

## **Students' Decision to Major In College Is Influenced By Their Interests and Talents**

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### **Abstract**

*The propensity to select a college major is largely influenced by personal interests and skills. This is so that each person can concentrate on the activities that suit their interests and skills. However, due to a variety of internal and external variables, upper secondary students frequently struggle with the decision of what major to pursue. This will affect how well the major chosen and the person's fundamental interests and abilities mesh. Therefore, further research is required so that students can take this into account while selecting their college major. The outcomes of community service show that a person's interests and skills might affect the college major choice.*

**Keywords:** *Interests, Talents, College Major*

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Humans' self-potential is the source of their actions. Human potential can be divided into two categories: talent interest potential and intellect interest potential. Humans engage in activities as a result of their potential interests and skills. Interest is a persistent sort of focus and attention on something you enjoy. People are most motivated to learn about things they are interested in by their own interests. In contrast, talent is a human ability that is exceptional compared to other abilities.

Each child has a unique combination of intelligence, interests, and skills. kids are puzzled about picking a college degree owing to ignorance of children's interests and talents, particularly high school kids. We frequently come across the term "wrong major" in a lecture setting. This is so that students can select a college degree that best suits their interests and abilities. In addition to parental pressure, another reason why kids choose college majors that do not match their interests and talents is parental ignorance. In order for students to continue their education at a higher level in accordance with their field, both students and parents must be aware of their children's interests and talents (Hidayat & Wahyuni, 2019).

In Indonesia, the secondary level of formal education is known as Senior High School. In essence, every high school graduate has a propensity or desire to continue their education in college. Every student must select a major when they enroll in college that matches their interests and skills. However, in practice, big decisions frequently result in issues because they are made merely to follow trends, because parents forced them to, or because they were influenced by peers.

Due to the fact that other elements affect students' major decisions rather than only conscience, many of them believe that their current major does not fit their expectations or skills and would prefer to switch. One approach is to administer a test that is evaluated by a psychologist. Based on the findings of the tests that were administered, psychologists can determine the results in terms of the students' skills (Mulyani et al., 2021).

Walsh & Holland, (1992) proposed the Personality Type Theory, which contends that an attempt should be made to match a person's professional preferences with his personality.

Planning future education, talent mapping, and determining if existing students are on the proper path are all objectives of community service. The planning stages of education are carried out through presentations by the presenters, talent mapping through the completion of questionnaires to ascertain the interests of each participant, and evaluation of training activities through a qualitative assessment of the increase in participants' knowledge (Hidayat & Wahyuni, 2019).

Researching students' interests and talents prior to enrolling in college is crucial to preventing the difficulties that have been highlighted from occurring to every child. Therefore, it is essential to convey the significance of selecting a college major in accordance with your interests and abilities utilizing the FGD (group discussion forum) method. It is intended that by using this method, college major selection would become simpler for students, their intelligence will be revealed, and time and money will be saved.

## 2. METHOD

This community service project makes use of the following techniques:

### 1. Presentation of material

At this point, students are given a general overview of the significance of comprehending each person's interests and skills in order to choose a college major. Following that, you will be given the knowledge that you should not choose a major carelessly in order to avoid making a mistake during your studies and that it is appropriate for the job you are striving for.

#### a. Talent

God endowed us with talent so that we could better ourselves. Talent itself is a way of thinking, an intelligence, or an aptitude that we are born with. The following are examples of the many talents :

- ✓ A generic talent is a skill that is inherent in everyone and is a sort of basic potential.
- ✓ A special talent is an aptitude with a distinctive potential; for instance, not everyone is gifted in the areas of leadership, preaching, or sports.

#### b. Interest

The process of developing interest involves fusing all of one's present skills to guide one toward a pursuit of interest. Interest categories :

- ✓ Work-related interests are referred to be vocational.
- ✓ Professional pursuits include interests in the arts, sciences, and social welfare.
- ✓ Commercial interests: enthusiasm for jobs in the business world, such as sales and purchases, marketing, accounting, and secretarial work.
- ✓ A passion for sports, mechanics, the great outdoors, etc.
- ✓ Recreational interests, such as hobbies or interests in finding fulfillment. For instance, excitement, amusement, appreciation, thoroughness, and other things. To support one's aspirations for the future, one can develop their talents and hobbies, or they can pursue further education. If the owner makes an effort to cultivate and use their talents and interests, they will be valuable to them.

### 2. Question and answer

Students have the chance to ask questions now concerning the socializing materials. In addition, kids can express their interests, skills, aspirations, and future goals. According to Saragih & Simbolon (2022) The actions conducted in this act of community service are :

- a. Observation  
By evaluating the current circumstances, the community service implementation team conducted a situation analysis.
- b. Team Data Collection  
Data is gathered by community service providers so that additional analysis can be done. The information gathered includes information about potential participants' educational backgrounds, their numbers, and the location of their original school.
- c. Literature Review  
Utilized to retrieve data from a variety of significant sources, including journals, articles, or other pertinent references. Reviews of the literature are often used to identify problems and potential solutions.
- d. Material Creation  
The next stage is to develop outreach materials after resolving the issues and discovering the ideal answer. The prepared content has been adjusted to meet the demands of the attendees.
- e. Implementation  
Then, community service projects are executed in accordance with a schedule that has been mutually agreed upon.
- f. Evaluation Following the completion of community service projects, the socialization program is evaluated.

On September 21, 2023, socialization regarding selecting a college major based on likes and abilities took place. All of the class XII students from SMA Muhammadiyah Way Jepara in East Lampung took part in the socializing. The Muhammadiyah High School Hall is where the implementation will take done. Before choosing on a college major, every student needs to understand and explore the fundamentals of their interests and talents, which are covered in the content that is being provided.

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

When teens begin a new phase of their lives, choosing a career is a process that starts with selecting a college major. Competent people who can make decisions about their careers are those who possess the information, abilities, talents, and skills to advance. The following factors affect career choice:

- a. Internal Elements  
factors that originate from within oneself, such as moral principles, knowledge, wisdom, and unique skills.
- b. Outside Factors  
External factors including society, the general social environment, the socioeconomic level of the family, the impact of the family, education at school, peer pressure, and position. The following stages make up the career selection process (Saragih & Simbolon, 2022).
  - ✓ Unreal  
The decision to pursue a career is not made based on aptitude, but rather on one's perception of a certain profession.
  - ✓ Potential  
The period when a person starts to develop their job choice skills, starts to comprehend their interests, and starts to consider careers that fit their skills.
  - ✓ Reliable

The phase in which a person assesses their future career. Evaluation is based on information or expertise of the selected career and is then used to choose a college major.

✓ Investigation

The point at which a person decides whether or not to take action to determine the course of his career. The professional choice is reviewed based on the success or failure encountered.

✓ Cryoformation

The point at which a person reevaluates their decision and acknowledges that there are influencing elements that must be taken into account when choosing a good vocation.

✓ Information

More precise decisions are made on majors or careers.



Figure 1. *Interest and talent materials delivery*



Figure 2. *Participants in Socialization*

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Interests and skills can shift at any time. In an effort to map pupils' future skills, choose your strengths and interests. In order to achieve a goal, talent and interest must be combined with

determination, patience, and perseverance. With this exercise, schools and parents are attempting to direct pupils toward the future.

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