

## **Analysis of The Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) Program on Improving Student Quality: A Systematic Literature Review**

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**Abstract:** MBKM activities have been carried out by many universities in Indonesia. Through MBKM activities, it is hoped that the quality of students will increase following the experience gained from the programs. This study aims to examine MBKM policies on student quality. This research method was carried out through the Literature Review (SLR) Study with the steps of this SLR research activity using Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and MetaAnalyses (PRISMA) which refers to four steps, namely Identification, Screening, Eligibility, and Included.. The result of this research is that MBKM activities can influence the improvement of student quality such as skills and direct experience to students.

**Keywords:** MBKM, Student Quality, University

### **Introduction**

The Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) Program is a program issued by the Minister of Education and Culture in 2020. The MBKM policy is based on Permendikbud number 3 of 2020 concerning National Higher Education Standards (Arjanto et al., 2022). In this regulation, undergraduate and applied undergraduate students can meet their study period and load in two ways, namely; First, by following the entire learning process organized by the study program and campus where the student is sheltered according to the study load and period, second, students follow part of the learning period and load in the learning process organized by the study program and the campus where the student is sheltered, and the rest is taken by following the learning process outside the study program.

The MBKM program aims to prepare higher education graduates who are resilient in facing changes, both social, cultural, world of work, and technological changes that are

accelerating in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 and mastering various sciences to prepare to enter the world of work (Nizar et al., 2023), (Kuncoro et al., 2023). Through Merdeka Belajar activities, students are given the freedom to choose the field they like. Students can determine various elective programs in MBKM activities. Eight off-campus activities that students can participate in the MBKM program are internships or work practices, projects in villages, teaching in schools, student exchanges, research, entrepreneurial activities, independent projects, and humanitarian projects (Ministry of Education and Culture, 2020).

As a policy issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the MBKM program is a program that must be implemented by all universities in Indonesia. As a policy issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the MBKM program is a program that must be followed by students. One form of obligation is the existence of Key Performance Indicators (IKU) which measure the number of students participating in MBKM activities. The main focus in MBKM activities is to improve the quality of students. The quality of students is an important concern to prepare students who have good knowledge, skills and attitudes. The quality of students is influenced by several factors, one of which is the academic culture in higher education.

Based on research conducted by (Hastuti et al., 2022), (Setyawati et al., 2022). The MBKM Program Policy has had various impacts felt by students. As a study conducted by Sumani et al (2022) on the implementation of MBKM on student *social skills*, it is concluded that the MBKM program has an influence on improving the *social skills* of PGRI Madiun students (Sumani et al., 2022). In addition, the results of another study conducted by Suleman et al (2023) showed that there was an Influence of the Independent Learning Independent Campus (MBKM) Program on improving *the soft skills of* students of the class of 2019 in the Department of Economic Education, Gorontalo State University (Suleman et al., 2023). However, the results of research on the implementation of MBKM by (Favian Dewanta, 2022), (Komarudin & Aziz, 2022) found that there are still obstacles in the implementation of MBKM.

In line with the purpose of MBKM to improve the quality of students, students should be able to choose the type of MBKM activities according to their choice. However, the facts in the field are still found in some cases if students are directed to take part in one form of MBKM activities. This is certainly contrary to the original purpose of the MBKM program which should be to provide freedom to students or independently they have the right to choose the type of MBKM program they like. With conditions like this, the MBKM program that should be chosen by students according to their needs and choices to develop themselves as they wish becomes unfulfilled. Based on these problems, it is important to conduct a literature review to

analyze various research results related to the MBKM program implemented in universities in Indonesia to determine the impact on the quality of students.

## **Method**

This study used a qualitative approach type of systematic literature review (SLR). The collection of literature review data is carried out by searching for scientific articles related to supervision and online learning from various national and international journals. The flow of SLR research activities uses Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and MetaAnalyses (PRISMA) which refers to four steps, namely Identification, Screening, Eligibility, and Included. At the initial stage, identification is done by searching for articles through the Publish or Perish (PoP) tool to identify articles indexed by Google Scholar by entering the keyword "MBKM".

