

# The Phenomenon of Student Life Who is Studying While Working in the City of Padang

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## ABSTRACT

Many things are faced by students who choose to study while working, such as having to endure sleepiness during college due to getting a night shift that usually has to go home early, there are also those who are struggling to make college assignments because they are tired from work, and so on. Like the phenomenon of students studying while working in the city of Padang, West Sumatra, where we will easily find students who study while working in various jobs and places of work, for example as waiters in cafes, as employees in shops, selling on the roadside during the fasting month, selling online, and many other phenomena. The purpose of this study is to describe phenomenon of students studying while working in the city of Padang. The method used in this study with data collection techniques through the process of observation and interviews. Based on the results of observations and interviews of researchers in the field, researchers found eight phenomena of student life while studying while working in the city of Padang as follows: 1. Work in Afternoon or Night Shift and Study during the Day, 2. Often Fall Asleep During Lectures and At Work, 3. Often Late to Work and to Campus, 4. Stealing Time Doing College Assignments at Work, Gaining Two Experiences and Skills at the Same Time in the World of Work and in College, 6. Indebted to Boss for College Needs and Paid with Salary, 7. Accustomed to Thinking Independently in Various Situations, 8. Rarely Go Home.

**Keywords:** *The Phenomenon, Student Life, Studying While Working*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this era of 4.0, it seems that being able to achieve education at tertiary institutions at the S1 (bachelor's) level or up to the S2 (Master's) level is commonplace or has become commonplace for society in general. This is of course different from the generation in decades ago, where achieving an undergraduate education was difficult and education at that level could only be accessed by certain people who of course had enough money to pay for education at that level which in the past the cost was not cheap compared to the economic conditions of the people, especially the lower middle class at that time.

However, in the current era of 4.0, it does not mean that people can automatically educate their children to college level easily, even though the percentage is that more people are able to access education in higher education compared to several decades ago. Currently, there are also many students who are in quotes forcing

themselves to continue their education to college even though their family's economic condition is actually not enough to pay for the tuition. And there are also students who go to college even though their families can afford it but they are looking for additional fees or trying to reduce the burden of their family costs. There are many other phenomena that cause students to choose to work while studying.

The needs and demands to be independent from families with an adult age, competition in the world of work is getting tougher because the standards given for career paths in an agency or company have high minimum criteria, the desire to gain experience and fill spare time causes some students choose to study while working [1].

Some students have also begun to realize that at the age of growing up, they must start to be independent for the future life by seeking a lot of experience, having the desire to make their own money, no longer burdening

their parents, or simply wanting to gain experience in the world of work and of course to show that he is an adult or has thoughts like adults.

Students in the world of campus, have looked more mature and able to process their thoughts to find work. They seem indifferent to the efforts of parents who have sweated to get used to sending their children with money from work [2].

The student must be able to divide time and concentration and be responsible for the commitments of these two activities. This makes students spend a lot of time, energy and energy to work. This condition makes it difficult for students to divide their time between work and lectures, so that their focus is divided so that it results in lower motivation to study compared to students who study not while working, who have high learning motivation are usually able to manage their time [3].

Many things are faced by students who choose to study while working, such as having to endure sleepiness during college due to getting a night shift that usually has to go home early, there are also those who are struggling to make college assignments because they are tired from work, and so on.

Like the phenomenon of students studying while working in the city of Padang, West Sumatra, where we will easily find students who study while working in various jobs and places of work, for example as waiters in cafes, as employees in shops, selling on the roadside during the fasting month, selling online, and many other phenomena.

As the results of interviews with researchers at a cafe in the city of Padang, which was revealed by OW (20 years) as follows,

“...I worked while studying as a bartender at this cafe to help my parents pay for my college tuition, by working at least I no longer asked my parents for pocket money, I also saved money on food costs because I ate at work, and I also gained a lot of skills from this job that I might be able to use when I graduate from college” (interview on July 17th, 2021)

Based on the interview, we can see that some students have basically started to realize that they have to help their parents in paying for their tuition.

