Reports	Not Submitting Practice Reports
1.	Non-Pendas	83	73	10 (12%)
2.	S1 PGSD	169	130	39(23%)
3.	S1 PGPAUD	577	562	15(2,6%)
Jumlah		829	765	64

Research Result Data 2024

From the table, there are still some students who do not upload their practice/practicum reports on the practice.ut.ac.id application. The largest number is in the PGSD undergraduate study program.

This condition shows that student support has not been maximized in carrying out and implementing the Chancellor's policy regarding the implementation of practicums. Results of interviews with tutors "students do not participate in practical/practicum guidance because they have other activities, so it clashes with practical/practicum activities" (PGSD S1 tutor)

Mastering and utilizing practical/practicum applications is something that is mandatory for practical/practicum tutors/supervisors, because it involves carrying out their duties as supervisors and assessors of students' practical/practicum reports. Practical/practicum tutors/supervisors are also required to send reports on the implementation of practical/practicum guidance in the practical/practicum application.

Table 3. Utilization of Practical/Practicum Applications for Tutors at UT Gorontalo

No	Tutors	Amount	Assessing Reports and Sending Practical/Practicum Guidance Reports
1.	Program non-Pendas	16	16
2.	Program S1 PGPAUD	25	25
3.	Program S1 PGSD	10	10
Total		51	51

Research Result Data 2024

The results of the research show that all practical/practicum tutors/supervisors assigned to UT Gorontalo in the 2023/2024 Even semester, can assess student reports and send practical/practicum supervision reports on the praktik.ut.ac.id page. There are several tutors who are still having problems using practical/practicum applications. These are new tutors who are teaching practical/practicum courses for the first time, and tutors who are older.

3.1.4 Bureaucratic Structure

Because it is part of the learning process, practical/practicum implementation is under the coordination of Deputy Chancellor 1, then the Learning Assistance Center, and Regional UT. Regional UT is the spearhead of implementing this policy because it is directly related to learning activities for students and tutors.

In implementing practicals/practicums, Regional UT coordinates the implementation with the UT Learning Management Center. Regional UT coordinates with related parties in preparing places for practical/practicum implementation. For courses that require practical work in a laboratory, UT Gorontalo has collaborated with FMIPA Gorontalo State University to provide a laboratory, laboratory assistants, and practical/practicum instructors. UT Gorontalo also maintains good relations with the District Court in Gorontalo Province as a place to carry out practice courses for the Legal Experience Practice course for Bachelor of Laws. For other courses, instructors come from tutors and practitioners. Regional UT also makes a schedule for practical/practicum implementation. The practice/practicum schedule that has been created is socialized to students via the UT Gorontalo website. Students who have registered for courses will take part in practical/practicum guidance.

Practice/practicum at UT is carried out based on the course Practice/Practicum Guide and Basic Material Book (BMP). Students must follow practical/practicum guidance according to the provisions. UT Derah monitors the implementation of practical/practicum activities in the field.

3.2 DISCUSSION

Research findings regarding the implementation of the Chancellor's policy regarding the use of practical/practicum applications in learning at UT Gorontalo in the 2023/2024 Even semester, the policy has been implemented but has not worked as expected. This can be seen from the practice/practicum applications that have been used by students in sending practice reports, and by tutors in assessing student practice/practicum reports and reporting on the implementation of practice/practicum guidance.

It is important to socialize policies regarding the implementation of practicals/practicums to students and tutors, so that implementation can run smoothly. The large number of students who register for practical/practicum courses, but do not take part in practical/practicum activities is also a problem that must be resolved. This ultimately increases the number of students who do not upload practice/practicum reports

Socialization about how to use practical and practicum applications to students and tutors is a technology acceptance process. To accept a technology requires several stages, including knowledge, persuasion, decision, implementation, and confirmation stage (Rogers, 2003).

In connection with the theory of technology absorption, knowledge about the procedures for using practical/practicum applications and persuasion to students and tutors is provided during OSMB, PKBJJ, tutor training and tutor provisioning. UT students and tutors are spread across various regions and have varying conditions and ages. Students and tutors will experience different responses when introduced or faced with new technology, in this case the use of practical/practicum applications. This condition means that there are still students and tutors who cannot use practical/practicum applications in sending reports.

Regarding the obstacles experienced by students and tutors in using practical/practicum applications, they can be overcome by making OSMB, PKBJJ and assignment workshops more effective for students, because at that time students are introduced to and trained in using the practice.ut.ac.id application. For tutors, training and tutoring activities must be made more effective.

For the smooth implementation of a policy, good human resources and infrastructure are needed. The use of practical/practicum applications will run well if it is supported by the skills

of students and tutors in using practical/practicum applications. Apart from guiding students in the practical/practicum guidance process, tutors are also expected to be able to guide students in submitting practical/practicum reports on the practice.ut.ac.id page. Tutors and students are also expected to have good facilities (laptop and Android) and internet facilities. The research results show that the reasons why students do not send practice/practicum reports include poor internet network conditions in their area, and some are not able to use the practice.ut.ac.id application to send reports.

The results of previous research show that conditions in developing countries have low internet connections and the country's economic ability to facilitate this is also not good (Haeruman, D., 2021). Meanwhile, the availability of hardware such as laptops and practical equipment is also an obstacle in implementing practical practice in addition to limited internet networks in certain areas (Ratnawati, 2020)

The time for sending practical/practicum reports given to students is quite long, so it is hoped that students can prepare reports/practicum/practicum well. However, this condition causes students to procrastinate when sending reports, so that they forget to run out of time to send Practical/Practicum reports.

Considering the importance of utilizing practical/practicum applications in implementing practical/practicum at UT, socialization and training regarding the use of practical/practicum to tutors and students must be carried out better. UT Gorontalo also continues to oversee the implementation of practical/practicum guidance to make it more effective, and students can use practical/practicum applications in sending practical reports, and for tutors to assess reports and send practical/practicum guidance files.

4 CONCLUSION

Implementation of the Chancellor's policy regarding the use of practical/practicum applications at UT Gorontalo has been implemented but is still not optimal. This can be seen from the existence of students who do not send their practice/practicum reports in the practice/practicum application. Policy socialization carried out through OSMB, PKBJJ, Assignment Workshops, Tutor Training, and Tutor Provisioning, is attempted to be more effective, so that students and tutors receive complete information about the use of practical/practicum applications. Apart from that, the existence of supporting facilities (Android and laptops) as well as a good internet network will influence the quality of the Chancellor's policy implementation in practical/practicum implementation. It is necessary to instill discipline and seriousness in

students in carrying out practical/practicum guidance and uploading practical/practicum reports on the parktik.ut.ac.id page.

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