



ANALYSIS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY LEVELS IN INDONESIAN MASTER VOCATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the level of financial literacy among students at the Indonesian Master Vocational High School (SMK). Financial literacy is a crucial skill for students in managing personal finances, making financial decisions, and preparing for a better economic future. The research method used a quantitative approach by distributing questionnaires to students at the Indonesian Master Vocational High School as respondents. The results showed that the students' financial literacy level was in the moderate category, where most students understood the basic concepts of financial management, but still needed improvement in aspects of investment, financial planning, and financial risk management.

Keywords: *Financial Literacy, Vocational High School Students, Financial Management, Financial Education, Indonesian Master Vocational School*

INTRODUCTION

Financial literacy is an individual's ability to understand and manage financial aspects effectively and efficiently. In today's digital era, vocational high school students are required to have sound financial management skills due to the growing development of digital financial services and the increasing economic needs of society. Low levels of financial literacy can lead to consumptive behavior, poor financial decision-making, and even a low ability to save and invest from a young age. Therefore, financial literacy education is crucial for vocational high school students to prepare them for future economic challenges (Nanda et al., 2023).

As a vocational education institution, SMK Master Indonesia plays a crucial role in developing students who are not only competent in academics and job skills, but also skilled in personal financial management. Knowledge of spending management, savings planning, utilizing banking products, and understanding investments should be introduced to students from an early age. With sound financial literacy, students are expected to become a financially independent generation capable of facing future economic challenges (Utama et al., 2024).

Research on the level of financial literacy among Indonesian Master Vocational School students is crucial because financial management is a fundamental skill needed by the younger generation to navigate the development of the economy and financial technology in the digital era. Through this research, schools can determine students' understanding of money management, savings habits, use of digital financial services, and investment, providing a basis for developing more effective financial literacy education programs. Furthermore, the research findings are expected to help students develop prudent financial behaviors, reduce consumerism, and improve their readiness to achieve financial independence in the future.



METHOD

This study employed a descriptive quantitative method, collecting data through questionnaires distributed to students of SMK Master Indonesia. The questionnaires were structured based on financial literacy indicators, including basic financial knowledge, money management, savings habits, investment understanding, and use of digital financial services. Respondents were grades 10, 11, and 12 students selected using a purposive sampling technique. The data were analyzed using descriptive statistics to determine the students' general level of financial literacy.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research results show that most students have a basic understanding of the importance of saving and managing daily expenses. Sixty-eight percent of respondents stated they have a habit of setting aside pocket money for savings, while 32% still tend to use the money for consumer needs. Furthermore, students are familiar with the use of digital financial services such as mobile banking and digital wallets, but their understanding of digital transaction security remains relatively low. These findings indicate that students are beginning to adapt to developments in financial technology, but still need further education regarding digital financial risk management.

The study also found that students' understanding of investment and long-term financial planning remains limited. Most respondents believe that investing is only for those with high incomes. This situation indicates a low understanding of simple investment concepts, which can actually be started at a young age. Family environment, school education, and access to financial information are factors that influence students' financial literacy levels. Therefore, schools need to improve financial education programs through seminars, financial management practices, and the integration of financial literacy materials into learning.

Furthermore, research shows that students who actively participate in school entrepreneurship activities tend to have better financial literacy than those who don't participate. The experience of managing a small business, calculating profits, and managing capital provides a concrete understanding of the importance of sound financial management. This demonstrates that practice-based learning can improve students' ability to understand financial concepts more effectively and practically.

CONCLUSION

The financial literacy level of Indonesian Master Vocational School students is in the moderate category. Students understand basic financial management concepts such as saving and using digital financial services, but still have limited understanding of investment and long-term financial planning. Therefore, improved financial literacy education is needed through school programs, training, and practice-based learning to improve students' financial management skills and prepare them to face future economic challenges.

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