



Factors causing Indonesian primary school students to drop out of school

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Abstract

This research aims to find out and describe: 1) the factors causing school dropout at Inpres Syuru Elementary School in Agats City, Asmat Regency; 2) the factors causing school dropout at Mbait Elementary School in Agats City, Asmat Regency; and 3) the strategies used to deal with school dropouts at Inpres Syuru Elementary School and Mbait Elementary School in Agats City, Asmat Regency. This research used a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. This research was focused on Inpres Syuru Elementary School and Mbait Elementary School in Agats City, Asmat Regency, and was conducted from January to August 2023. The main data sources for this research were dropouts, class teachers, school principals, and parents. This research data collection used observation, interviews, and documentation. The data validity test in this research was conducted through the process of triangulating sources and methods. Data analysis includes the processes for collecting data, simplifying data, presenting data, generating conclusions, and verifying findings. This research shows that: 1) the factors causing dropouts at Inpres Syuru Elementary School consist of internal and external factors. The internal factors consist of children's psychological factors and a lack of motivation. Whereas, the external factors consist of children's burden to help parents at home; 2) the factors causing dropouts at Mbait Elementary School consist of several factors including lack of parents attention, environmental, economical, and cultural factors, but the most dominant is lack of familys' attention and a low economic factors that affecting childrens' motivation, childrens' psychology so that it becomes a culture in the same environment thus forming the wrong parenting pattern due to of low educational background; and 3) the strategies of Inpres Syuru Elementary School is conducting parenting to parents, waiving all school fees, while parents' strategy is to enroll their children in the package A program. Then, for Mbait Elementary School, the strategy is a teacher approach to parents, provision of school supplies, parenting, a comfortable learning atmosphere, an adequate library, and always motivating children. The government's strategy is to cooperate with third parties in a dormitory pattern, as well as to carry out cross-sectoral synergies with several related agencies and the Asmat district police and army.

Keywords: Causal factors, school dropout, elementary education

Introduction

Education is a fundamental element of culture and the main basis for building a nation's civilization. The quality of society's physical and spiritual well-being in the future is greatly influenced by a strong understanding of education. Education has a very important role in preparing a quality generation. In general, parents want their children to have intelligence, good social emotional stimulation, good behavior, good manners, broad insight and will grow up to be a golden generation that their family, religion, nation and state will be proud of. School is the initial bridge for a child to step up his life towards the gates of future success.

Education can be categorized into three different groups: formal education, non-formal education, and informal education. Formal education refers to structured and hierarchical education organized by institutions such as elementary schools (SD), junior high schools (SMP), and general high schools (SMU). Primary school education is a form of education that is usually given to children between the ages of 7 and 13 years. The educational process is shaped by the main role of elementary school education in fostering children's intellectual development.

From this description, it is very clear that the government requires all Indonesian citizens to receive a minimum of 9 years of compulsory education. However, ironically, the facts that we find in the field are that in various regions children are dropping out of school with various causal factors that trigger it. In this case, several factors cause

children to drop out of school, namely internal factors and external factors.

In 2018, education data for out-of-school children in Papua Province showed that the school dropout rate was 2.21% at the elementary school (SD)/equivalent level. The main factor that causes a high percentage (22.26%) of the population in Papua Province, aged 5-24 years, to not go to school is financial constraints. The second explanation is because they have reached the age that is considered adulthood, which is experienced by 13.5% of children in the 5-6 year age group. The next rationale is that the motivation behind working or earning a living is 12.73 (Handayani D, 2019).

According to the Decree of the Minister of National Education Number 129a/U/2004, namely article 3 and article 4, the maximum limit for the dropout rate at the basic education level is 1% of the number of registered students. This indicates that the primary school dropout rate in Papua Province exceeds the threshold set in the Decree of the Ministry of National Schools.

The problem of children dropping out of school cannot be separated from the family's economic status (Yahia, *et al.*, 2017). The family economy is one of the triggers for children to drop out of school due to family economic limitations, forcing children to get involved in earning a living to help the family economy so that time for studying and getting an education becomes unimportant for children because all the time is spent helping parents and family. himself to meet his living needs. Meanwhile, Gery Becker

said that families' decisions to invest time and resources in children's education are influenced by economic considerations, if families experience economic difficulties they tend to reduce investment in children's education, resulting in children dropping out of school. This happens in the lives of people in Asmat district where people tend not to have permanent jobs so the family's economic level is low which automatically means the ability to send children to school is also low even though the government has guaranteed various educational and social assistance programs but there are still children who do not continue their education, until graduation or dropping out of school.

