Effectiveness of Student Participation in Campus Organizations

Giska Putri Mustaqim, Tri Wahjoedi
STIE Mahardhika Surabaya
*Email: giskaputri243@gmail.com

ABSTRACT
Student participation in campus organizations is a vital aspect of their personal and academic development. Engagement in these organizations enriches students' academic experiences and fosters essential soft skills such as leadership, communication, and teamwork. This study evaluates the effectiveness of student involvement in campus organizations by analyzing various impacts, including academic performance, interpersonal skill development, and readiness for the workforce. Data from multiple sources indicate that students active in campus organizations exhibit higher leadership abilities, better academic performance, and increased employability. However, the study also highlights challenges such as balancing organizational responsibilities with academic commitments. Through a comprehensive literature review by considering relevant books and journals, this research identifies key factors influencing the effectiveness of student participation and provides recommendations for universities to enhance student involvement. Ultimately, the findings underscore the significant role of campus organizations in preparing students for future professional and personal challenges, advocating for institutional support to maximize the benefits of such participation.

Keywords: *Student Participation, Campus Organizations, Academic Development, Leadership, Employability.*

INTRODUCTION

In the current scope of education, the role of students is often expected to go beyond the boundaries of the classroom or campus environment only. Active participation in campus organizations has emerged as an essential component of the college experience, offering students a platform to develop important life skills, foster engagement in a community, and enhance their academic and non-academic journeys. Student organizations in Indonesia themselves are varied, ranging from academic clubs, to cultural societies and service groups, providing a unique arena for experiential learning (Putri & Supriyanto, 2020). These organizations allow students to apply theoretical science knowledge in practical or practical settings, thus bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world practice. Through the usual leadership and collaborative project roles in organizations, students gain valuable experience in project management, communication, and teamwork. This hands-on engagement not only strengthens their academic understanding but also equips them with the skills necessary to deal with the complexities of the professional world, enhancing their employability and readiness for post-graduation challenges (Zulfiani et al., 2021).

In addition, participation in campus organizations significantly contributes to personal development. Engaging in these activities encourages a sense of responsibility, time management, and resilience. Students who take on leadership roles or commit to long-term projects often feel better prepared to handle the demands of their future careers. For example, a student who organizes a large event on campus learns to manage budgets, coordinate volunteers, and solve problems under pressure, a skill that can be transferred to any professional environment (Duryat et al., 2021).

The role of student participation in organizational activities in the campus environment has basically become the subject of considerable interest and study in higher education research. Historically, colleges have recognized the value of extracurricular involvement in the form of campus organizations as a complement to academic programs. These organizations, which were originally formed to discuss

intellectual topics outside the formal curriculum, have since expanded significantly, covering a wide range of interests including social causes, professional development, and recreational activities. This evolution reflects a broader understanding of education that includes the overall development of students (Pertiwi et al., 2021).

A study highlights the significant benefits of student participation in campus organizations. Research conducted by shows that involvement in organizational activities is strongly associated with higher levels of student happiness and academic success. The study argues that the more students engage in activities to enhance their college experience, both academically and socially, the more likely they are to achieve higher levels of learning and personal development and feel happy. Subsequent studies have reinforced these findings, showing that students who engage in campus activities tend to have better time management skills, greater self-confidence, and improved leadership abilities (Waluyo & Repi, 2020).

In addition, the research emphasizes the role of student organizations in fostering a sense of community and togetherness on campus. According to studies by college students who feel connected to their friends and community and have high solidarity are more likely to succeed academically. Involvement in organizations provides a structured environment in which students can form meaningful relationships, develop networks, and interact with diverse perspectives. This social integration is essential because it helps students meet the challenges of university life, reduces feelings of isolation, and increases their commitment to their educational goals (Lorita et al., 2023).

