

## Inclusiveness of citizens' roles in its development through MBKM Curriculum in higher education

Wahyuningtyas Nilam Sari\*

\* Graduate School of Economics Education Master Program, Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, Indonesia  
[wahyuningtyasnilam.2022@student.uny.ac.id](mailto:wahyuningtyasnilam.2022@student.uny.ac.id)

Sutirman

Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta, Indonesia

[sutirman@uny.ac.id](mailto:sutirman@uny.ac.id)

\*Corresponding Author

### Article History

Submitted : 04-09-2023

Revised : 18-09-2023

Accepted : 06-02-2024

Published : 30-04-2024

### Article Link

<https://journal.uny.ac.id/index.php/civics/article/view/65698>

### Abstract

Education is the main key to human resource development, enabling individuals to improve their abilities and skills in the formal and non-formal domains, compete, and develop potential in the world of work. However, significant challenges arise for higher education graduates, where some of them experience open unemployment because they have not been fully absorbed in the labor market. This research is focused on the concept of human resource development inclusiveness in the Merdeka Belajar-Kampus Merdeka Curriculum in Indonesian Higher Education. This study used a literature study approach, referring to previously published research. The analysis was conducted to explore the extent of higher education's impact on the open unemployment rate and how changes in curriculum and learning methods could help overcome these challenges. It was hoped that the results of this study could contribute to further understanding of the relationship between higher education and open unemployment, as well as provide insights into solutions that can be implemented to improve the employability of graduates in the labor market.

**Keywords:** Citizenship; curriculum, inclusivity, Merdeka Belajar-Kampus Merdeka

### Introduction

Indonesia is currently experiencing its second wave of demographic transition in the last ten years. It is evident from the population census report for the year 2000 that the census results show that the Family Planning (KB) program by BKKBN in the past had a positive impact. Similar data was also announced by the United Nations (UN), indicating that the ongoing demographic transition allowed Indonesia to obtain a peak demographic from 2020 to 2030 (Maryati, 2015).

One method of utilizing the demographic bonus opportunity in Indonesia is to reduce the open unemployment rate. Nanga (2001) defines open unemployment as a situation where a person belongs to the labor force but does not have a job or is passively looking for one. Of time, the high unemployment rate in Indonesia should not be ignored (Maryati, 2015). The unemployment rate in Indonesia is getting worse, especially since the presence of the COVID-



19 virus. Fagbemi et al. (2022) mentioned that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the decline in development and the unemployment crisis. Most countries' economic growth has experienced a slump, including decreased unemployment rates in developed countries (Sahin et al., 2021).

An unprecedented new coronavirus is spreading across the world, resulting in significant impacts on society (Sabaa & Algarf, 2020). The effect of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economic sector is further emphasized in Presidential Decree (Keppres) Number 12 of 2020 regarding the determination of non-natural disasters due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Darmawan and Mifrahi (2022) revealed a significant effect of COVID-19 on the increasing number of open unemployment in Indonesia. Around the world, governments have yet to reach an agreement on the best course of action to respond to the pandemic (Wang et al., 2021). COVID-19 has had a significant impact on society at large (Ferry et al., 2021) The spread of COVID-19 has spread at high speed to various corners of the world (Laher et al., 2021)

Over time, the implications of the COVID-19 mobility restriction policy have left fundamental changes in the world of work. Lukáčová et al. (2022) state that the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic adjustments and technological advances increased the risk of unemployment, underemployment, and skills mismatch. The impact of COVID-19 on various sectors has begun to be felt (Gil-Alana & Poza, 2020). The effects of COVID-19 on various sectors have encouraged strengthening infrastructure development (Bansal, 2022). The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the number of deaths (Teo, Yap, Yip, Ong, & Lee, 2020). There is striking data about the negative consequences of COVID-19 (S. & Shetty, 2022.) The widespread COVID-19 epidemic has not only caused damage to human life but also disrupted the stability of global financial markets (Cabin, 2021).

To oversee the root of the gap between the quantity of employment opportunities and labor, looking at it from the demand and supply side is wiser. The demand side is echoed in studies conducted by several experts, such as Teichler (1999), to examine the gap between graduates from higher education and the competency demands that must be prepared in the workplace. These challenging problems are still exacerbated by structural changes that are not only about demographics but also the workforce reduction due to the digitalization of technology (Handayani, 2015). Apart from the demand side, the problem also comes in terms of supply, where the productive workforce and qualified population are still limited. The qualifications of workers in the world of work are increasing due to the trend of multinationalization of production and business and the impact of globalization (Handayani 2015). COVID-19 causes economic and social disruption (Rout, 2023). COVID-19 is increasing unemployment worldwide, with significant regional heterogeneity (Lopes & Sargento, 2023).