In relation to the factors that cause children to drop out of school, the researchers focused on elementary schools because there are still many children at elementary school age who do not continue to graduate from elementary school. From Asmat district strategic plan data, the school enrollment rate (APS) in 2016 was: 88.6%, 2017: 90.1%, 2018: 91.6%, 2019: 93.5%, 2020: 95.4% and 2021: 96.5% while the pure participation rate in 2016 was: 79.77%, in 2017: 80.9%, in 2018: 82.1%, in 2019: 83.2%, in 2020: 84.9% and in 2021: 86.8% (Rensra of the Asmat District Education Office). This percentage shows that there are still children dropping out of school and this makes it interesting to explore in more depth the factors that cause children to drop out of school in order to support the continued development of basic education towards better conditions so that inclusive and sustainable education is achieved. Dropping out of school is when a child stops a certain level of education without receiving a diploma due to various causal factors. The children in question are those who have gone through the learning process at elementary school (SD) aged 7 to 13 years.

Based on this description, researchers are interested in researching the factors that influence children dropping out of school at SD Inpres Syuru and SD Mbait in Agats City, Asmat Regency. Researchers try to find out about: (1) Factors that cause children to drop out of school at Inpres Syuru Elementary School, Agats City, Asmat Regency, (2) Factors that cause children to drop out of school at Mbait State Elementary School, Agats City, Asmat Regency, and (3) Strategies used to handle or reduce school dropouts at Inpres Syuru Elementary School and Mbait State Elementary School, Agats City, Asmat Regency.

Research method

Research Type

This research used qualitative research methodology, which involves systematic investigation and interpretation of the significance of individual and collective behavior. In qualitative research, the technique is still temporary when the researcher formulates research questions. An inductive approach was used in conducting data analysis resulting in the development of a more adaptive report (Sugiyono, 2018).

This descriptive study examines the causes of school dropouts in SD Inpres Syuru and SD Negeri Mbait in Agats City, Asmat Regency. The conditions or events encountered by research participants were examined through interviews and observations. In this situation, the researcher instantly connects with the subject in his or her natural surroundings and gathers data from diverse participants' perspectives. Out-of-school children, parents, teachers, administrators, and the Education Service Head participated in the study.

Phenomenology seeks to develop consciousness, study ideas and activities, and assess aesthetics. Phenomenology in research can reduce school dropouts.

Research Location and Time

The choice of location was based on considering the problems to be researched at the Inpres Syuru Elementary School and the Mbait State Elementary School and the geographical location which made it possible for the research to be easily accessible by researchers with a focus on state elementary schools located in the Agats city area, namely the Inpres Syuru elementary school and the State elementary school. Mbait so that it can be maximized in studying problems. This research period lasted for 6 (six) months starting from January to June 2023.

Data Source

This research certainly requires various data sources in the form of documents, situation observations (observations), and interviews with actors who were deliberately chosen to help researchers understand the problem. There are two types of data that will be obtained from data sources, namely primary data and secondary data.

Primary data sources are sources that provide data directly to researchers. In accordance with the research objectives, researchers involved school administrators, teachers, out-of-school children, parents/guardians of students, and education officials as participants and primary data sources to collect the necessary information.

Secondary data sources are obtained from additional data that is relevant to the research setting. Researchers obtain it from sources that can provide important data or data regarding the problem being studied, including written documents and unwritten documents. Written documents include participants' notes, such as their experience of attending school, Rensra data, relevant literature, books and journals related to the research. Meanwhile, the unwritten documents in this research are symbols found during the research, including the school environment, living environment, as well as the individual's physical and psychological condition.

Data Collection Techniques and Instruments

The data collection technique used in this research was carried out by observation, interview, and documentation. The research began with initial observations at SD Inpres Syuru, followed by SD Negeri Mbait. In conducting observations, the researcher prepared written guidelines regarding the aspects that would be observed, observing the existing conditions in the two schools and the environment where the children were and seeing what triggers caused the children to drop out of school based on the results of observations with the informants. Furthermore, For this research, interviews were conducted by asking questions directly to selected sources. Interviews were conducted with direct questions and answers to the principles of SD Inpres Syuru and SD Negeri Mbait, as well as the respective homeroom teachers who had students who had dropped out of school. Data collection in this research used documentation which was carried out by analyzing written notes, archives and documents related to the problem under study which was related to the factors causing children to drop out of school at SD Inpres Syuru and SD Negeri Mbait in Agats City, Asmat Regency.

Findings and discussion

Factors that cause children to drop out of school at SD Inpres Syuru, Agats City

Dropping out of school is a problem that never ends and it is difficult to break the chain because almost all schools experience the same thing, but researchers are trying to dig deeper into what internal factors are the triggers so that there are still children who drop out of school even though various strategies have been implemented well by schools, parents and local government.

The first interview and observation the researcher conducted at SD Inpres Syuru from class 1 teacher data by Mrs. ZL revealed that the factor causing PU children to drop out of school was influenced by the child's feeling of laziness about continuing school. PU has often been absent from school since he started sitting in grade 1 in the second semester and his laziness has increasingly appeared since he was in grade 2 in the second semester and he almost never goes in for a month. PU children have a lazy nature and often do not attend school, causing PU children to miss out on lessons, which automatically means that academically these children are classified as poor or have grades below the average of their class mates, so that PU children are left behind in class every new school year. Because often staying in class causes PU children to feel inferior or embarrassed by their classmates because they often become the butt of their friends' jokes and ridicule.