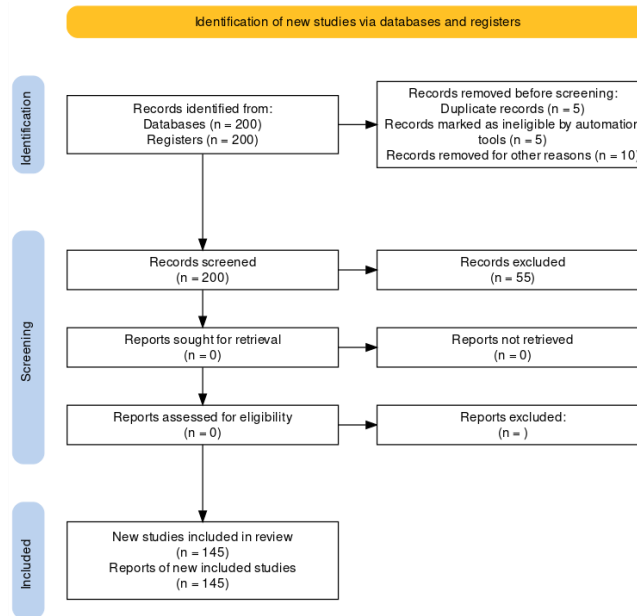
At the initial stage of this identification, a total of 200 articles from national, international journals and proceedings were found that were in accordance with publications on MBKM. In the next stage, the screening of 145 articles was selected by requiring that the selected articles were in accordance with the requirements, namely relevance and articles indexed in national reputable journals (SINTA) and indexed articles, Scopus and those available through the Web of Science (WoS). In the final stage after meeting the requirements, a final article was determined which would be used as study material, and at this final stage a total of 145 articles were selected.

## **Result**

The writing of this literature review is based on the strength in analyzing research results published in online journals. Literature selection activities are carried out in accordance with PRISMA steps which consist of four steps, namely *Identification*, *Screening*, *Eligibility*, and *Included*. At the identification stage, the author collects literature related to the topic of MBKM and student quality. This stage is carried out with the help of the Publish or Perish tool to make it easier for authors to identify research results by entering the keywords "MBKM and student quality". From the results of this identification, data on 200 titles recorded in public or perish were obtained. The next step is to make a selection, at this stage of selection the selection of research titles with the criteria taken are papers from reputable national or international journals. From this selection stage, from 200 articles then selected to 145 articles. Furthermore, after this selection is complete, re-sorting is carried out as a requirement, namely the selected articles are articles that have the same research topic about MBKM and student quality. So that

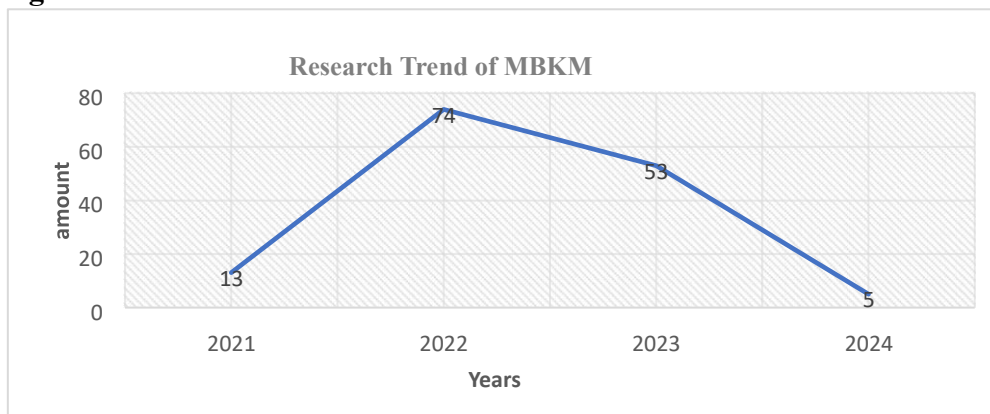
from the results of this requirement activity, 145 articles were selected which were used as the basis for literature review. The process of this activity can be seen in Figure 1.

**Figure:1** Literature selection process through PRISMA



Furthermore, from 145 articles selected as literature review material, an analysis of research findings was carried out. The mapping of these 145 articles is among others by conducting a review of the trend of previous studies on MBKM. From the results of the study of research trends, data were obtained as shown in Figure 2.