This reality is supported by the economic implications of globalization in the form of fundamental changes in human life, ranging from social to economic and even political. At the same time, economic globalization has led Indonesia to agree to the concession of the Bogor Declaration, which resulted in an agreement to participate in the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) (Handayani, 2015). Regarding the linkage of human capital to deal with the impact of COVID-19 in the economic sector, Romer's view from the perspective of productive orientation states humans as a fundamental source of economic productivity (Arifin & Firmansyah, 2017).

This study aimed to examine how the inclusiveness of the role of citizens in development through Merdekthe a Belajar-Kampus Merdeka Curriculum (MBKM) in Higher Education. Research on the inclusiveness of the role of citizens in development through the MBKM Curriculum in Higher Education has significant theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, this research provides deep insight into how this innovative curriculum can shape the active role of citizens in supporting development. Practically, this research provides valuable insights for higher education policy and the implementation of the curriculum, helping educational institutions to more effectively prepare students as inclusive and highly competitive development agents in the dynamic world of work.

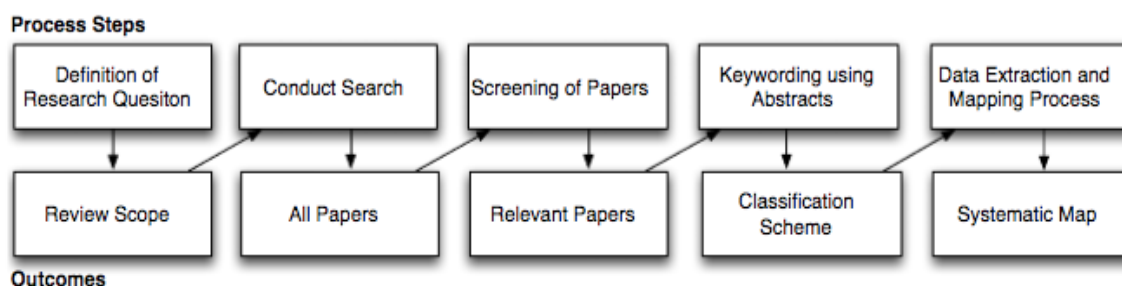
This presented a significant contribution to the understanding of how higher education can shape active citizen engagement. In Civic Education, this study can explore the novelty of curriculum approaches and learning methods to promote inclusiveness, incorporate diverse civic perspectives, and accommodate students' different social and cultural backgrounds. It explores the extent to which innovations in the curriculum can influence students' understanding of civic responsibility and how higher education can be an agent of change in social and economic development. The focus on renewing research in Citizenship Education through the lens of the MBKM curriculum will help create a solid foundation for developing more inclusive educational policies and practices, ensuring that all students can understand and apply citizenship concepts in diverse and dynamic contexts.

## Method

This study used qualitative methods. Qualitative research is a research approach that uses interpretative methods to describe, analyze, and understand social phenomena. This method's choice considers Van Maanen's (1979) view, which describes qualitative research as an 'umbrella' concept that includes various interpretative techniques. According to Van Maanen, this approach aims to describe, decode, translate, and understand the meaning of various phenomena that naturally exist in the social environment.

The qualitative research was a literature review using the systematic mapping study method. The following is the mapping study flow adopted from Bailey et al. (2007).

Figure 1.  
*Systematic Mapping Study (Bailey et al., 2007).*



The flow of literature review in this study was defining the Research Question, namely how the inclusiveness of the role of citizens in development through the independent learning-campus curriculum in higher education; the researchers searched for the main studies related to the inclusiveness of the role of citizens in development through MBKM Curriculum in higher education, screened of reference sources, keyword creation, and data extraction as well as study mapping.

In this study, researchers try to provide and display data from reliable and accountable sources. In addition, researchers also use a narrative approach, namely by describing individual lives, collecting stories about people's lives, and attaching individual experiences, which, of course, focus on the object of research, namely explaining and examining the impact of higher education on open unemployment.

## Result and Discussion

In a situation of global economic uncertainty because of the COVID-19 pandemic, BPS released data that around 10.02 million of the working population in February 2021 had decreased to 19.10% from the previous figure in August 2020, which was 34.41%. 1.62 million working-age residents were forced to lose their jobs due to COVID-19, while 0.65 million non-labor force residents were also affected (Fikri1 & Gopar, 2021).

Based on the growth in the unemployment rate, the government made various efforts to prepare strategies to overcome the impact of the pandemic in all sectors, including education. Table 2 shows the open unemployment rate for the 2020-2022 period.

