EXPLORING THE BENEFITS OF COUNSELING

FOR STUDENTS IN A HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

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Abstract

Distance education system is a system of education which means there is a geographically separation between students and teachers that causes students cannot attend face-to-face lectures regularly in the classroom. In the context of higher education, distance education has been implemented in almost all countries that provide flexibility for students to learn anytime and anywhere. Distance education system has a challenge given the students should learn independently, which sometimes it is more difficult than if students learn together in a classroom. Learning independently requires students to have an ability to solve their problems related to the course by themselves with a little assistance from institution. Therefore, higher education institutions that implements distance education should be able to provide support or counseling both in terms of academic and non-academic matter. This paper aims to analyze the implementation of counseling at Universitas Terbuka (UT), and discover the benefits of counseling for students. The results of this study showed that the implementation of counseling at UT has been performing well, however, it still requires improvement in several aspects. Therefore, UT should give attention to the counseling for students so the students can carry out a better learning process.

Keywords: distance education, counseling, self-learning

1 INTRODUCTION

UT implement distance learning system and open. The term distance learning means not conducted face to face, but rather using the media, both print (module) and non-printed (audio / video, computer / internet, radio and television). Meaning open is no age limit, the diploma, apprenticeship, during registration, and the frequency of exams. Boundaries are only that every UT student must have completed secondary education (high school or its equivalent) (Open University, 2015).

UT students are expected to learn independently. How self-learning requires students to learn on their own initiative or the initiative. Self-learning can be done alone or in groups, either in study groups and in tutorial groups. UT provides teaching materials created specifically to be studied independently. In addition to using teaching materials provided by UT, students can also take the initiative to take advantage of the library, follow the tutorial either face to face or over the internet, radio, and television, as well as using other learning resources such as teaching material of computer aided programs and audio / video (University open, 2015).

self-learning in many ways determined by the ability to learn effectively. Ability to learn depends on the speed of reading and the ability to understand the content of reading. To be able to effectively self-learning, UT students are required to have self-discipline, initiative and strong motivation to learn. Students are also required to be able to manage his time efficiently, so that they can learn on a regular basis by learning self-determined schedule. Therefore, in order to succeed at UT, prospective students must be prepared to learn independently (Open University, 2015). But sometimes students still have trouble doing independent study for various reasons, among others, internal motivation and difficulty utilizing instructional media. Students need guidance and mentoring both directly and indirectly. Students also need guidance or counselling to find the best way to solve learning. Here we need a model proper counselling so that students can learn effectively.

Research on the effectiveness of counseling programs is an interesting topic for research. Counseling allegedly profound effect on the CPI increase in open university students. In the world of education is also essential to teach, guide, and suggests an effective learning strategies for each learning style (De Porter & Hernancky, 1999),

a high GPA students can only be attained by students who master the competencies taught courses. To master the subjects taught, learned Newspapers relief services directly or indirectly. Learning support services directly as face to face and online tutorials while learning support services indirectly between Kaub identification of student difficulties in learning the courses taken. Identification of the problems of students in mastering the courses taken and the learning process in the Newspapers can be done through counselling. Based on the background and these thoughts, this study aim to identify implementation of counselling in Accounting Studies Program Open University, both in the UT and Regional Offices.

2   LITERATURE REVIEW

Low self-regulation is one of the problems experienced by students in completing their learning. It was partly seen from the low internal implementation of student's motivation in independent study. At the same time, they require greater impetus from the environment. Initiative to solve the problem and take the steps necessary also quite slow. In addition destination that is less specific and measurable, resistance to stressful situations too low and tend to choose activities that do not become a burden to himself. This condition is exacerbated by poor management time and priorities of students, as well as the inability to regulate the environment in order to support the achievement of objectives.

Schunk and Ertmer (in Duckworth et al, (2009) explains further that the self-regulation in learning (self-regulated learning) include goal setting learn, focus and concentration, use of effective strategies, given the information effectively, creating a productive learning environment, use resources effectively, monitor performance, manage time effectively, seek help if needed, maintain a positive beliefs about self-efficacy and value of the learning process is done, know the factors that affect learning and anticipate, as well as the experience and satisfaction earned by individuals after attaining the goals. one approach that can be used to help students cultivate his will regulate themselves in completing the learning is counselling.

Counselling reality view that man has the freedom to make choices in life and must accept the consequences of responsibility following the options that have been taken. This approach can be applied to the reality of counselling, education, crisis intervention, correction and rehabilitation, management agencies, and community development. This approach is also one popular technique in the school and can be used for a variety of problems ranging from mild to severe psychological problems and can be applied both in children, adolescents, adults, and the elderly. The essence of counselling reality is the acceptance of personal responsibility is equated with mental health, where counsellors serve as teachers and models as well as confront clients in ways that can help clients face reality and meet the basic needs without harming themselves or others.

In process, Glasser (Corey, 1996) guide clients to learn how to control his life becomes more effective and encourage clients to assess their thoughts, feelings, and actions that they have to find the best way for their functioning. Counselling focuses on increasing awareness of the reality of the client will be ineffective behaviours they display, then teach them more effective behaviour in the face of the world. In other words, clients are helped to evaluate whether their desires are realistic and whether the measures they take to help to achieve their desires. Counselling reality helps individuals define and clarify objectives, explaining the things that hinder the achievement of objectives, and help clients find alternatives troubleshooting.

