

## Empowering Subject Teachers' Professionalism Through Knowledge on Guidance and Counseling

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### ABSTRACT

Problems faced by students during the teaching-learning process are usually directed to the Guidance and Counseling Teachers. However, problems related to the students' understanding of subject matters are ideally handled by the subject's teachers. Therefore, subject teachers require knowledge and skill to guide and counsel students. The purpose of this community service program was to empower the role of subject teachers in counseling students' learning problems. The activity was carried out in the of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) involving 48 junior high school teachers in Telukjambe District, Karawang Regency. The topics covered during FGD were theoretical concepts of Guidance and Counseling and practical implementation of counseling principles. The result of these activities is an increasing understanding among the subject teachers regarding the importance of skills in counseling. This program suggests the need of continuous professional development for subject teachers to increase their skill in counseling students.

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## INTRODUCTION

In the Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture Number 35 of 2010 Concerning Technical Implementation Guidelines for Teacher Functional Position, it is written that subject teachers are teachers whose tasks including the responsibility and authority in the learning process of one subject matter in the formal education, at both primary and secondary level. Teachers are required to facilitate learning as well as mentor the students. Therefore, teachers' have much responsibility other than fulfilling the subjects' learning objectives.

In completing their role as educators, teachers not only need to master the subject matter, but also students' development theory. This is the fact that teachers need to work with students whose characteristics and abilities vary. So, teachers need to implement developmentally appropriate teaching practice. The knowledge allows teachers to have a full understanding of their students' needs. It also allows teachers make necessary adjustment in their teaching.

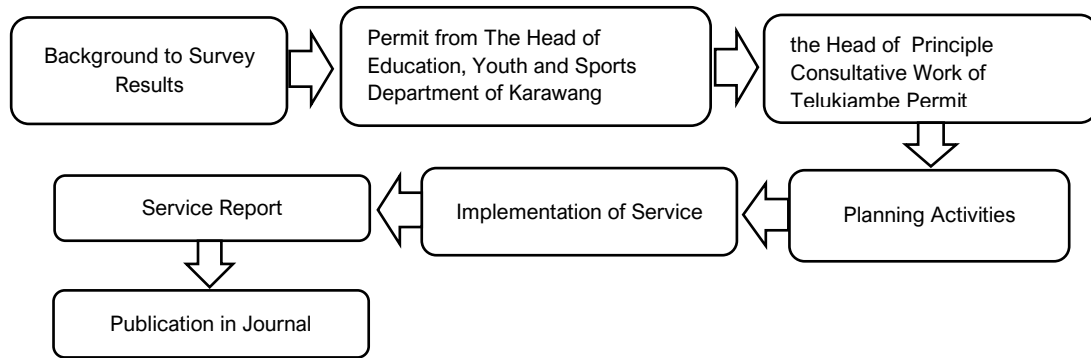
In the context of teachers' role as mentor, the concept of Guidance and Counseling allow teachers to determine the techniques and types of necessary guidance given to students (Sutirna, 2019 ; Sutirna & Musa, 2023). Indeed, research found that Guidance and Counseling shapes students' attitude towards studies as well as help students to improve their general academic performance (Kyauta, 2017).

Nevertheless, a national survey to Indonesian teachers reported that subject teachers focus only in facilitating the subject matter that they would direct their students' concern to the Guidance and Counseling teachers (Sutirna et al., 2024). In fact, students' problem especially related to their inability to understand subject matter requires the teacher' role as mentor. Several strategies can be implemented, such as providing material explanations, showing practical skills, conducting discussions, giving feedback, organizing learning tasks, and overseeing the learning process (Rahayu et al., 2023). Indeed, teachers' reflection confirm the need for guidance and counseling training for teachers (Lay Yeung, 2014).

Based on the presented facts, in order to fulfil the role as mentor in the learning process, subject teachers need to receive training about Guidance and Counseling. This community service activity was held to empower Mathematics, *bahasa Indonesia* and English teachers at junior high schools across Telukjambe District, Karawang Regency to implement principles of guidance and counseling in empowering their teacher practice.

## METHOD

The activity was held in Focus Group Discussion (FGD) format. The topics covered during FGD were theoretical concepts of Guidance and Counseling and practical implementation of counseling principles. There were 48 teachers from 15 state and private middle school in Telukjambe District, Karawang Regency. Stakeholders, such as the Head of Education, Youth and Sports Department of Karawang, the Head of Principle Consultative Work of Telukjambe as well as the Head of Institute of Reasearch and Community Services Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang also attended the activity. Some fourth-year students of Mathematics Education of Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang were also assisted the FGD. Figure 1 presented the procedure of the community service program.



**FIGURE 1.** Procedure of community service program

The activity was carried out for 5 hours, from 8:00 until 14.30. Table 1 shows the timetable of the activity.

