

# The Factors That Influence Student's Interest in Continuing Higher Education

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## Abstract

*This study aims to determine the factors that have influence to the interests of the students to continue their education to the higher level. This study population is SMA Negeri 2 Tambang in Kampar Regency. Samples were taken with proportional Stratified Random Sampling as many as 185 people. Analysis of data using mean scores and multiple linear regression. The results of this research show us that motivation, aspirations, wishes, school and family environment are have influence on the interests of students to continue the higher education. The most significant influence variable is the motivation because high motivation will foster a strong interest in the students to pursue the higher education. Meanwhile, the lowest significant influence variable is the school environment because alumni and peers have no influence to students' interest about higher education. For the students who have the motivation, ambition, willingness expected to improve their achievement and add interest to continue their education to the college, and try to find the complete information about the college that match with their interest and talent. Besides that, the school should give extra motivation to the students to continue their education in the higher level and also provide the complete information about the college that their student want to know about.*

**Keywords:** *Motivation, Aspiration, Wishes, School Environment, Family, And Interest In Continuing Higher Education.*

## Introduction

Educating is the primary duty of the school to create the opportunity for students to develop their potential and their environment optimally. In addition to the basic tasks of the school, we also can explain about institutional objectives of Senior High School as the top level of formal education institutions, according to the function in the context of the overall high school education. As explained one of the functions of institutional of Senior High School that provide the capabilities required for students who will continue their studies to university and every citizen has an equal right to education, so the parents should participate in choosing the educational unit and find the information about their children education progress. Education of children not only finish in

senior high school. Because that, the parents and the government should to participate in encouraging children to continue their education to the university. In this case, the participation of parents and families is to consider and direct their children education choice as well as providing facilities to supporting education activities. In other hand, the participation of the government is to provide the easy access for the students which want to continue their education, such as providing scholarships for students which have good achievement in academic or non-academic. Based on data that obtained from the Central Statistics Agency of Riau Province, in 2016 the number of students who want to continue their education to the college about 11.036 students, meanwhile the number of graduates students of the college in 2016 about 5,871

students. From these data we can conclude that there is a gap between the number of students who want to continue their education to the college and the number of graduate students from the college in 2016.

In SMA Negeri 2 Tambang, Kampar Regency, the interests of students to continue their education to the college is lower than 50% and we can conclude that they are not excited to continue their study to the college. There are allegations that family environmental factors and also the low interest to increase knowledge of the students give the influence to the students of SMA Negeri 2 Tambang to not continue their education to the college. Ninuk Indriyanti (2013) find that the interest of the students continue their education to higher education is still low, one of the barrier factors for the students to continue their education to the college is socio-economic status of their parents. The students who come from the good economy family have more opportunities to continue their education than the students who come from lower economy family. Meanwhile, the college offers many easy access to their students including to access the information about the college, variety of scholarships, and the opportunity to get a better occupation after graduate from the college. Meilianawati (2015) also said that with continuing education to the college will give the teenagers the better knowledges and experiences that will be useful for their future because nowadays the world getting developed and modern, and lot of people are vying to study hard to improve their quality of life.

Based on the background of the problem, the study aims to determine the influence of motivation, ambition, willingness, school and family environment to the interests the students of SMA Negeri 2 Tambang to continue their education to the college.

## Research Methods

This research was conducted at SMA Negeri 2 Tambang, Kampar Regency, from November 2016 until January 2017. To determine the number of samples in this research, the researcher used Proportional Stratified Random Sampling to obtain a sample of 185 students. The data which used in this research are primary taken using a questionnaire distributed to students and secondary data such as school profiles and data SMA Negeri 2 Tambang. Analysis of data using mean scores and multiple linear regression to determine the factors that affect interest in continue to the higher education. This research also used the F test, t test and  $R^2$  test. Before the researcher do these test, previously the reseacher make a test of validity, reliability, normality, homegenitas and multikolinieritas that used with SPSS V.21.

