

# **The Impact of the Kampus Merdeka Policy for Strengthening Multicultural Encounters at Yogyakarta State University**

**by Ajat Sudrajat, M.Ag., Dr. Suharno, M.Si., Dr. Dyah Kumalasari, M.Pd.**

## **ABSTRACT**

This study aims to; 1) describe the construction of the Free Learning policy in the aspect of multiculturalism, and 2) analyze the actual and potential impacts for strengthening multicultural encounters at Yogyakarta State University.

This study uses a qualitative-descriptive method. The data sources of this research are paper and person. The paper in question is the literature in accordance with the research objectives. While the data source in the form of a person can also be referred to as a research subject. The subjects of this study were lecturers and students of the MBKM program at Yogyakarta State University, particularly at the Faculty of Social Sciences. Determination of research subjects is done by a combination of purposive and snowball. The data analysis technique used qualitative inductive data analysis techniques. The stages of analysis used are: 1) data reduction, 2) data display, and 3) conclusion and verification. While testing the validity of the data using triangulation, in the form of source triangulation.

The study concludes: 1) Policy of Merdeka Belajar-Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) provides an experience as well as a cross-ethnic meeting space for students to confirm each other's diversity of identities through a 3-semester learning rights program outside the study program. Cross-identity encounters in the MBKM Program allow students to combine aspects of concern for structural and cultural issues, through a derivative program of 3 semesters of learning rights outside the study program. The MBKM program, based on the Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture Number 03 of 2020, builds an experimental learning atmosphere so that it further strengthens ethnic and cultural literacy. 2) The actual impact of the MBKM program at Yogyakarta State University, namely providing space for efforts to strengthen multiculturalism at UNY, through exchanges, Center of Excellence (CoE) facilitation, and Equal Education for all. However, the implementation of the MBKM program at UNY only started in 2020, so it has not been fully implemented by existing study programs. However, the UNY Chancellor's Regulation No. 07 of 2020 concerning Guidelines for the Implementation of the MBKM Curriculum and UNY Chancellor's Regulation No. 5 of 2020 concerning the MBKM Curriculum at UNY. So, there is still a potential impact that still has to be optimized for multicultural encounters through student exchanges, especially through specific intercultural understanding or multicultural collaboration programs.

*Kata Kunci: Kampus Merdeka, MBKM, UNY, Multicultural Encounter*