Table 1.

*Consequences of COVID-19 Impact on People at Work from August 2020 to February 2021*

Components	August 2020 (million)	February 2021 (million)	Changes from August 2020 to February 2021	
			(million)	(%)
Number of unemployed due to COVID-19	2.56	1.62	-0.94	-36.72
Not in the labor force due to COVID-19	0.76	0.65	-0.11	-14.47
Temporarily off work due to COVID-19	1.77	1.11	0.66	-37.29
Reduced Hours	29.12	19.10	-10.02	-34.41
Working-age Population (WaP)	203.97	205.36	1.39	0.68
	(%)	(%)		(%)
Percentage on WaP	14,78	9,30	-4,98	

Source: Official Website of the Central Bureau of Statistics

Leaders of businesses in the private sector believe that the leading cause of this discrepancy is the issues related to the structure, caliber, and substance of the educational system (Disas, 2018.) The Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia launched the MBKM curriculum to encourage students to master various fields of knowledge as provisions when entering the world of work. The concept of link and match, which was previously applied in vocational secondary education, is also recognized as necessary in higher education, where its implementation involves both cognitive aspects and affective and psychomotor aspects. The Ministry of Education and Culture has issued several legal bases to strengthen the policy, such as:

- Law No. 20 of 2023 on the National Education System
- Law No. 12/2012 on Higher Education
- Law No. 6 of 2014 on Villages

Concerning the MBKM curriculum, which emphasizes the principles of Pancasila, it is important to have a good understanding of effective assessment in its implementation. This underscores the urgency for instilling affective values in the context of education as an effort to overcome moral problems (Charismana, 2023).

Table 2.

*Open Unemployment Rate by Education Level Year 2020-2022*

Education Level	Open Unemployment Rate by Education Level (%)		
	2020	2021	2022
No/never been to school/not yet graduated & completed elementary school	3.61	3.61	3.59
Middle School	6.46	6.45	5.95
High School	9.86	9.09	8.57
Vocational High School	13.55	11.13	9.42
Diploma I/II/III	8.08	5.87	4.59
University	7.35	5.98	4.80

Source: National Labor Force Survey

As a form of follow-up, the Ministry of Education and Culture realizes the MBKM curriculum through various excellent programs, such as easing procedures for opening new study programs, reforming the accreditation system for universities, and facilitating the transformation of state universities to become entity state universities, as well as student learning opportunities for three semesters outside the study program (Direktur Jenderal Pendidikan Tinggi, 2020). This is based on the reality that many large organizations are looking

for candidates who have a package of academic performance, such as technological skills, foreign language, skills, and work experience

### **Student Exchange**

Student exchange is carried out to form traits and characters that follow Permendikbud Number 3 of 2020, namely respecting the diversity of views, cells, religion, ons, and beliefs; accepting other people's opinions or ideas; collaborating and having social empathy for the community and its environment. The student exchange is carried out with the following objectives:

- Inter-campus study is carried out domestically or abroad, learning to adapt to the place of residence and campus environment, which aims to get to know the culture of the new environment to develop insights into unity in diversity mutual tolerance, and strengthen brotherhood between tribes.
- We are fostering a sense of friendship among students from different tribes and regions to strengthen unity and integrity.
- Carry out transferring knowledge and values to overcome educational inequality in Indonesia.

### **Entrepreneurial Activities**

In line with the reality of Indonesia, which is facing the era of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), higher education that is packaged with a curriculum-based entrepreneurship seems very important. The entrepreneurship-based higher education curriculum is expected to be a catalyst that can prepare entrepreneurial graduates so that they not only fulfill industrial competencies but also create industrial opportunities for other human resources. Because entrepreneurship opens the possibility of long-term stable economic growth, the threshold for a country to be said to be prosperous is if 2% of the population is an entrepreneur (Maisah et al., 2020)

Entrepreneurship is the ability, creativity, and innovation that provide value to a business by considering risks while utilizing organizational resources efficiently and effectively. Furthermore, based on the theory of entrepreneurship developed by Stephen P. Robbins and Merry Coulter, entrepreneurship is seen as a series of processes in which individuals and groups are organized to seize opportunities to create value, meet needs and desires, namely through distinctiveness and innovation (Maisah et al., 2020).

### **Research**

To improve human capital, research is certainly one part of shaping critical thinking based on more systematic methods. As an outcome of higher education, students will certainly benefit from field practice in the research center laboratory because sometimes there are limited research assistants to carry out short-term research projects. The objectives of this program are as follows:

- They are improving the quality of student research and strengthening the research talent pool according to themes.
- Students get additional research skills under the direct guidance of researchers at research centers and learning centers.
- Improving the quality of Indonesia's ecosystem and research laboratories and institutions by resourcing and regenerating researchers from a young age (Direktur Jenderal Pendidikan Tinggi, 2020).