## Results And Discussion

### *Description of Research Variables*

Based on research that executed in SMA Negeri 2 Tambang, Kampar Regency, show that 83.78% of the respondents (students) have interest their education to the college and none of them who have low interest. The motivation of students to the higher education illustrates that 78.38% of respondents have high motivation about higher education. Aspirations of the students about higher education illustrates that 77.29% of respondents have goals to achieve the higher education, Willingness of students to pursue higher education illustrates that 65.94% of respondents have willingness to reach the higher education.

In other side, school environment show that 45.94% of respondents have the good school environment to pursue the higher education about 9.72% respondents think that their school environment not

support them to pursue the higher education. Factors that make school environment not too supporting is the alumnus and their peers who not give them support to continue the higher education. Family environment show that 71.35% of the respondents have supporting family environment about the higher education. From these data, we can conclude that most of student in SMA Negeri 2 Tambang have good family environment to continue their education to college. Data calculations are presented in table 1.

**Table 1. The Interest Percentage of Students in SMA Negeri 2 Tambang**

No	Variable	Excellent (%)	Good (%)	Poor (%)
1	Interest	83,78	16,22	0
2	Motivation	78,38	21,62	0
3	Aspiration	77,29	21,08	1,63
4	Willingness	65,94	29,73	2,16
5	School Environment	44,32	45,94	9,72
6	Family Environment	71,35	27,57	1,08

Source : Research data, 2017

### Analysis of Research Statistic

#### 1. F Test (Test of Regression Coefficients)

Based on the F test results in Table 2, show that F count is 93.749 with 0,000 significance. This means that the motivation, aspiration, willingness, school environment, and family environment have significant influence to the interest of students about the higher education.

**Table 2. Simultan Test (Jointly Test)**

ANOVA <sup>a</sup>						
Model	Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.	
1	Regression	14.605	5	2.921	93.749	.000 <sup>b</sup>
	Residual	5.577	179	.031		
	Total	20.183	184			

Source : Research data, 2017

#### 2. Coefficient of Determination ( $R^2$ )

Based on Coefficient of Determination test, the table 3 show that

the variable contribution of motivation, aspiration, willingness, school environment, and family environment to the interest of students contribute about 71.6%. The 28.4% others are influenced by other variables which not include on regression model, such as facilities that provided by students' parents or school to support the interest of the students about the higher education, talents, and student's achievement.

**Table 3. Coefficient of Determination ( $R^2$ )**

Model Summary <sup>b</sup>					
Model	R	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	Durbin-Watson	
1	.851 <sup>a</sup>	.724	.17652	2.125	

Source : Research data, 2017

#### 3. T test (Test of Partial Regression Coefficients)

Based on t test results in table 4, there is positive and significant influence of motivation, aspiration, willingness, school environment, and family environment to the interest of the higher education at SMA Negeri 2 Tambang, Kampar. The highest influence variable is motivation with the  $t(5.694) > t_{table}(1.973)$  and Sig. (0,000)  $< 0.05$ . High motivation will foster a strong interest in the students to pursue the higher education. In other hand, the lowest influence variable is the school environment with the  $t(3.794) > t_{table}(1.973)$  and Sig. (0,000)  $< 0.05$ . This condition caused by the alumnus not give a positive description about the college where they study and also caused by not all alumnus get the good occupation after they graduate from the college. Besides that, the other students who not continue their education to the college also shrink

the motivation of students who interest to the college.