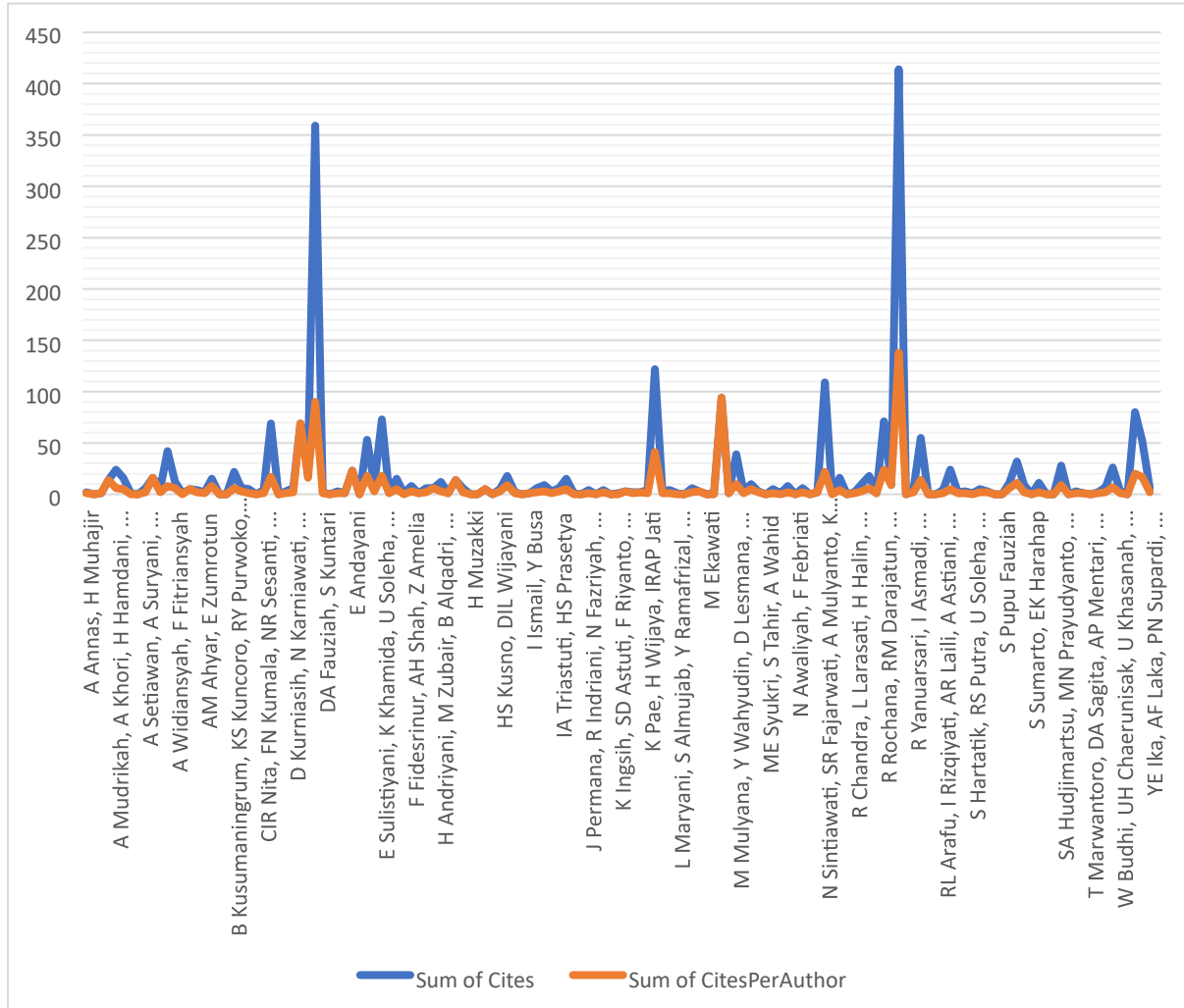
**Figure: 2** MBKM Research Trends



Based on the data presented in Figure.2, it shows that the trend of research on MBKM in the last four years shows that most MBKM research has been carried out in 2022, while in 2021 the trend of research on MBKM has not been carried out much. This condition can be influenced by the MBKM policy which at the beginning of its implementation in 2020 has not attracted many researchers to research MBKM.