This was also experienced by child NO from SD Inpres Syuru. The results of the child's interview revealed that child NO was unable to read, making him lazy about going to school, plus there was a feeling of being burdened by doing homework assigned by the teacher at school, while mother NO never ordered and taught her child.

This is different for AP, who lives in Pelangi village, some distance from SD Inpres Syuru, and to get to school he has to walk without being accompanied by his parents, making him feel tired, especially because his health condition is not good.

Based on the temporary conclusion that it turns out that the factors causing children to drop out of school at SD Inpres Syuru are internally caused by the children themselves, such as psychological pressure on children, feelings of shame, laziness, frequent illness and unpleasant treatment from school friends. This is reinforced by the results of observations that the absence of children in schools with low attendance rates and when children are supposed to go to school in the evenings, children are busy playing with their peers who are also not in school.

Strategies for Overcoming Children Dropping Out of School

Schools can implement student mentoring programs that specifically target students at risk of dropping out of school. This assistance can be provided by teachers, school staff, or volunteers whose aim is to provide academic, social and emotional support to students. Schools can provide guidance and counseling programs to help children overcome personal, social, or academic problems that may be factors causing children to drop out of school. School counselors can provide support and advice to children to face these challenges. By implementing these strategies consistently and integratedly, schools can increase opportunities for all children to succeed in their education and reduce the dropout rate at SD Inpres Syuru and SD Negeri Mbait.

Based on the results of the interview above, the researcher confirmed the validity of the data by conducting observations in the field. The government's strategy is to implement free and mandatory education programs to ensure that all children have access to education without having to pay additional fees. This program can help reduce the economic burden on families and encourage more children to attend school. Then the Government can provide scholarship programs and financial assistance for families experiencing economic difficulties to help them finance their children's education costs. This scholarship can cover tuition fees, uniforms, books, and other necessary supplies.

Apart from that, the government needs to carry out regular monitoring and evaluation of the programs that have been implemented to overcome the problem of children dropping out of school. By monitoring progress and identifying emerging problems, the government can make necessary changes or adjustments to increase the effectiveness of the program.

By implementing these strategies in a comprehensive and coordinated manner, the government can play an important role in overcoming the problem of out-of-school children at Syuru State Elementary School and Mbait State Elementary School and ensure that every child has an equal opportunity to receive a quality education.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that the government has implemented many strategies in dealing with out-of-school children in Agats City, Asmat Regency, with the success of forming cross-sectoral cooperation involving several government agencies working together to deal with out-of-school children, such as a cooperation pattern by forming a special boys/girls dormitory. native children, sons/daughters of Asmat Papua who have received non-formal education programs through PKBM with Packages A, B and C, which have issued many diplomas and produced alumni so that graduates can continue to the next level of education, even though in reality there are still children who have dropped out of school scattered around. In every school, the provision of additional food through the PMAS program can initially increase children's attendance so that they are diligent in going to school, but this also only lasts temporarily after this program ends. Children become lazy about returning to school because their attention is focused on how and what to eat for the next day.

Conclusion

From the data analysis and discussion in the previous chapters, researchers can draw the following conclusions:

1. Factors for children who drop out of school at Inpres Syuru Elementary School include internal and external factors. Internal factors are the child's psychological factors, lack of motivation, the trigger for this internal factor is the child's laziness, the child's psychological factors such as feeling inferior/embarrassed, and lack of motivation, while the external factor is helping the parents.
2. Factors of children dropping out of school at Mbait Elementary School include internal factors and external factors. These factors are lack of attention from parents, environmental factors, economic factors, and culture, but the most dominant is the factor of lack of attention from the family and low economic conditions so that it affects children's motivation, children's psychology so that it becomes a culture in the same environment so

that it is formed wrong parenting style due to low educational background.

3. The strategy for dealing with or reducing children dropping out of school at Inpres Syuru Elementary School and Mbait State Elementary School, Agats City, Asmat Regency, namely from Inpres Syuru Elementary School, namely providing parenting to parents, waiving all school fees, while the parents' strategy is to enroll children in the Pursue Package A program. Meanwhile, the strategy of the Mbait State Elementary School is the teacher's approach to parents, providing assistance with school supplies, parenting, a comfortable learning atmosphere, an adequate library and always motivating children and the government's strategy of providing assistance with a third party MoU with a boys/girls dormitory pattern, as well as carrying out cross-sectoral collaboration from various related agencies and the TNI, Asmat Regency Police in dealing with out-of-school children, as well as providing reading parks and playgrounds for children.

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