

ABSTRACT

The Minister of Education and Culture of Indonesia issued a letter regarding online learning and working from home as a preventative measure against the spread of CoronaVirus Disease (Covid-19) on March 17, 2020. As the pandemic rages on, schools and campus closures have resulted in potential long-term learning losses that has long been a major source of concern in the educational community, particularly among educators and could conceivably compound even after students return to their campuses, causing significant and lifelong learning deficits as many students who fall behind during campus closures never catch up. As quoted by World Bank, 2020, “While many education systems have attempted varying degrees of remote learning, it is widely accepted that the closures will produce substantial losses in learning”. Responding to the impact of the pandemic emergency situation on the education sector, the government through Permendikbud Number 25 of 2020, Article 9 Paragraph (4) stipulates that students can pay in installments, change UKT (Single Tuition Fee) groups, reduce and free their UKT fees if they meet the requirements including if the student's economy, parents or parties who finance students affected by the pandemic.

However, the UKT system simply considers gross income without taking into account dependents. This is deemed unfair because many families have salaries in excess of 5 million but have a large number of dependents. For instance, having more than one child, monthly salary deductions, credit, and so on. The UKT system in depth does not calculate the burden of dependents in the family, both dependents of children, credit burdens and other relevant indicators. This condition is inseparable from the status of PTN-BH held by Gadjah Mada University, which in 2016 received a massive wave of resistance from students. In a more critical economic-political analysis, the high nominal UKT and its dominance in the financial structure of PTN-BH have the potential to benefit capital (partner companies) and business sectors owned by PTN-BH to minimize the costs and risks of partnership projects for business interests. The presence of Advocacy members in each Faculty as student representatives who come directly to comprehend and research numerous registration concerns, one of which is related to UKT, on the other hand, provides a solution for students who have various UKT problems while also indirectly assisting academics.

The aim of this study is to assess the policies implemented by the FISIPOL UGM administration in terms of tuition fee setting during the Covid-19 pandemic and devise a solution to financial constraints. The researcher builds a complex, holistic picture, analyzes words, reports detailed views of informants, and conducts the study in a natural setting. This method will actively demonstrate that this approach is indeed needed in the study of policy advocacy processes, particularly in terms of the identifying power relation and strategist advocacy influence. The main goal of this study was no other than to comprehend the significance of financial considerations for faculty administration and higher education tuition fees in making decisions about whether to adjust policy to satisfy ideal needs.

Keywords: Tuition Fee, Advocacy, Pandemic, Policy