



/ <u>ISSN 2548-8201</u> (Print) / <u>2580-0469</u>) (Online) /

# **Career Guidance Helps Students Choose the Right Career Path**

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# Abstrak:

Saat ini, masih banyak siswa memilih jurusan yang tidak cocok dengan tujuan karir yang sebenarnya mereka inginkan. Bimbingan karir memiliki peran utama dalam membantu siswa mengidentifikasi minat, bakat, nilai-nilai, dan tujuan hidup mereka, maka dari itu bimbingan karir merupakan proses panduan dan pendampingan, membantu siswa menjalani proses pengambilan keputusan dengan lebih percaya diri dan terinformasi. Selain itu bimbingan karir merupakan aspek penting dalam pendidikan yang bertujuan untuk membantu siswa dalam mengembangkan pemahaman tentang diri mereka sendiri dan memilih jalur karir yang sesuai. Melalui pemahaman yang mendalam tentang minat dan potensi siswa, bimbingan karir dapat membantu mereka menjalani proses pemilihan jalur karir yang lebih terarah dan meminimalkan risiko mengambil keputusan yang tidak sesuai dengan keinginan dan bakat mereka. Metode yang digunakan dalam penulisan ini adalah melalui analisis terhadap berbagai sumber literatur, jurnal, dan artikel yang relevan dengan topik, hasil analisis menggarisbawahi bahwa bimbingan karir bukan hanya tentang memilih pekerjaan, tetapi juga tentang membangun pondasi yang kokoh untuk masa depan yang sukses dan memuaskan

**Kata Kunci**: konseling, karir, minat, bakat, siswa, potensi diri

#### Abstract

Currently, many students still choose majors that do not align with their actual career aspirations. Career guidance plays a crucial role in helping students identify their interests, talents, values, and life goals. Therefore, career guidance is a process of guidance and support, aiding students in making more confident and informed decisions. Additionally, career guidance is a vital aspect of education aimed at assisting students in developing self-awareness and selecting suitable career paths. Through a profound understanding of students' interests and potentials, career guidance can assist them in navigating a more purposeful career path selection process while minimizing the risk of making decisions that do not align with their desires and talents. The methodology employed involves the analysis of various literature sources, journals, and articles relevant to the topic. The analysis highlights that career guidance is not only about choosing a job but also about laying a strong foundation for a successful and fulfilling future.

**Keywords**: guidance, career, interests, talents, students, self-potential

#### INTRODUCTION

Career is one of the vital aspects of an individual's life, and making the right career choice can lead to satisfaction, success, and fulfillment. For students, selecting the right career path is a decision with long-term implications for their future. This process is often filled with challenges and complex considerations. Fortunately, career counseling exists as an effective tool to assist students in embarking on a journey toward a successful and satisfying future (Devi & Herdi, 2021).

Career counseling is a designed process to help individuals, especially students, identify their interests, talents, values, and goals. Its primary objective is to enable them to make decisions based on a deep understanding of themselves and explore various suitable career options. With career counseling, students can plan their future with greater confidence, avoid time and resource-wasting mistakes, and enhance their chances of achieving success in their chosen careers (Devi, 2021; Indah, 2022).

Furthermore, the goal of career counseling is to aid students in developing the ability to think about the career direction they desire and make career decisions that are their personal responsibility, rather than relying on others. Hence, it can be said that students should be independent. Student independence in career planning refers to their ability to independently gather and analyze information related to themselves, their potential, the careers they wish to pursue, make job-related decisions, determine their status and future direction, and take full responsibility for their career journey, all with the appropriate guidance from a career counselor (Harryadi et al., 2023; Ridwan et al., 2022).

With the right information and guidance from a career counselor, students can feel more confident and prepared to face the challenges in the world of work. Career counseling is not just about choosing a job; it is also about helping students better understand themselves, identify their dreams and goals, and develop realistic plans to achieve them (Pratama, Angga. 2022). Through this article, we hope to provide valuable insights to students about the importance of career counseling in navigating a future full of potential and satisfaction.

#### **METHODS**

Literature review serves as the foundation for this article. Literature review is a research method that involves the collection, evaluation, and analysis of relevant literature on a specific topic to understand the development of knowledge and examine the research conducted by previous researchers. The findings of their research are analyzed theoretically and methodologically concerning a particular chosen topic. The search for literature, both nationally and internationally, related to the article's title, is derived from various sources such as journals, e-books, books, and other relevant materials suitable to support the writing of this article.

