



Factors Impacting Students' Decision to Enroll in UII'S Doctoral Program in Islamic Law: An Analysis

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Abstract

This research aims to determine students' preferences when pursuing a doctorate in Islamic law studies at the Indonesian Islamic University (UII). The participants in this research were Islamic law students enrolled in the doctoral program (HI-PD) at the Indonesian Islamic University in Yogyakarta between 2019 and 2022. Interviews were used to gather information in this qualitative study, and 39 students from HI-PD UII participated as research informants. According to the research findings, students' preferences in selecting the HI-PD study program can be categorized according to a number of different factors, including costs, facilities, human resources, reference groups, and recommendations.

Keywords: *Preferences, Student, Islamic Law, Education, Doctoral Program*

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi preferensi apa saja yang menjadi pertimbangan mahasiswa dalam melanjutkan program doktor di studi hukum Islam Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII). Subjek dalam penelitian ini adalah mahasiswa hukum Islam program doktor (HI-PD) antara tahun 2019-2022 di Universitas Islam Indonesia, Yogyakarta. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian kualitatif dengan menggunakan teknik wawancara dimana sebanyak 39 mahasiswa HI-PD UII menjadi informan penelitian. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa preferensi mahasiswa dalam memilih Program Studi HI-PD ini dapat diklasifikasikan berdasarkan variabel atribut, biaya, fasilitas, sumber daya manusia, kelompok referensi dan rekomendasi.

Kata Kunci: *Preferensi, Mahasiswa, Hukum Islam, Pendidikan, Program Doktor*

A. Introduction

Knowledge is the primary consideration for any person who seeks to enhance their own quality to develop human resources that are in a position to compete successfully. Education is the first and most important step toward raising everyone's standard life quality to a higher level. Education plays a significant part in the growth of both the nation and the state. It is

through education that high-quality human resources can be developed, which enables the objectives of nation-building to be streamlined. Higher education, known as PT in Indonesia, is a more formal education that attempts to equip young people with a wide range of skills and competence.

With this goal in mind, PT will be able to meet the challenges of a future that will become increasingly authoritarian while also serving as a location where younger generations may obtain the resources necessary to compete internationally. The academic community surrounding universities needs to be instilled with a sense of excitement for research activities. Therefore, researchers working in higher education would be able to provide research results of a higher quality, which will benefit both their own institutions and the community as a whole.

Currently, a growing number of Private Higher Education institutions (also known as PTS) are appearing in various regions alongside State Universities (also known as PTN). Competition in higher education is becoming increasingly competitive due to the proliferation of tertiary institutions. Every university and higher education institution competes with one another to enroll the greatest number of students. Among the parameters that decide whether or not a higher education institution, particularly a PTS, will keep operating is the number of students enrolled there.

Therefore, the public's decision to continue their education at universities is influenced by various factors, such as the qualities of universities, the quality and facilities of campuses, factors external to the institutions, and marketing elements. The Islamic Law Doctoral Study Program at the Islamic University of Indonesia is one of the study programs that keeps improving at the institution. In order to be able to produce graduates with character, the program has developed ideas and experiences that are mature. Because of this, the Islamic Law Study Program, Doctoral Program, Department of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Islamic Studies, UII, fully comprehends the necessity of obtaining students enrolled in their programs.

In order to provide evidence for this claim, the Islamic Law Study Program for the Doctoral Program (HIPD) researched the factors impacting students' decision to enrol in UII's doctoral program in Islamic law. According to the Quality Targets for the HIPD JSI FIAI UII Study Program, which is based on MERCY OF GOD at point M, Management of Organization, this was one of the steps that needed to be taken in order to establish a university that specializes in research. To accomplish this objective, the HIPD JSI FIAI UII Study Program carried out institutional research on student preferences regarding their decision to attend the Islamic Law Study Program Doctoral Program (HIPD) to further their education.

Several prior research studies are relevant to the issue of what factors motivate students to choose a study program. One of these studies is a paper authored by Syardiansah and titled "Faktor-Faktor Yang Mempengaruhi Mahasiswa Baru Memilih Program Studi Pada Fakultas Ekonomi Universitas Samudra." This study was conducted at the Faculty of Economics at the University of Samudra. The study's findings led the researchers to conclude that a student's decision to enrol in a particular academic program was influenced by at least four elements, including cultural, social, personal, and psychological considerations. Cultural aspects become prevalent due to local content, environmental influences, and cultural and environmental commonalities (Sah, 2018).