Humanitarian-based projects offer technical and professional communication implications (Griffith, Zarlengo, & Melonçon, 2022). Social practice allows students to engage and participate in different types of social activities (Cheng & Parker, 2023). On the other hand,

with the MBKM curriculum, students' horizons are also expected to expand, exploring the disciplines in related study programs and fulfilling the skills needed in the world of work, thus creating a link and match in higher education. Hae et al. (2023) state that improving the practical aspects of learning is necessary to improve student learning experience and achievement. Structured communication skills training supports the development of communication skills for work in the world of work (Reith-Hall & Montgomery, 2022).

## Conclusion

After the researchers conducted this research, they concluded that higher education impacted the level of open unemployment, and changes in curriculum and learning methods could help overcome these challenges. Through this study, we could contribute to further understanding of the relationship between higher education and the problem of unemployment while presenting views on solutions that could be implemented to increase the absorption of graduates in the labor market.

The higher education curriculum is based on links and matches in the form of MBKM, which includes several learning activities, such as student exchange, internships or fieldwork practices, humanitarian activities, research or research, thematic actual work lectures, entrepreneurial activities and teaching assistance in educational units, is seen as an embodiment and implementation in providing experience as well as relationships to students.

We recommend that future researchers explore the extent to which this curriculum integrates active citizen participation in the learning process and campus community development. It is also recommended that the successful implementation of this curriculum be evaluated in creating an inclusive learning environment, stimulating creativity, and shaping the attitudes and skills of citizens who contribute to sustainable development.

## References

- Arifin, S., & Firmansyah. (2017). Pengaruh tingkat pendidikan dan kesempatan kerja terhadap pengangguran di Provinsi Banten. *Jurnal Ekonomi-Qu*, 17(2). <https://doi.org/http://dx.doi.org/10.35448/jequ.v7i2.4978>
- Bailey, J., Budgen, D., Turner, M., Kitchenham, B., Brereton, P., & Linkman, S. (2007). Evidence relating to object-oriented software design: a survey. In *First International Symposium on Empirical Software Engineering and Measurement (ESEM 2007)* (hal. 482–484). <https://doi.org/10.1109/ESEM.2007.58>
- Bansal, M. (2022). Multidimensional impact of COVID-19 on the Indian education sector. *Management and Labour Studies*, 48(2), 214–223. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0258042X211069509>
- Cabin, W. (2021). Pre-existing inequality: the impact of COVID-19 on medicare home health beneficiaries. *Home Health Care Management & Practice*, 33(2), 130–136. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1084822321992380>
- Charismana, D. S. et al. (2023). A portrait of affective assessment implementation in junior high schools: Assessing its ideality. *Jurnal Civics: Media Kajian Kewarganegaraan*, 2(2). <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.21831/jc.v20i2.61970>
- Cheng, S., & Parker, M. (2023). The role of school socioeconomic status in school-wide technology integration in the U.S. *Contemporary Educational Technology*, 15(2), ep422. <https://doi.org/10.30935/cedtech/13059>
- Darmawan, A. S., & Mifrahi, M. N. (2022). Analisis tingkat pengangguran terbuka di Indonesia periode sebelum dan saat pandemi COVID-19. *Jurnal Kebijakan Ekonomi dan Keuangan*, 1(1). <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.20885/JKEK.vol1.iss1.art11>