**TABLE 1.** Implementation Schedule

No	Time	Description Activity	Information
1.	08.00-09.00	Registration Participant	Committee
2.	09.00-10.00	Opening Singing Indonesia Raya Prayer activity a. Committee Report b. Greetings	Prof. Dr. H. Sutirna
		1. Head Disdikpora Regency Karawang	Drs. H. Cecep Mulyawan, MM
		2. Head of LPPM Unsika	Dr. Dayat Hidayat, M.Pd.
3.	10.00-10.30	Coffee Break	Committee
4.	10.30-12.00	Presentation of Research Results	Prof. Dr. H. Sutirna
5.	12.00-13.00	ISHOMA	Committee
6.	13.00-14.00	Preparation Implementation Study	Prof. Dr. H. Sutirna
7.	14.00-14.30	Closing at a time taking Certificate Workshop	Committee

## RESULTS

The FGD was held on May 15, 2024, at the Akshaya Telukjambe Hotel Karawang with as many as 48 subject teachers from 15 state and private middle schools in the Karawang. Table 2 shows the participants' information.

**TABLE 2.** List of FGD Participants

No	Name	Affiliation
1	R Dian Widiarti, S.Pd.	SMP Negeri 1 Telukjambe Timur Karawang
2	Hj Rika Budiarti, S.Pd.	SMP Negeri 1 Telukjambe Timur Karawang
3	Dra. Hj Retna	SMP Negeri 1 Telukjambe Timur Karawang
4	Tiffany Anggraini Putri Sobayar S.Pd	SMP Negeri 1 Klari Karawang
5	Ekas Bhinnekas, S.Pd.	SMP Negeri 1 Klari Karawang
6	Mutia Husnul Wardani S.Pd	SMP Negeri 1 Klari Karawang

No	Name	Affiliation
7	Destiani Sartika, S.Pd	SMP Negeri 1 Ciampel Karawang
8	Alfi Rosida Marganingtyas , S.Pd.	SMP Negeri 1 Ciampel Karawang
9	Maria Winu Wulan, S. Pd	SMP Negeri 1 Ciampel Karawang
10	Dyah W, S.Pd	SMP Negeri 1 Telukjambe Barat Karawang
11	Siti Karmilah.S, S.Pd	SMP Negeri 1 Telukjambe Barat Karawang
12	Mia Annisa, S.Pd .	SMP Negeri 1 Telukjambe Barat Karawang
13	Ira Siti Muniroh, S.Pd	SMP Negeri 1 Tegalwaru Karawang
14	Eka Rochani, S.Pd .	SMP Negeri 1 Tegalwaru Karawang
15	Deni Edy Herdiansyah, S.Pd.	SMP Negeri 1 Tegalwaru Karawang
16	Eny Sudarwati, S.Pd .	SMP Negeri 2 Telukjambe Barat Karawang
17	Roy Nor Dani, S.Pd., M.Pd .	SMP Negeri 2 Telukjambe Barat Karawang
18	Fatimah, S.Pd .	SMP Negeri 2 Telukjambe Barat Karawang
19	Windi Herdianti, S.Pd	SMP IT Sehati Bina Insani Karawang
20	Siti Aenul Mardiyah, S.Pd	SMP IT Sehati Bina Insani Karawang
21	Maoidzotul Hasanah, S.Pd	SMP IT Sehati Bina Insani Karawang
22	Rina Rigiana, S.Pd	SMP Negeri 4 Klari Karawang
23	Desi Yolanda, S.Pd	SMP Negeri 4 Klari Karawang
24	Ika Kartika, S.Pd	SMP Negeri 4 Klari Karawang
25	Evi Susanti, S. Pd.	SMP Negeri 2 Klari Karawang
26	Ade Yanis Raleda , S. Pd.	SMP Negeri 2 Klari Karawang
27	Eprilia Nur Khomsianti , S. Pd.	SMP Negeri 2 Klari Karawang
28	Saeful Anwar, S.Pd	SMP IT Harapan Umat Karawang
29	Jubaedah, S.Pd .	SMP IT Harapan Umat Karawang
30	Murni, S.Pd.	SMP IT Harapan Umat Karawang
31	Komala Wahyuningsih, S.Pd .	SMP Negeri 2 Pangkalan Karawang
32	Supendi, S.Pd.	SMP Negeri 2 Pangkalan Karawang
33	Ragil Risandhi, S.Pd.	SMP Negeri 2 Pangkalan Karawang
34	Wawan Taswan, S.Pd.	SMP Negeri 3 Klari Karawang
35	Septi Riyani, S.Pd .	SMP Negeri 3 Klari Karawang
36	Resti Aprilianti, S.Pd .	SMP Negeri 3 Klari Karawang
37	Utik Suryati, S.Pd.	SMP Negeri 2 Telukjambe Timur Karawang
38	Shela Augustine, S.Pd	SMP Negeri 2 Telukjambe Timur Karawang
39	Tomy Burnama, S.Pd.	SMP Negeri 2 Telukjambe Timur Karawang
40	Drs. Tete Mufty Sofyan	SMP Negeri 1 Pangkalan Karawang
42	Yanto Sugiyanto, S.Pd	SMP Negeri 1 Pangkalan Karawang
43	Rahmat Hidayat, S.Pd .	SMP Negeri 1 Pangkalan Karawang
44	Tri Raharjo, S.Pd	SMP Islam Al Azhar 35 Karawang
45	Thalya Kresna, S.Pd.	SMP Islam Al Azhar 35 Karawang

