



TRACER STUDY ON THE EMPLOYABILITY OF GRADUATES TO IMPROVE PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS

Ita Fatkhur Romadhoni^{1*}, Any Sutiadiningsih², Dwi Kristiastuti³, Niken Purwidiani⁴ and Ila Huda Puspita Dewi⁵

^{1,2,3,4,5}Vocational Program, Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia

*Corresponding author: 1itaromadhoni@unesa.ac.id

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Research Background: This problem was addressed by conducting a new traceability study that makes it easier for graduate users to create open and transparent reports based on graduate performance data. It is hoped that it will encourage interested fresh graduates to understand how the claims presented are justified, explore further data, and make their factual claims. The latest ideas from tracer research can simplify the complexity of the data-entry component. Furthermore, this study will automatically provide stakeholders' feedback to the university to change the parameters of mastered expertise.

Originality/value: This paper discusses the components of a tracer assessment that make it easy to access data from external sources, aggregate and summarize and create transparent visualizations. To do this, two ideas were combined from tracer study-based research. First, a model from Wale et al., (2018) was used to integrate measurement data into a tracer study measuring tool and provide easy access to universities. Second, data from graduates was collected as evaluation material to develop a suitable curriculum in the direct manipulation user industry (Teijeiro et al., 2013). In this paper, the experience in constructing alumni data visualizations using the tools presented was recorded.

Research Methodology: This study used a cross-sectional survey method. This study was conducted at Universitas Negeri Surabaya (Unesa), Vocational Program, Diploma III Culinary located in Surabaya, East Java. There were 85 graduates from 2019 to 2020. Meanwhile, from the stakeholder, we surveyed 38 companies where graduates work. The companies engaged in hospitality, restaurants, and catering. The response rate of 99.99% targeted respondents. Information technology development center of Universitas Negeri Surabaya developed an instrument to collect information on graduate responses. SPSS 26 is used to process, organize, and analyze data. To recapitulate and arrange data in frequency and percentage, distribution tables were used as descriptive statistics.

Finding and Discussion: The main finding of our study is that the data on graduates can be extracted from a stakeholder point of view. Therefore, the specific skills of graduates are visualized in real terms based on graduate users. The data is then reproduced as a reference when conducting curriculum reviews and as a direction for developing better skills for graduates. It makes the use of data transparent, allowing the readers to find the original source and check how data is used.

Research Implications: It should be mentioned that several of the interviewees in this study work in the hotel industry, and their skills are highly recognized. Ahmad et al., (2012) stated that problem-solving competence is very helpful for fresh graduates to improve their potential, both socially and on the job. His research also shows that problem-solving ability should be filled in the new curriculum to improve future graduates' work ability and productivity. This

finding contradicts in the study of (Albina & Sumagaysay, 2020) where higher order-thinking skill emerges very well as a skill improved by graduates. In this regard, Siraye et al. (2018) stated that companies want workers who can find their critical issues in the workplace. It is believed that 85 graduates of diploma III in culinary who were respondents in this study could provide a good response as input for study programs at universities. Furthermore, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was the main reason why some of the respondents were jobless at the time the survey was conducted. Luckily, the majority of respondents work in many organizations permanently. However, compared to earlier studies, this study's respondents took longer to find their first employment. Concerning the body of the curriculum, it can be concluded that it is necessary to improve the practice of problem-solving skills according to the needs of the respondents. Meanwhile, the supporting competencies needed by respondents in their work are social capabilities and computer skills.

Research limitations: Tracer studies like this should be conducted regularly, at least once every two years, to cover a broader range of graduates from previous years so that more accurate statistics on graduate employability may be gathered.

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