- Direktur Jenderal Pendidikan Tinggi. (2020). Buku Panduan merdeka belajar - kampus merdeka. Jakarta: Direktorat Jenderal Pendidikan Tinggi Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan.
- Disas, E. (2018). Link and match sebagai kebijakan pendidikan kejuruan. *Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan*, 18, 231–242. <https://doi.org/10.17509/jpp.v18i2.12965>
- Fagbemi, F. et al. (2022). Capital development challenge: why corruption eradication is a panacea in Nigeria. *Journal of Development Policy and Practice*, 7(2), 180–205. <https://doi.org/10.1177/24551333221090312>
- Ferry, A. M., Beh, H. Z., Dibbs, R. P., Davies, L. W., Xue, A. S., Dempsey, R. F., ... Buchanan, E. P. (2021). Impact of COVID-19 on cleft surgical care. *FACE*, 2(1), 6–12. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2732501621996009>
- Fikri1, Y. T. A., & Gopar, I. A. (2021). Analisis peningkatan angka pengangguran akibat dampak pandemi Covid 19 di indonesia. *Indonesian Journal of Business Analytics (IJBA)*, 2(1), 107–116. Diambil dari <https://media.neliti.com/media/publications/357456-analisis-peningkatan-angka-pengangguran-1626af32.pdf>
- Gil-Alana, L. A., & Poza, C. (2020). The impact of COVID-19 on the Spanish tourism sector. *Tourism Economics*, 28(3), 646–653. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354816620959914>
- Griffith, J., Zarlengo, T., & Melonçon, L. (2022). A Field Wide Snapshot of Student Learning Outcomes in the Technical and Professional Communication Service Course. *Journal of Technical Writing and Communication*, 54(1), 46–68. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00472816221134535>
- Hakiki, M., Surjono, H. D., Wagiran, Fadli, R., Budiman, R. D. A., Ramadhani, W., ..., & Hidayah, Y. (2023). Enhancing Practicality of Web-Based Mobile Learning in Operating System Course: A Developmental Study. *International Journal of Interactive Mobile Technologies (ijIM)*, 17(19). <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.3991/ijim.v17i19.42389>
- Handayani, T. (2015). Relevansi lulusan Perguruan Tinggi di Indonesia dengan kebutuhan tenaga kerja di era global. *Jurnal Kependudukan Indonesia*, 10(1). <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.14203/jki.v10i1.57>
- Laher, N., Bocchinfuso, S., Chidiac, M., Doherty, C., Persson, A., & Warren, E. (2021). The biopsychosocial impact of COVID-19 on older adults. *Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine*, 7, 23337214211034270. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23337214211034274>
- Lopes, A. S., & Sargento, A. (2023). Regional heterogeneity in the individual unemployment vulnerability after COVID-19 outset. *International Regional Science Review*, 45(5), 678–700. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01600176231160486>
- Lukáčová, K., Kováčová, L., & Kahanec, M. (2022). Industrial relations and unemployment benefit schemes in the visegrad countries during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Transfer: European Review of Labour and Research*, 28(2), 229–246. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10242589221099804>
- Maanen, J. Van. (1979). Reclaiming qualitative methods for organizational research: a preface. *Qualitative Methodology*, 4(4), 520–526. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.2307/2392358>
- Maisah et al. (2020). Pengembangan pendidikan tinggi berorientasi kewirausahaan dalam perspektif global. *Jurnal Ilmu Manajemen Terapan*, 1, 305–317. <https://doi.org/10.31933/jimt.v1i4.117>
- Maryati, S. (2015). Dinamika pengangguran terdidik: tantangan menuju bonus demografi di Indonesia. *Economica: Jurnal Program Studi Pendidikan Ekonomi STKIP PGRI Sumatera Barat*, 3(2), 124–136. <https://doi.org/10.22202/economica.2015.v3.i2.249>

- Nanga, M. (2001). *Microeconomic theory of problems and policies*. Jakarta: PT. Raja Grafindo Persada.
- Reith-Hall, E., & Montgomery, P. (2022). The teaching and learning of communication skills in social work education. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 32(7), 793–813. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10497315221088285>
- Rout, D. et al. (2023). The origin of extremely nonradial solar wind outflows. *The Astrophysical Journal*, 950(1), 1. <https://doi.org/10.3847/1538-4357/acd000>
- S., M. K., & Shetty, A. S. (2022). Impact of COVID-19 on the performance of Indian stock market: an empirical analysis. *Jindal Journal of Business Research*, 11(2), 175–186. <https://doi.org/10.1177/22786821221127734>
- Sabaa, M. A. E., & Algarf, T. M. (2020). Impact of COVID-19 on management of laryngeal/oropharyngeal neoplasms. *Craniofacial Trauma & Reconstruction*, 14(2), 157–161. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1943387520963823>
- Sahin et al. (2021). Unemployment in the time of COVID-19: a flow-based approach to real-time unemployment projections. National Bureau of Economic Research. Diambil dari <https://www.nber.org/papers/w28445>
- Teichler, U. (1999). Research on the relationships between higher education and the world of work: past achievements, problems and new challenges. *Higher Education*, 38(2), 169–190. <https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1003761214250>
- Teo, W. Z. Y., Yap, E. S., Yip, C., Ong, L., & Lee, C.-T. (2020). The psychological impact of COVID-19 on 'hidden' frontline healthcare workers. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, 67(3), 284–289. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0020764020950772>
- Wang, C., Meng, X., Siriwardana, M., & Pham, T. (2021). The impact of COVID-19 on the Chinese tourism industry. *Tourism Economics*, 28(1), 131–152. <https://doi.org/10.1177/13548166211041209>