However, the impact of student participation in campus organizations is not always positive for all students. Research by shows that while engagement can improve the student experience, it can also be a source of stress if not managed properly. Excessive involvement in organizational activities can lead to academic exhaustion and decrease academic performance and procrastination. Additionally, there can be inequalities in access to these opportunities, with underrepresented groups sometimes facing barriers to participating. Therefore, it is important for universities to provide balanced support, ensuring that all students have equitable access to these development opportunities while also promoting a healthy balance between academic and extracurricular commitments (Haryanti & Santoso, 2020).

Overall, the effectiveness of student participation in campus organizational activities highlights a wide range of benefits from academic success to personal development and community building. Ongoing research is needed to address the challenges and ensure that these opportunities are inclusive and support the needs of all students. To that end, this article was created to delve deeper into the various dimensions of student participation, researching its benefits, challenges, and long-term impacts on individuals and educational institutions. By understanding and supporting these activities, universities can create a richer and more effective educational environment that prepares students for success in future endeavors.

METHOD

This research is research with a qualitative descriptive approach conducted using the literature review method. The literature in question is literature on books or research from 2019 onwards to evaluate the effectiveness of student participation in campus organizations. A literature review was chosen because it allows researchers to collect and analyse a wide range of findings from many studies, providing a comprehensive and up-to-date view of the topic. Through the analysis of data from academic journals, books, research reports, and trusted online sources, this study aims to identify the key factors that affect the effectiveness of participation, evaluate their impact on students' academic and non-academic development, and develop recommendations for universities to increase student participation. As such, this method helps to understand the social trends and contexts that influence student participation and provides a solid basis for evidence-based recommendations.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Campus organizations are groups managed by students within a college environment that cover various fields such as leadership, arts, sports, academics, and social. The organization serves as a platform to enrich the student experience beyond formal classroom learning. Participation in campus organizations provides students with the opportunity to develop a variety of practical skills such as time management, leadership, and teamwork. In addition, campus organizations also help students build professional relationships that can be useful in the future. According to research, students who are active in campus organizations feel better prepared to enter the workforce compared to those who are inactive. As such, campus organizations play an important role in preparing students for their future world of work and

personal challenges (Maretha et al., 2022).

Positive Impact of Student Organizations

In general, student organizations have various benefits for the students themselves. Among them is to improve academics. The research addresses student engagement and academic success, highlighting that active participation in campus organizations is positively correlated with a higher, so better, GPA. The research emphasizes the importance of structured engagement that integrates academic and organizational activities to maximize the benefits that students get in higher education (Snijders et al., 2020).

Participation in campus organizations also has a significant impact on student character development. Involvement in various activities and organizational responsibilities provides opportunities for students to learn about discipline, commitment, responsibility, and leadership. Research conducted by shows that students who are active in campus organizations have a higher sense of confidence and the ability to work effectively in teams. This involvement helps form a strong and resilient personality, which is invaluable in the world of work. In addition, experience in organizations also encourages students to face and solve problems, improving their ability to make effective and strategic decisions. For example, a college student who serves as the president of an organization will learn how to manage a team, plan activities, and resolve conflicts, all of which contribute to the development of a more mature and professional character. Whereas (Dana et al., 2022) according to other research, participation in campus organizations significantly contributes to students' personal development, including increased self-esteem, better time management, and increased resilience by self-regulation. The study, which used longitudinal data, found that students who were actively involved in the organization reported higher levels of satisfaction with their college experience (Lau & Dewi, 2023).

The effectiveness of campus organization is also reflected in the development of students' soft skills which are very important in the modern world of work. Skills such as communication, time management, negotiation, and problem-solving can be acquired through active participation in the organization. Through roles such as chairman, secretary, or treasurer in an organization, students learn how to manage projects, communicate effectively, and resolve conflicts. This experience helps them develop skills that are not only useful in the workplace, but also in everyday life. In addition, involvement in organizations allows students to face real challenges, such as organizing events or leading meetings, which increases their confidence and ability to deal with complex and dynamic situations. A study by focuses on developing leadership skills through campus engagement. The study found that students who held leadership positions in organizations showed higher levels of leadership capacity and confidence. This research shows that leadership experiences in college prepare students for professional and civic leadership roles after graduation (Filho et al., 2020).