**Table 4. T test (Test of Partial Regression Coefficients)**

Model	Coefficients <sup>a</sup>			T	Sig.
	Unstandar dized Coefficien ts	Standard ized Coeffici ents	Beta		
	B	Std. Erro r			
(Consta nt)	.296	.151		1.9 64	.0 51
Motivati on	.276	.048	.304	5.6 94	.0 00
Aspirati on	.293	.048	.335	6.1 41	.0 00
1 Willingn ess	.162	.050	.181	3.2 28	.0 01
School Environ ment	.038	.044	.046	.86 4	.3 89
Family environ ment	.169	.045	.192	3.7 94	.0 00

Source : Research data, 2017

#### 4. Multiple Linear Regression Equations

From the result of following multiple linear regression equation:

$$Y = 0,296 + 0,276X_1 + 0,293X_2 + 0,162X_3 + 0,038X_4 + 0,169X_5$$

Based on these regression equation, can be concluded that the value of the constant (a) is 0,296. This mean that if the independent variables assumed to be zero (0), then the interest to continue the higher education is 0.296. Motivation regression coefficient value is 0.276. This mean that every 1 unit increase of motivation will give more interest to continue the higher education at 0.276, assuming other variables still constant. Regression

coefficient value of aspiration is 0,293. This mean that every 1 unit increase of aspiration will increase the interest for higher education for 0,293, assuming the other variables still constant. Willingness regression coefficient value is 0.162. It mean that every 1 unit increase of willingness will increase the interest to continue the higher education at 0.162, assuming the other variables still constant. Meanwhile, the regression coefficient value of school environment is 0.038. So, every 1 unit increase of school environment will increase the interest to continue the higher education for 0,038, assuming the other variables still constant. Regression coefficient value of family environment is 0.169. This mean that every 1 unit increase of family environment will increase the interest to continue the higher education at 0.169, assuming other variables still constant.

#### Discussion

In the discussion of the results of this study, the authors will discuss the influence of motivation, ambition, wishes, school and family environment to the interests of students pursue higher education at SMAN 2 Tambang Kampar. Based on the analysis results obtained that there is a positive and significant influence motivation, aspirations, wishes, school and environment at family on the interest to continue education to college at SMAN 2 Tambang Kampar. The variable that has the most impact is variable motivation for education to college, due to high motivation will foster a strong interest in the students to pursue higher education. While the variable that has the least influence is the school environment variable, because the causes are graduate and peers that do not support to continue their education to college. This study is in line with the opinion of Slameto (2010) which states that the interest is more like

the taste and sense of interest in a matter or activity, without being told. The results are consistent with studies that have been done Sprott (2016) that interest to continue their studies to university is a tendency that contain elements of good feelings, desires, concerns, interests, needs, expectations, encouragement, and a willingness to continue their education to a higher level after high school is higher education.

The Motivation affect the interest of students pursue higher education at SMAN 2 Tambang Kampar. The significance of the results of the regression analysis showed that the higher the motivation of students, the higher the interest of the students for continuing education to college, while the low motivation caused interest in higher education is low. Means there is a significant and positive influence on the motivation variable interest of the students continued education to college. Therefore, it can be said that the higher the motivation of the students will have a significant influence on the interest of the students continue their education to college. The results are consistent with research conducted by Ninuk Indriyanti (2013) which states that every person has a unique personality and distinct from one another. Personality develops and is influenced by factors both from within and from outside. Personality can also be a factor that encourages a person to perform an action. A positive attitude shown to be an attempt to achieve the expected goals. In addition, the encouragement in the form of external motivation will influence the attitude or decision to be taken somebody. For example, a student decides to continue his education. The students get a scholarship because it has a good record. While in school often talk about college with his friends. Moreover, parents are very supportive with the decision. Those are the things that drives students to continue their education after high school.

Ideals affect the interest of continuing higher education. Its meaning

is the higher ideals of the student, the higher the interest of the students pursue higher education. Means there is a significant and positive effect of the ideals of the students interest in continuing education. Therefore, it can be said that the higher the ideals held by the students will have a significant influence on the interest of the students continue their education to college. The results are consistent with research conducted by Fajar Prasetyo (2016) which states that the existence of significant influence ideals of the interests of students continue their education. Ideals will affect a person has a behavior with the aim to achieve these ideals. A student would not want to drop out of school but wants to continue his education. These ideals will affect the spirit of students to learn to be able to achieve these goals.