Counselling reality helps individuals define and clarify objectives, explaining the things that hinder the achievement of objectives, and help clients find alternatives to solving the problem. Furthermore, counselling that is done in groups make participants are more likely to discuss the pressing problems they face, more willing to accept a donation of thinking, more willing to open up while watching the other group members also spoke honestly and openly, more open to the demands of regulating their conduct to foster ties social good, and feel more happy and live the atmosphere of togetherness that is more satisfying (and Hastuti Winkel, 2010). On the other hand counselling reality is the acceptance of personal responsibility, where counsellors serve as teachers and models as well as confront clients in ways that can help clients face reality and meet the basic needs without harming themselves or others (Corey, 1996).

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Advantages from the use of counselling the reality is that this approach can be done in a relatively short time and overcome behaviours that realized by the client. Besides, with the reality counselling, clients not only achieve insight and awareness, but also do a self-evaluation, an action plan, and build commitment during the counselling process. The procedure used to direct the changes are based on the assumption that people are motivated to change when they are convinced that their present behaviour does not support the achievement of what they want and they can choose an alternative other behaviour that can deliver them to the desired destination.

3   METHODS

This study is a qualitative research. The interview is the process of obtaining information / data for research purposes by way of question and answer, face to face between the interviewer with respondents by using a tool called an interview guide (Siregar, 2014). The data used in this research is data primary. The primary data obtained from interviews with student samples in the 7 UPBJJ-UT were elected, namely UPBJJ-UT Jakarta, UPBJJ-UT Bogor, UPBJJ-UT Yogyakarta, UPBJJ-UT Jember, UPBJJ-UT Serang, UPBJJ-UT Surakarta and UPBJJ-UT Surabaya.

this research using data gathered through in-depth interviews.Interviews with semi-structured interview guide was used. Number of Informants each UPBJJ-UT are as follows: Jakarta comprises five informants, Bogor consists of 10, three informants Yogyakarta, Jember 5 informants, Serang 5 informants, informants 5 Surakarta, Surabaya 5 people. Total informant 38 students.

4   RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

UT has provided various forms of counselling services. In nearly all the regional office has provided a special room for counselling. In addition, a wide range of learning support services can also function as a UT counselling to students such as online tutorials, face to face tutorials, halo UT, centre sms, Facebook, etc. however, students still have problems in learning and studying in an open university, especially in under-graduate study program accounting. The problems faced by students can be grouped into three (3) a source of problems of students. First, the problems stem from internal students, among others: the motivation to learn less, lazy, self-study hard, difficult to divide time between study and other interests, rarely reading instructional materials and learning rudimentary. Second, the problem comes from the learning system UT, among others: space tutorial is not representative in terms of quantity and quality, difficulty in obtaining materials, content and presentation of the material in the teaching materials of low quality, the initiation of which are not available on all stages of online tutorials and exercises independent does not reflect lattice exam questions, information and dissemination UT less and responsiveness UT low. Third, the problem comes from the infrastructure, among others: the limitations of the Internet and network access is difficult.

Some students still complain of core courses at under graduate accounting studies program include: Financial Management, Advanced Financial Accounting, Auditing, Statistics Economics and Business, Intermediate Financial Accounting , Some of the students had to repeat how many times in order to pass the exam. Several other students who have successfully completed the core problem of accounting have tips for studying, among others: the effective time management, self-learning, followed face to face tutorials, online tutorial, do exercises and assignments, management decision subjects and ordering teaching materials ahead of time, diligently reading materials, ask the tutor or discuss with friends through social media group. Students seem not to optimize the role of counselling in optimizing the learning process in the UT. In the understanding of the students, counselling is tutoring, consultation, session private sharing, where lamented during the learning process in the UT and academic guidance.

The importance of counselling for students when run as it is the students can be helped to understand the subject matter, students can provide information and feedback to UT, students can be a variety of mind, students can solve problems together, students can consult and ask about the learning process in UT, students can submit difficulty of academic and non-academic side. Students also hope to counselling at least gained among others: reserved special tutors for subjects difficult, difficult. Counselling can be a means of solving problems and solutions are right on target. Identification of difficulties and learning methods as well as the process of learning, lectures administration information.

Students want the counsellor is a person who has the commitment, integrity, confidentiality, and competent in their field. A wide variety of counselling model desired by the students are still based on on-one counselling, followed by a video call, use social media, and written consultation.

In addition to counselling students also expect their mentors specialized in the academic field to guide and give directives to college smooth, well-planned well and quickly pass the best GPA.

Guidance Special is also expected to motivate students, inform stages and a prerequisite to the TAP.

Some of the students counselling is right for them therefore UT should earnestly provide counselling services at its best, both in academic and non-academic. Students unsure if counselling run effectively can help accelerate the learning process. Even students are willing to spend extra to get counselling services specifically and deeply.


5   CONCLUSIONS

UT has been providing counselling facilities and infrastructure but not yet effective. With regard to counselling on study accounting graduated under the program. Some things need to be improved are various models of counselling provided and the competence and commitment in providing guidance counsellor. The expected benefits of the effectiveness and efficiency of counselling is to expedite the learning process through the internal motivation of students, taking courses packages landing and principles as well as practical solutions to the problems faced by students. Finally, students are expected through the help of counselling, can study comfortably, directional, completed on time with the best GPA.

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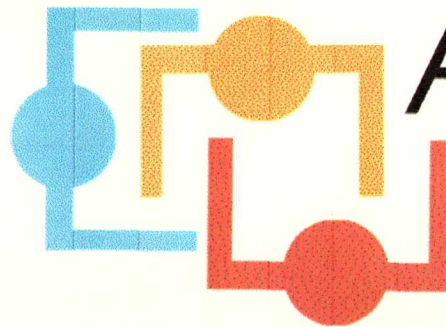
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