Based on these problems, I feel interested in conducting research on the phenomenon of students studying while working in the city of Padang.

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

In this study the method used is qualitative. This study uses techniques, interviews and participatory observation. Unstructured interviews, interviews are free where researchers do not use interview guidelines that have been compiled systematically and completely for

data collection. The interview guide used only outlines the issues to be raised

In this observation, the researcher is involved with the daily activities of the people who are observed or used as a source of research data [4]

Data collection is conducted as follows, (1) determining the scope of the study, (2) collecting data or information through observation and interviews. The descriptions below are some of the data collection techniques used by researchers to capture data from informants.

The data analysis technique is the process of systematically searching and compiling data obtained from interviews, field notes and other materials, for they can be easily understood for all can be shared with others. Qualitative data analysis is including three components of analysis, namely: Data reduction. Data reduction is defined as the selection, concentration, attention to simplification, abstracting and transformation of rough data arising from written records in the field. Data reduction is a form of analysis sharpens, directs, classifies, discards unnecessary, organizes data in such a way the conclusions can finally be drawn and verified, the method used in data reduction can be through a long selection, through a summary or a brief description classify them into a broader pattern [5].

Validation of data is done by following the instructions reference, which states the data validity test in qualitative research includes tests, credibility (internal validity), transferability (external validity), dependability (reliability), and confirmability, (objectivity)

1. The degree of trust (credibility), to determine the degree of trust in this study used triangulation. Triangulation in this credibility test is defined as checking data from various sources in various ways.

2. Transferability testing is external validity, which shows the degree of accuracy, or the applicability of the results of the study to the population where the research was conducted. This transfer value is pleased with the question to what extent the research results can be used in other situations [6].

Research that is relevant to this research as in Romi Mesra's review entitled "The social meaning of money in social interaction of boarding students" which explains that there are six symbolic meanings of money [7]. From the article, it can be seen that the money factor can also be a determinant in the thought process of making a decision to work while studying.

Then it is also relevant to Maylana Dirmantoro's research with the title motivation of college students while working where the results of the research are due to the desire to improve the quality of the activities in which the subject is engaged, which is based on the intrinsic desire from within the subject himself, which

along with the increasing age Adults get demands or encouragement to be independent from their environment [8].

### **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Everyone has their own motivation in doing something, including the desire to stay in college even though the economic conditions are less favourable. Students like this will usually look for various ways to stay in college, one of which is while working. Even though it is not easy to get a job, especially in the city of Padang there are still some jobs that open vacancies that are suitable for students, for example as shopkeepers, parking attendants, cafe waiters, etc.

All available job options are usually not the type of work expected by students, related to prestige, salary amount, skills possessed, lifestyle, etc. However, for students who are determined to continue studying, they will choose the job to continue their studies. Usually, the jobs mentioned above also always open job vacancies and are not too difficult to enter, just have a strong will, and are ready to accept any problems that arise due to working while studying.

Based on the results of observations and interviews of researchers in the field, researchers found several phenomena of student life while studying while working in the city of Padang as follows:

#### ***1. Work in Afternoon or Night Shift and Study during the Day***

Some places of business in Padang City do have various shifts (working time) for their employees. Sometimes the owner of the place of business allows their employees to choose the shift they like and there are also those who have determined shifts for employees with their own criteria. For example, male employees are usually placed on the afternoon to evening shift or the night to morning shift. Female employees are usually allowed to work on the morning to evening shift or the afternoon to evening shift.

However, this will be different for students who in fact have taken the time to study according to the lecture schedule which usually spans from morning to evening. Usually, the working time for students is suggested by business owners to take afternoon shifts to evening shifts or night shifts to mornings, and this applies to both male and female students.