### **DISCUSSION**

According to Dewa Ketut Sukardi in Putranti, (2018) career guidance is a guidance process that helps a person to prepare for the challenges of the world of work, choose the appropriate field of work, position, or profession, and provide the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in that position. In addition, career guidance also helps individuals to adapt to the various demands that exist in the work environment they enter. Then according to Priambodo, 2017 (in Devi & Herdi, 2021) career guidance is a process in which individuals (such as students or counselees) given assistance, services, approaches to help them recognize, understand, and explore their understanding of the world of work and the various career directions available. The purpose of this process is so that the individual can plan their future wisely, so that they can make decisions that are in accordance with their potential and interests.

In addition, based on research conducted by Saleh in 2017, in Nuraini, (2022) career guidance is defined as a process provided to students through various techniques and types of services. The main goal is to empower students to plan careers that match their interests and potential, and to support students' individual development. In addition, career guidance also aims to assist students in determining their life path and developing their careers to the maximum potential level. It can also be concluded that career guidance is an action to provide support to students in recognizing and understanding themselves, gaining knowledge about the work environment, and creating a path to employment that matches their expectations for the future. Therefore, implementing career guidance services for students is very important because it has a significant impact in helping individuals plan, develop, and manage their careers. Providing career guidance can be done individually or in groups, in a study by Adityawarman, et al. in 2020 group guidance played a role in improving students' career planning skills.

Here are some reasons why career guidance is so important (Abubakar, 2011; Atmaja, 2014; Grace, 2023; Rahmadani, 2021; Sitompul, 2018; Yonanda, 2022): 1) Career guidance is essential as it will help identify students' potential, interests, values and talents. This is done through interest and aptitude tests and consultation with a career counselor or counseling teacher. By knowing their interests and talents, students can choose a career path that suits their potential. 2) With the help of career guidance, students can make more informed career choices. Recognizing and knowing the different types of careers or jobs, career counselors and guidance teachers have access to various sources of information

about different career options. They can provide accurate and up-to-date information on job trends, career opportunities and industry developments. This helps students understand the various options available. This can avoid the mistake of choosing the wrong career path and leading to job dissatisfaction later in life. 3) Once students have identified their interests and talents and have an understanding of the career options available, career guidance helps them plan concrete steps to achieve their career goals. This includes the selection of majors, additional education, internships, work experience as well as necessary development. 4) Career guidance can help individuals overcome obstacles and hurdles they may face in achieving their career goals. This can include issues such as lack of certain skills or personal issues that need to be addressed. 5) Reduced stress and higher job satisfaction, when an individual has a better understanding of their career and can make more informed decisions, this can reduce stress levels and increase job satisfaction. Many students feel anxious and uncertain about their future. Career guidance helps them overcome this uncertainty by providing psychological support and strategies to deal with challenges that may arise in their career journey. Knowing interests and talents can also reduce stress and job satisfaction because basically individuals will be happy at work when they feel their work is enjoyable and in accordance with their interests and talents. 6) Many people experience mistakes in their careers that can be avoided with career guidance. This includes choosing unsuitable jobs or not understanding the career opportunities available. With career guidance, these things can be prevented and minimized because career guidance will provide a lot of information and prevention as well as career options.

In order to achieve career success and satisfaction, career guidance can play a very important role. It helps individuals make better decisions, plan effective steps, and better manage their careers throughout life. In addition, career guidance helps reduce dropout and unemployment rates among students. By having a better understanding of the career path that suits them, students are more likely to pursue higher education and find jobs that match their interests. This also reduces the risk of changing majors or unsatisfactory jobs in the future (Defriyanto, Neti Purnamasari, 2016).

However, it is important remember that career guidance is not the only factor that influences success in a career. personality, motivation, and hard work also play an important role. Therefore, it is important for students to not only rely on career guidance, but also develop their self-ability and interpersonal skills. Overall, career guidance is a valuable tool in helping students choose the right career path. With good support from career counselors and continuous development, students can achieve success in their careers and reach their full potential in the world of work (Madisa Dena et al., 2022).

# **CONCLUSION**

It can be concluded that career guidance is essential in helping students identify and choose a career path that matches their interests, skills, and values. Career guidance is a process that focuses on developing a purposeful plan of action toward career goals, involving information gathering, self-evaluation, exploration of career options, skill development, and emotional support. Career guidance provides valuable guidance for students in making important decisions about their education and career. With the help of experienced career counselors, students can plan concrete steps to achieve their career goals, thereby increasing their chances of success in the world of work.

In addition, career guidance helps reduce the confusion and stress that often arise when students are faced with many educational and career choices. With a better understanding of themselves and the options available, students can make decisions that are more informed and in line with their goals. Overall, career guidance plays a vital role in preparing young people to enter the workforce with confidence, understanding, and a solid plan. It helps ensure that students choose the right career path according to their potential, increasing their chances of future success.

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