Wishes affect the interest of continuing higher education. Meaning the higher the wishes of students, the higher the interest of the students continued high education. Means there is a significant and positive effect on the interest students wishes to continue education. Therefore, it can be said that the higher the willingness owned by the students will have a significant influence on the interest of the students continue their education to college. Meanwhile, the wishes of students of SMAN 2 Tambang Kampar categorized as very high. The findings of this study are consistent with research conducted by Fajar Prasetyo (2016) which states that a will has indirect influence on the interest to continue their studies through a variable factor family. Wishes a student will affect the judgment of parents to support their children in having a school choice to continue education to college.

The school environment does not affect the interest of continuing education to college. Several factors are affecting low school students to pursue higher education is an alumna did not give a positive picture of the college where they study, the alumni did not get a decent job

of the account after they graduate from college, then friends who do not pursue higher education shrink interest students to continue their education to college. This research is not in line with research conducted by Fajar Prasetyo (2016) which states that school factors have an influence on the continuing interest in the study but a stronger school factors indirectly influence the interest to continue the study because they are mediated by the influence of family factors. A teacher in the educational process can also provide motivation and encouragement to students in growing interest. By giving the opinion or feedback about higher education to students can give a boost to the interest of the students continue to college.

While the environment at family significantly influence the interest of higher education to students of SMAN 2 Tambang Kampar. The education level of the parents will determine how parents in guiding and directing the children in terms of education, the education level of parents have will vary between graduates of elementary school, junior high school graduates, high school graduates, college graduates. So the level of parental education becomes one of the factors that influence parents in guiding and directing their children to continue their education to college.

With a very nice family environment can increase the interest of students pursue higher education. This study is in line with research conducted by Siti Nurmala (2012) which states that there is a direct effect of the positive and significant correlation between the variables knowledge of employment opportunities, family culture, self-understanding, and economic background of the interest of the students to continued their education. This means that the higher the family economic background and parents' education the better the student's family culture and of course this will also affect the interest of continuing higher education.

## **Conclusions And Recommendation**

### *Conclusion*

There is a positive and significant influence between motivation, ideals, wishes, school and family environment on the interest to continue higher education at SMAN 2 Tambang Kampar. The variable that has the most impact is variable motivation for continue to college, due to high motivation will foster a strong interest in the students to pursue higher education. While the variables that do not have an influence on the interest of the students for higher education is the environment at school, the causes are graduate and peers that do not support students to continue their education to college.

Motivation students have a very high impact on the interests of students pursue higher education at SMAN 2 Tambang Kampar. The encouragement in the form of motivation will affect the attitude or decision to be taken by the students. One factor that affects the interest of the students for higher education is the motivation, meaning the higher the motivation of the students will be the higher the interest of students to pursue higher education and vice versa. While environment at school does not affect the interest of continue education to college. Several factors are affecting low school students to pursue higher education is an alumna did not give a positive picture of the college where they study, the alumni did not get a decent job of the account after they graduate from college, then friends who do not pursue higher education shrink interest students to continue their education to college.

### **Suggestion**

For schools should provide constructive motivation to the students to continued education to college. Graduate

are expected to give a positive picture of the college students who will continued education to college, as well as friends who do not continued education to college in order not to understate the interest of friends who want to continue education to college. Schools can provide additional lessons outside school hours to complete the learning facilities to improve school facilities and infrastructure, and provide scholarships for underprivileged students and students who have a good achievement in the field of academic and other fields.

For parents, this study is expected to be able to provide support for their children more motivated to pursue higher education by providing an overview of the ease of getting a college, such as tuition fees college quality can still be reached by a variety of scholarship offered college.

For those students who have the motivation, ambition, willingness expected to improve learning achievement and add interest to continue their education to higher education, and trying to obtain complete information about colleges that match their interests and talents.

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