A research study that Lina Marlina carried out under the title "Faktor-Faktor Yang Mempengaruhi Keputusan Mahasiswa Memilih Program Studi Ekonomi Syariah Pada Fakultas Agama Islam Universitas Siliwangi," concluded that students base their decision on a variety of variables when selecting a study program, including the educational facilities, the proficiency of the lecturers, job prospects, the cost of tuition, and the track record of the university (Marlina & Nasution, 2016). The prospect of a gainful job is the most significant consideration that has the most weight when it comes to a student deciding which academic path they want to take (Sherman, 2021).

Then, a study was written by Jarred with the title "Influencing Factors on the Pursuit of Graduate Degrees in Agricultural Social Sciences." The

findings of the study indicate that prospective postgraduate students should take into account the following five factors when applying to postgraduate programs: (1) chances to obtain funding; (2) external variables that involve job advancement or higher salaries (Shellhouse et al., 2020); (3) prospects for personal development and acquiring knowledge; (4) the degree to which they perceive versatility in their program; and (5) opportunities for carrying out research (Siew et al., 2011).

According to the analyses of several studies that have been conducted, the research that will be investigated in this paper is newer. Thus, no research is similar to this, investigating the variables or references that influence students' decisions to pursue postgraduate studies in the Islamic law PhD program at the Islamic University of Indonesia.

B. Methods

This study is of the qualitative type. This research is related to recording students' choices in choosing HIPD FIAI UII Study Program. Hence the use of qualitative research in this study is based on the idea that this research is related to gathering students' preferences. The investigation was conducted at the Islamic Law Study Program Doctoral Program at the Postgraduate Campus of Islamic Studies on Jl. Demangan No. 24 Yogyakarta. Interview methods were utilized throughout the data-gathering process for this study which involved students from the Islamic Law Study Program who were enrolled in the Doctoral Program in the Department of Islamic Studies, Faculty of Islamic Studies, between 2019 and 2022.

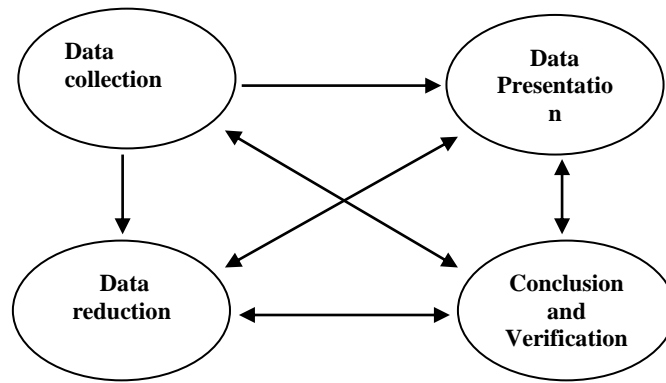


Figure 1. Research Step

This research uses qualitative data analysis methods, as depicted in the graphic that can be seen above, and it consists of three steps of data analysis: data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion. Classification and simplification of the data are the two processes that comprise data reduction. The interpretation of the data, which provides analytical and ethical meaning, serves as what is accomplished for presenting the data. In contrast, the conclusion is the last phase of the analysis process and involves providing relevant and applicable recommendations (Ratna, 2010).

In order to carry out this research, 39 students who were enrolled in HIPD between the years 2019 and 2022 and whose ages varied between 25 to 50 were asked to participate in a survey that the institution carried out. The participants included 37 male students and two female students from various public and private universities in Indonesia, including UIN Yogyakarta, UIN Malang, Muhammadiyah University Jakarta, Sunan Giri University Surabaya, Muhammadiyah University Surabaya, Gadjah Mada University, and others. Most students who participated in this research project can be classified into one of these three broad classifications: public and private servants, lecturers and teachers, and judges.

C. Results and Discussion

1. Results

As one of the private universities in Indonesia, the Indonesian Islamic University (UII), which has been providing higher education since its founding in 1945 and will turn 77 years old in 2022, has a wealth of experience in the field. This institution was founded to prepare quality human resources to fill and address the challenges posed by the rapid development of science and technology and national development. This was done to be ready to tackle all of the changes and advancements occurring at the time.