This is as expressed by EW (20 Years old) as follows,

"...I work from 3 pm to 12 pm, so usually I come home from college sometimes at 1 pm or 4 pm, but usually the boss understands and gives leeway even though I come at 4 or 5 as long as I tell the boss, and want to help if sometimes have to work overtime" (interview on June 30th, 2021)

Based on these interviews, it can be seen that business owners also understand the condition of students, so that some business owners also sympathize with giving concessions to students as well as a matter of time. Furthermore, based on the interview, it can be seen that there are still opportunities for students to get jobs while studying and doing both, although of course they have to work hard and have a high will.

Then also as expressed by IH (21 Years old) as follows,

"... I've worked here since I was in college, this is my second place to work after quitting my previous job for reasons of time. Here I can take the afternoon shift from 3 or 4 o'clock until 10 or 12 o'clock at night so I can rest until the morning and study in the morning. Whereas at the old place I was only given a night shift from 6 pm to 6 am so I was stuck for college or work because I had little time off" (interview on July 01 th, 2021)

According to the researcher, working at night and studying during the day is a phenomenon of student life working while studying. It is not uncommon for students like this to be students who excel and are serious in their studies because they know how difficult it is to find money for college.

#### ***2. Often Fall Asleep During Lectures and At Work***

Students who study while working certainly experience many different things from students in general who only focus on college. Considering the working time in this place of business in the city of Padang is usually around 6 to 8 hours or there is also a 12-hour shift for each shift. For example, entering at 3 pm then returning at 11 or some at 10 pm, there is also a night shift which is from 6 pm to 6 am so that the total working time is 12 hours.

With working hours like that, students sometimes have class schedules in the morning until the afternoon or from noon in the afternoon, so the hours of sleep to rest are very little or even non-existent, so it is natural that students often fall asleep in class no matter how much they do. try to avoid it.

As expressed by DY (19 Years old) as follows,

"... going to college while working is not easy bro, I sometimes get a night shift from 6 pm to 6 am, this makes me sometimes not even sleep at all because there is a class schedule at 7 am so it is no longer possible to sleep, sometimes I find time to sleep when changing hours in the lecture schedule or also often fall asleep in class even though I've tried not to sleep by eating candy or listening to music but sometimes it doesn't work" (interview on July 20th, 2018)

As stated by DY, it can be seen that even though she is a female student, she still works hard to be able to study even though she has to work at night. Indeed, there are not many shift options for students in the world of work, usually the most likely is the afternoon shift or night shift so even female students can't help but get that option if they still want to study.

The lack of hours of rest to sleep, even no time at all is indeed a consequence of the lives of students who work while studying. Although there are various ways that are done to avoid sleeping during lectures, this sometimes has to happen and is difficult to avoid like the experience of DY.

Then also expressed by RS (22 Years old) as follows,

"...After my father died, I finished my undergraduate graduation, I still wanted to continue my master's degree but of course the cost was getting more difficult because my mother was left working. That's why I thought about how to continue studying for Masters until I finally decided to try to find a job, until now it's been more than 1 year, I work night shifts from 6 pm to 6 am, and this sometimes makes me take a shower in my room shower and change clothes at work then go to campus, after college I do the same thing to go to work at 6 in the afternoon. I still do this in order to realize my desire to finish my master's degree" (interview on July 14th, 2021)

According to researchers, it's not always economic conditions that discourage someone from going to college, but determination and intention play an important role in this. Like what this hospital did, he even wanted to complete his master's degree while working, even though of course at that age he faced many challenges such as increased prestige because he had a bachelor's degree, etc.

### **3. Often Late to Work and to Campus**

The problem of working time and class schedules that sometimes clash or only have a small gap, while some students have to go to work and study at the appointed time, it is not uncommon for students to be late for work or late to work.