Meanwhile, the relationship between student involvement in campus organizations and employability was researched by (Widianti, 2022). The research shows that employers value soft skills developed through participation in student organizations, such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills. Graduates who are actively involved in campus organizations are more likely to get a job immediately after graduation. This is supported by (Rohm et al., 2021) those who explain how the involvement of campus organizations helps in skill development. The study found that students involved in organizations reported significant improvements in hard skills (such as project management) and soft skills (such as interpersonal communication), which are essential for professional success and support the workforce in the work environment.

Participation in campus organizations also provides significant benefits in building student relationships (networking). Students have the opportunity to meet a variety of individuals, including fellow students, lecturers, alumni, and professionals in related fields. The networks formed through campus organizations not only facilitate the exchange of ideas and project collaboration, but also provide access to career opportunities. According to research, the majority of students report that the networks they build through campus organizations help them land internship or job opportunities after graduation. These relationships are often valuable assets in building a successful and sustainable career (Vorovshchikov et al., 2020). This is in line with research by (De Weerdt et al., 2024) those who say that campus organizations provide valuable networking opportunities that can play an important role in students' future careers and encourage the acceleration of student networking transition from the school environment to the professional work environment. The research shows that connections made through these organizations often lead to internships and job offers, emphasizing the practical benefits of participation.

Furthermore, participation in campus organizations also has a positive impact on the emotional well-being

of students. Involvement in social and community activities through campus organizations can help reduce stress, increase a sense of belonging, and strengthen mental health. According to a study conducted by (Harris et al., 2022), students who are active in campus organizations report higher levels of life satisfaction and feel happier compared to those who are not engaged. This is due to the social support obtained through interaction with fellow members of the organization, which can provide a sense of solidarity and emotional help. In addition, involvement in organizational activities provides students with opportunities to express themselves and develop deep interpersonal relationships, all of which contribute to better emotional well-being (Mačiulienė et al., 2024). Activities such as group discussions, collaborative projects, and social events allow students to develop stronger bonds with their peers, thus creating a supportive and positive environment. In terms of campus organizations' involvement in student mental health, students who participate in supportive and inclusive organizations report lower levels of stress and anxiety, suggesting that these organizations can provide important mental health benefits.

Another positive impact of student organizations at the campus level is related to how the organization becomes a place or forum that helps students to play a role in the social environment and shape students' perception of their social environment. For example, related to diversity and inclusion, i(Lei et al., 2023) examines how involvement in student organizations that focus on culture affects students' understanding and appreciation of diversity. Their study reveals that participation in these organizations fosters a greater sense of belonging and cultural competence, which is especially important in an increasingly globalized world. Then the second is related to student civic involvement in the community. The role of campus organizations in promoting civic engagement shows that students who engage in community service-oriented organizations are more likely to engage in civic activities after college, including voting and volunteering (Ultimate, 2022). So, it is necessary to emphasize again how to integrate Academic and Social in this campus organization environment, that participation in campus organizations plays an important role in integrating students into the institution's academic and social network, thereby increasing student retention and graduation rates.

Negative Impact of Student Organizations

While it has many benefits, participation in campus organizations can also have some negative impacts. Students who are too involved in organizational activities can experience a decline in academic performance due to a lack of time available for study and exam preparation. The high workload of organizational responsibilities can also lead to stress and burnout, especially if college students are not able to manage their time well (Jaliil et al., 2020). For example, a student who is involved in several clubs and organizational committees may feel pressured to meet deadlines and other demands, which can interfere with their focus on their studies. In addition, there is a risk that students may engage in unproductive or even dangerous activities if the organization is not properly supervised by its management or administrators which then leads to dysfunction of the organization (Rohma, 2023). For example, membership in an organization that does not align with the values held by students or engages in activities that violate campus policies can negatively impact a student's reputation and personal development.

One of the main challenges in campus organizational participation is how students can balance academic activities and organizational responsibilities. Students often face pressure to complete coursework, attend lectures, and study for exams, while also having to fulfill organizational commitments such as meetings, rehearsals, or organizing events. This can lead to significant stress and fatigue, especially when the schedule is too tight. In addition, the lack of support from the university in terms of facilities, guidance, or financial resources can also be an obstacle for students who want to be active in campus organizations.