To fulfil this job effectively, UII is shifting its focus toward the happiness of its users and customers. The application of the four pillars, generally known as Catur Dharma, represents one of the things that sets UII apart from other institutions in how it carries out its teaching and learning process. Another dharma that UII possesses that other universities do not is Da'wah Islamiyah, which is founded on the values of Islam *Rahmatan Lil'alam*.

In the context of UII as *Rahmatan Lil'alam*, the value of customer satisfaction is a minimum guarantee for the satisfaction of individual interests, communal interests, and also socio-religious interests. This is the case since customer satisfaction is a minimal value. In order to accomplish this vision, UII focuses an internal emphasis on how it may develop graduates with superior Islamic values and competency in wide theoretical understanding, practical skills, and superior Islamic values at each level of education, including the D3 (Diploma), S1 (Undergraduate), S2 (Master), and S3 (Doctoral) levels.

In response to the new climate, the Faculty of Islamic Studies (FIAI) at UII is a distinct necessity related to Islamic values. UII is the institution that owns FIAI, a faculty of religion. Since its establishment, FIAI has developed and produced exceptional undergraduate graduates. Perhaps beyond that, the present situation of events demonstrates that FIAI needs to evolve and grow on both an institutional and educational scale as a means to adjust to, foresee, and react to forthcoming challenges.

The Faculty of Islamic Studies at the University of Islamic Studies (UII) aims to transform FIAI into a leading centre for Islamic economics, Islamic education, and Islamic law. Every possible effort is made to train specialists in Islamic law, Islamic education, and Islamic economics dedicated to reaching the highest possible levels of expertise. FIAI UII facilitated the Doctoral Program Legal Study Program, which for the first time received an operational license from the Director General of Islamic Education, Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia with Number Dj.I/358/2008; the permit was issued on October 8, 2008, while received Certificate of Higher Education Accreditation Ministry of National Education Number: 219/SK/BAN-PT/Ak-XI/D/X/2013 dated October 26, 2013, where accredited with a B rating.

On July 12, 2010, the Doctoral program in Islamic law started with its first official lecture, marking the beginning of the program. According to the Higher Education Accreditation Certificate Number: 2745/SK/BAN-PT/Akred/D/X/2018 dated October 2, 2018, the Doctor of Islamic Law at the Indonesian Islamic University, Yogyakarta, is Accredited with a B rating. The Ministry of National Education issued this certificate. Consequently, the Faculty of Islamic Studies at the Islamic University of Indonesia is characterized by Islamic law and Indonesian law, and it hopes to continue to develop and contribute to the development of law in Indonesia due to FIAI has scientific development in the field of Islamic law.

2. Discussion

Product Qualities of the HIPD Academic Program as Students' Choices

The study results suggest that at least five categories of information sources were employed as a form of media (Mahmudah, 2019) for students to receive information regarding the HIPD-FIAI-UII Study Program. These categories include alumni, social media, the websites of both UII and HIPD and social media. The number of students who acquire information about the HIPD-FIAI-UII Study Program from alums is the most of any of the three

categories: alums, social media, and the UII website each has 13 students, while the category that has the fewest students, family, ranks the lowest.

According to Cholila and Syahdanur (2017), when students decide whether or not to continue their education, numerous aspects are considered before making their decision. In the HIPD-FIAI-UII Study Program, the following aspects are taken into consideration: (1) General factors include URI's reputation and accreditation; (2) Specific factors include HIPD Study Program's reputation and accreditation, as well as the relevance of HIPD Study Program's courses and the quality of education services provided by HIPD Study Program (Biddle, 2013).

Based on the findings of the interview, the vast majority of students provided great ratings for both the general and the particular characteristics that were discussed earlier. Because of this, students increase both their interest in and intention to continue their education in the HIPD UII Study Program.

The Expense of the HIPD Study Program as an Option for Students

According to the survey's findings, which are supported by Joel's paper (2017), it is known that students consider the cost of tuition before deciding whether to enrol in a doctoral program. The HIPD Study Program falls within the criterion of being affordable. Enrollment fees, fees for tuition, examination fees, and the appropriateness of the total amount of tuition fees (Intan Veralina, 2022) in relation to the benefits achieved by students are some of the variable questions that were asked during the interview.

HIPD Study Program Facilities as students' consideration

Riikka Sarasjärvi 's research (2022) states that the facilities are an essential component. The case where the Study Program is being questioned involves an evaluation of the condition of the building where lectures are held, classrooms, libraries, offline and online learning facilities, and other learning facilities (Hamid, 2019) in the HIPD FIAI UII. According to the findings of an evaluation survey conducted in relation to this facility, the

online lecture facilities are sufficient for students participating in online lectures.