Of the 145 articles entered into the database, it can be further sorted based on the number of citations in each article. The results of the analysis of the number of citations are used to measure the usefulness of the results of research conducted by the author. The results of the analysis of the number of citations can be seen in Figure.3. Based on the data presented in figure.3 shows that publication citation data on MBKM shows that research results have been widely read and used by the public for the purposes of writing scientific papers.

**Figure.3** Total citations and comparison of the number of citations per author



Furthermore, from the total number shown in figure.2, a selection was made of the top 10 articles that have the highest number of citations as shown in Table.1.

**Table: 1 Top 10 Publications on MBKM based on the number of citations**

No	Cites	Authors	Title	Year	Cites Per Year	Cites Per Author
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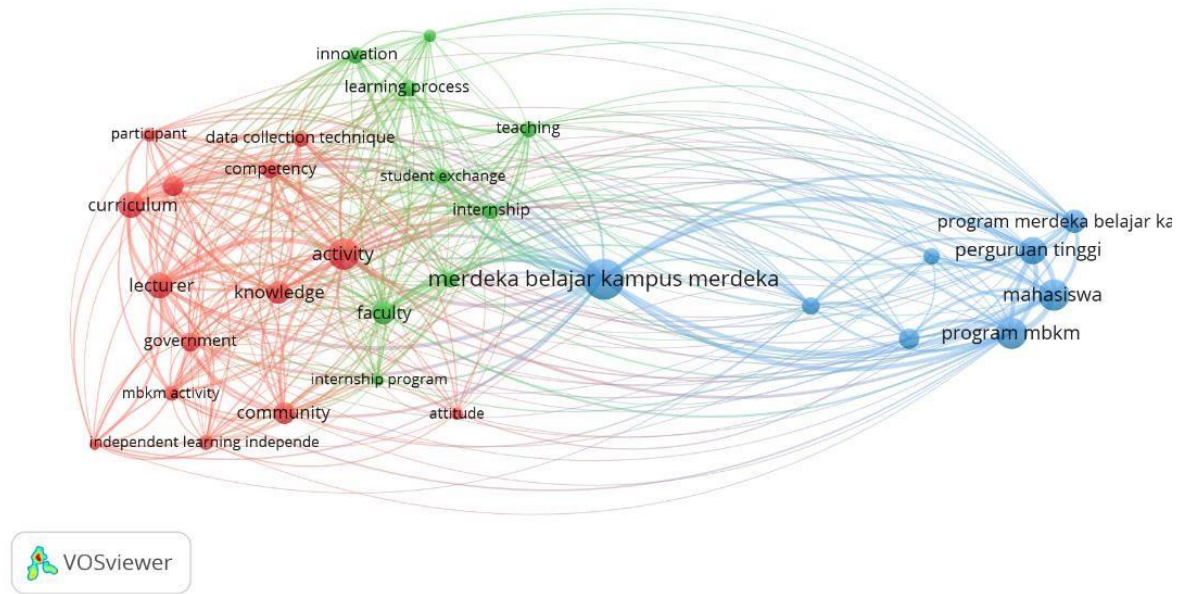
1	414	R Vhalery, AM Setyastanto, (Vhalery et al., 2022)	Kurikulum merdeka belajar kampus merdeka: Sebuah kajian literatur (2022)	2022	207.00	138
2	359	D Sopiandiah, S Masruroh, QY Zaqiah (Sopiandiah et al., 2022)	Konsep dan Implementasi Kurikulum MBKM (Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka)	2022	179.50	90
3	122	KDP Meke, RB Astro, MH Daud (Meke et al., 2022)	Dampak Kebijakan Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) pada Perguruan Tinggi Swasta di Indonesia	2022	61.00	41
4	109	N Sintiawati, SR Fajarwati, A Mulyanto, K Muttaqien (Sintiawati et al., 2022)	Partisipasi civitas akademik dalam implementasi merdeka belajar kampus merdeka (MBKM)	2022	54.50	22
5	94	M Mariati (Mariati, 2021)	Tantangan pengembangan kurikulum merdeka belajar kampus merdeka di perguruan tinggi	2021	31.33	94
6	80	Y Laga, RV Nona, L Langga, ME Jamu (Laga et al., 2022)	Persepsi Mahasiswa Terhadap Kebijakan Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM)	2022	40.00	20
7	73	E Sulistiyani, K Khamida, U Soleh (Sulistiyani et al., 2022)	Implementasi Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) pada Fakultas Kesehatan dan Non Kesehatan	2022	36.50	18
8	71	R Rochana, RM Darajatun (Rochana et al., 2021)	Pengaruh implementasi kebijakan kampus merdeka terhadap minat dan keterlibatan mahasiswa	2021	23.67	24
9	69	D Noerbella (Noerbella, 2022)	implementasi program kampus mengajar angkatan 2 dalam meningkatkan kompetensi literasi dan numerasi peserta didik	2022	34.50	69
10	69	D Alawi, A Sumpena, S Supiana (Alawi et al., 2022)	Implementasi kurikulum merdeka belajar kampus merdeka pasca pandemi COVID19	2022	34.50	17