No	Name	Affiliation
46	Fatin Fauziah, S.Pd	SMP Islam Al Azhar 35 Karawang
47	Drs. H. Cecep Mulyawan, M.M	Department of Education, Youth and Sports Regency Karawang
48	Dr. Dayat Hidayat, M.Pd.	Chairman of the LPPM, Singapore University Karawang
49	Drs. H. Suryono	Chairman of the MKKS Regional Commissariat Telukjambe Karawang

The number of attendees from invitations sent through Head School increased by 100%, meaning the heads of schools and assigned teachers are very significant in enhancing the ability to facilitate participant education.



FIGURE 2. FGD participants

Certificate of attendance was awarded to the participant as a form of appreciation and motivation for attending the training. Figure 3 shows the certificate of participation.



FIGURE 3. Certificate Community Service FGD Participants Lecturer Research

Meanwhile, Table 3 shows the list of research assistants involved in the FGD.

**TABLE 3.** List of Collaborating Students in the Community Service FGD

No	Student name	NPM	Study Program
1.	Fitriana Listanti	2010631050011	Undergraduate Mathematics Education
2.	Siti Annisa Samsudin	2010631050035	Undergraduate Mathematics Education
3.	Disi Eka Rivian	2010631050062	Undergraduate Mathematics Education
4.	Vedrika Mathilda Sembiring	2010631050115	Undergraduate Mathematics Education
5.	Saidah Nur Fitria	2010631050030	Undergraduate Mathematics Education
6.	Cindy Windari	2010631050130	Undergraduate Mathematics Education
7.	Wiwin	2010631050041	Undergraduate Mathematics Education
8.	Devita Aulia Salsabila	2010631050132	Undergraduate Mathematics Education
9.	Kristian Simanjuntak	Fernandito 2010631050074	Undergraduate Mathematics Education

## DISCUSSION

The FGD was opened by Drs. H. Cecep Mulyawan, M.M., by the Head of Education, Youth and Sports Department of Karawang. In his opening speech, he mentioned about the importance of teachers besides as mentors aside from their role as power teachers and educators. He also mentioned the importance of Guidance and Counseling in solving students' problems.



**FIGURE 4.** Opening speech by the Head of the Education, Youth and Sports Department of Karawang, Drs. H. Cecep Mulyawan, M.M.

This is line with the idea of quality education which characterized by the systemic strategies of subject matter, administration and mentor proposed by Kartadinata (2012). In fact, teachers who only focuses on subject matters and neglecting guidances, will only create students who are cognately competence and lack in psychosocial aspects. (Kartadinata, 2012)

Another speech by the Head of Institute of Reasearch and Community Services Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang welcome the important and positive contribution of the FGD toward the education quality in Karawang.



FIGURE 5. Speech by the Head of Institute of Research and Community Services Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang, Dr. Dayat Hidayat, M.Pd

Many researches conclude that the role of subject teacher as a mentor during the learning process is very influential to students' behavior in the learning process, to teachers, and academic achievement (Nastiti & Habibah, 2016) , Rahman et al., 2021), (Mulyawan, 2020). Therefore, the knowledge of Guidance and Counseling is significantly important for the teachers.

Based on the presented facts, in order to fulfil the role as mentor in the learning process, this community service activity was held to empower Mathematics, *bahasa Indonesia* and English teachers at junior high schools across Telukjambe District, Karawang Regency to implement principles of guidance and counseling in empowering their teacher practice



FIGURE 6. FGD session on the importance of Guidance and Counseling for subject teachers

Following the activity, the FGD participants admitted their new perspective on the importance of Guidance and Counseling in fulfilling their job. The participants recorded video of their saying commitment to the change their professional practice as shown in Figure 7.



**FIGURE 7.** Declaration Community Service FGD Participants after Acquire Explanation and Understanding of the Role of Subject Teachers as Guidance and Counseling

Declaration Video Link : <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1W7-SP4iQ4ICfd266GBp1Pm1m-MXBzm5R>

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this community service program was to empower the role of subject teachers in counseling students' learning problems. The activity was carried out in the of Focus Group Discussion (FGD) involving 48 junior high school teachers in Telukjambe District, Karawang Regency. The result of these activities is an increasing understanding among the subject teachers regarding the importance of skills in counseling. This program suggests the need of continuous professional development for subject teachers to increase their skill in counseling students. This also requires involvement of stakeholders, such as the Education, Youth and Sports Department of Karawang.

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