The HIPD Study Program's Human Resources

Other factors, specifically those related to human resources, include queries about the evaluation of lecturers and educational staff, teaching abilities, the evaluation of educational staff and Prodi staff, the responsiveness of educational staff and Prodi staff, quality of service, processes and study time to speed up the completion of student studies, and views on human resources generally (Liu et al., 2022).

Based on these factors, it was possible to conclude that most students believed that the facilities, particularly the human resources, had typically supported the lectures (harahap & dkk, 2021). Despite this, a few things were improved, such as the room facilities for working on dissertations and having conversations with friends. Online lectures are regarded favourably since they help students access postgraduate education.

Personal Motivation in Selecting the HIPD Study Program

The responses to several questions are analyzed to understand better the factors that influence student motivation in selecting the HIPD Study Program. Questions like, "Do I need to continue my education in the HIPD?" "Why HIPD FIAI UII?" and others (Retno Hartati, 2021). As a result of the questions that have been presented, it is possible to conclude that the majority of students in this study program believe that the central body of information that is covered in this program ought to be protected and that its level of quality ought to be kept up through the participation of both students and lecturers in joint research projects (Ceglie, 2019).

This would allow for establishing an academic environment that is in line with the goals and objectives of the HIPD Study Program. When deciding whether or not to continue their education at the HIPD-FIAI-UII Study Program, students also consider several other factors. These include (1) General factors, which include URI's reputation and accreditation; (2) Specific factors, which include the HIPD Study Program's reputation and

accreditation, as well as the relevance of courses and the quality of education services offered by the HIPD Study Program.

Alum References as a Consideration For Students Selecting HIPD UII

Based on the results of several questions pertaining to the reference group, it is possible to draw the conclusion that students receive the greatest amount of support from their families compared to the results of other assessments (Hands, 2018). These questions pertain to the student's family's assessment of the choice of college at HIPD, the assessment of the influence of friends in choosing study options, the assessment of professional groups or work associations, and the assessment of HIPD alums.

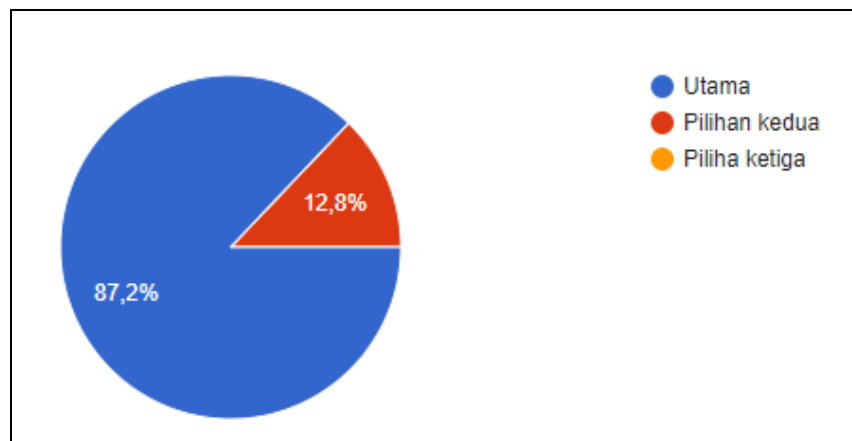


Figure 2: HIPD Study Program as the primary choice

Some questions were developed about the decision to select the HIPD Study Program as a study option and about the alum's willingness to promote the program to members of the student community's family and friends. According to these inquiries, the HIPD Study Program is the top option for students who want to enrol in a PhD program.

D. Conclusion

Based on the research findings, students' preferences in selecting the HIPD Study Program can be categorized depending on a number of attribute characteristics, including fees, infrastructure, HR, affiliations, and referrals. The current survey parameters show adequate interest among students in choosing the Islamic Law Study Program for the Doctoral Program.

Nevertheless, throughout the duration of the study, there were also a number of suggestions and insights proposed for improving and preserving the quality of the Study Program to continue making it more beneficial in more years. This research is expected to eventually serve as the most up-to-date reference source for higher education institutions in Indonesia, particularly universities offering doctoral degrees in Islamic law, to provide solutions or further insight about what students might utilize as a reference while choosing an Islamic law doctoral program.

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