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## Discussion

Since the enactment of the MBKM policy in universities in 2020, there has been a trend of research on MBKM. The trend of research on MBKM began to be studied by many researchers by linking other variables such as student skills. The results of this analysis are based on mapping the topic of MBKM to other variables. The results of mapping using the vosviewer application as shown in figure.4 show the many variations of other variables studied related to MBKM such as MBKM programs, students, faculties, student exchanges, attitudes and competencies.

**Figure: 4** Variation of research variables on MBKM



The MBKM program is a policy initiated by the Indonesian government through the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, Technology and Higher Education (Kemenristekdikti) with the aim of providing student learning experiences outside the department, campus or program that provides flexibility for students to obtain knowledge and skills as provisions when completing studies at a university (Andrian et al., 2022). This program provides opportunities for students to gain new knowledge outside the study program / department in the form of knowledge and skills that are useful for improving students' skills after studying at university (Rahmadia et al., 2022). Merdeka Belajar can be a platform that contributes to improving student experience that can improve student competencies that can be useful in the world of work after graduating from college (Sabudu et al., 2023). MBKM is a program that is expected to bring success to students who have participated in learning activities both in class and outside the classroom. The programs in MBKM are arranged for all study programs in higher education in Indonesia are expected to have a positive impact on postgraduate students from the MBKM program (Yunus et al., 2023).

MBKM is a very important program to improve the quality of higher education in Indonesia. The implementation of MBKM must continue to be optimized in order to produce a superior generation that is ready to build the nation. Some MBKM programs that can be followed by students throughout Indonesia include: student exchanges, internships, teaching assistance in educational institutions, research, humanitarian projects, entrepreneurship, independent projects, building villages/thematic lectures on real work lectures (Directorate General of Higher Education Education and Culture, 2020). The MBKM program has several essences, namely Autonomy: Providing autonomy to universities and students to design learning that is more innovative and in accordance with needs. Flexibility: Provide

opportunities for students to study outside the course and main campus. Relevance: Strengthening the relationship between higher education and the world of work, so as to produce graduates who have the skills and competencies needed by industry (Utami et al., 2023).

The success of the MBKM program certainly cannot run without support from universities. The provision of services provided by both lecturers and education staff in supporting the MBKM program has an important role in the success of MBKM activities. The provision of services to students both in academic and non-academic fields is one of the factors for student satisfaction. Academic services are services provided to students to assist in various activities related to activities in educational institutions. Some of the academic services provided at the college include: Study guidance services, library services, career and counseling services, administrative services, and other services related to student activities in college. In this study, academic services focused on MBKM activities as measured by lecturer services and educator services in the MBKM program.

## **Conclusion**

Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) is a program initiated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Technology Research and Higher Education. Based on the results of the literature review analysis of the MBKM program, it is concluded that the MBKM program has an impact on improving student quality such as student skills and experience. Students can choose various forms of MBKM to improve their quality. The success of the MBKM program also cannot run without support from universities. The provision of services provided by both lecturers and education staff in supporting the MBKM program has an important role in the success of MBKM activities.

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