In addition to the previously mentioned impacts, another potential negative impact of involvement in student organizations is the risk of radicalization or extreme ideological adoption that often occurs within the scope of under-supervised student organizations (Rijal et al., 2022). Organizations that are poorly supervised or have a specific agenda can be places where radical ideologies or extremism can flourish and be propagated. Some organizations, be it political, religious, or other social activities, can be leveraged by groups with extreme agendas to recruit new members or spread their views. Students who engage in such environments may be exposed to radical or extreme ideologies that are contrary to the values of democracy, tolerance, and diversity. Radicalization in student organizations can lead to internal conflicts, polarization among members, and even actions that violate campus laws or policies (Fatahillah et al., 2022). In addition, there is also the potential that students affected by such radical ideologies may engage in activities that harm themselves or others, be it in the form of peaceful demonstrations, discrimination, or even acts of violence.

This issue of radicalization is a serious concern for higher education institutions because it can damage a safe and inclusive campus environment and threaten academic freedom and expression. Therefore, it is important for institutions to closely monitor organizational activities, ensure that they operate in accordance with democratic values and take steps to prevent the spread of radical or extreme ideologies in the campus environment. In the face of the risk of radicalization, education, dialogue, and a deep understanding of critical values and pluralism are also important. Universities need to provide space for open and critical discussion on controversial issues, while promoting tolerance, intercultural cooperation, and a better understanding of differences. Thus, the campus environment can remain a safe and inclusive place for the entire community.

Therefore, it is important for students to be able to set priorities and find a balance between involvement in the organization and their academic achievements, as well as choosing which organization is right to join. Students need to learn to manage their time effectively, set healthy boundaries in organizational engagement, and prioritize their academic responsibilities. This can involve creating a good schedule, communicating with the organization's management about time constraints, and learning to say no when too much responsibility feels overwhelming (Nastiti, 2023). In addition, universities also have an important role in providing support and resources for students to help them cope with stress and manage the demands that come from organizational involvement. As such, students can take advantage of the positive benefits of organizational involvement while maintaining a healthy balance between academics and extracurricular activities.

To overcome the challenges of campus organizational participation, it is important for universities and students to work together in creating effective solutions. Universities may consider providing time management, leadership skills, and work-life balance training programs for students. Institutional support such as financial assistance for organizational activities, adequate facilities for meetings or exercises, as well as support from lecturers or administrative staff is also very important (Idauli et al., 2021). In addition, it is important to establish an effective monitoring and evaluation system to ensure that the organization's activities are running in accordance with educational objectives and do not interfere with students' academic achievements. By proactively identifying and addressing these challenges, universities can create a supportive environment and allow students to develop themselves holistically through participation in campus organizations.

CONCLUSIONS

Participation in campus organizations is effective for students because it gives them the opportunity to develop a variety of skills that cannot be acquired from classroom learning alone. Through practical experience in leadership, teamwork, and management, students can strengthen their character, improve interpersonal skills, and build the confidence necessary to face real-world challenges. In addition, involvement in campus organizations also helps students expand their professional networks, which becomes a valuable asset in their career search and personal development. More than just non-academic activities, this participation provides practical insights and valuable experience that helps students become more prepared and competent in facing various aspects of life after graduation.

Ultimately, student participation in campus organizations has a broad and significant impact on their personal and professional development. Through active involvement in a variety of extracurricular activities, students not only develop important character and soft skills, but also expand their professional networks and improve emotional well-being. While there are challenges in maintaining a balance between academics and organizational activities, efforts to build institutional support and effective time management strategies can overcome these obstacles. Therefore, the author's suggestion, universities need to continue to support and encourage student participation in campus organizations as an integral part of their educational experience. Thus, this participation not only prepares students to enter the competitive job market, but also forms individuals who contribute positively to society and build a better future for themselves and the surrounding environment.

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