This is as expressed by BS (24 Years old) as follows,

"...I'm from Mentawai to study in Padang, I pay for my own tuition from the first semester of college. I worked from 6 pm to 6 am, even several times I was late coming home from work because the morning shift employee arrived late while the boss's rule was not allowed to go home before the morning shift employee arrived. Therefore, even though when I go home normally at 6 am I still find it difficult to go to campus on time, especially on a lecture schedule at 7 am or 8 am" (interview on Juli 26th, 2021)

Then also expressed by PR (23 Years old) as follows,

"...I've only been working at this cafe for 1 month, at first I only focused on college but I wanted to try to make my own money because I feel sorry for seeing my parents pay for my college hard as a farmer. What's more, I'm a boy, I think I should be able to reduce the burden on my parents. Even though it's because I work until 6 am, I often come late to work or campus because I overslept or because the hours are too close." (Interview on Mei 5th, 2021)

As stated by the PR that he berthed desire to ease the burden on his parents to pay for his studies. Even though he has only worked for 1 month, he is already experiencing difficulties in being on time to work or to college, he explains that this is because he sometimes falls asleep or because he has too little time to go to work and to college.

According to researchers, it is normal when students who work while studying are sometimes late to come to work or college, lack of rest hours which sometimes makes them fall asleep so that they wake up late from their class schedule or work schedule. Or because of the narrow distance between class schedules and work schedules, of course it also affects the student's delay.

### **4. Stealing Time Doing College Assignments at Work**

The condition where students are often given lecture assignments by their lecturers is certainly a challenge for students who work while studying because after they return to college they have to go straight to work and have no other time to do assignments from other lecturers at work. This forces students to be smart in stealing time doing college assignments at work even though this must be done in a cat and mouse way with the boss or the owner of the workplace.

As expressed by BS (24 Years old) as follows,

"...for college assignments, I usually do it at work from midnight to morning because usually at that time the boss is asleep and the cafe customers are not too crowded unless there is a football schedule because this cafe also opens watching football together. Even though it's not easy, but so far, I can still do it like that without sacrificing the business where I work" (interview on Mei 14th, 2021)

According to the researcher, there are always alternatives like those done by the students above in overcoming the challenges they face related to doing college assignments in the last time they have because they have to work after being in college. Students also maintain professionalism in lectures as well as in work so that one of them is not harmed.

### **5. *Gaining Two Experiences and Skills at the Same Time in the World of Work and in college***

The activities of students who study while working, even though they face challenges, even have negative implications for students' lives, but also have positive implications for their experience and skills. In the world of campus, they are given knowledge, skills and gain experience about many things in the world of formal education, while in the workplace students also gain experience and other more practical skills that they experience directly outside of the theory they learn in college and practice from the theory directly. they get in the world of work.

As stated by KK (21 Years old) as follows,

"...Working while studying is not easy, but if we want to take the positives, we must realize that we have had two experiences at the same time between studying and working like this. Many of us also gain skills in the world of work such as cooking, juicing, etc. At sunia kampung we also get other experiences in the world of education, as well as skills such as writing articles, communicating, etc" (interview on Mei 14th, 2021)

Based on the experience of the KK, we can see that directly, students who study while working have gained multiple experiences and skills from both sides of the workplace and the place of study. This can enrich students' self-competence which will certainly be useful in the future after they graduate from college or leave their current place of work so that it will be easy for them to get jobs or open their own jobs.

Furthermore, RS (24 Years old) also stated as follows,

"...The thing to be grateful for from working while studying is that we get a lot of experience and skills from these two things. Previously I could not cook, in this cafe I learned it and now I can cook. In the past, I did not understand about articles, etc., but because of the demands of the lectures, I also got the knowledge. It's tiring and even frustrating at times, but when we remember our intentions, this is our choice, then it feels easier to go back to living it" (interview on July 14th, 2021)

According to the researcher, doing two things between studying while working is indeed a brave decision because not many students are able to take and live it in a balanced way until they finish their studies. The process of approximately 4 years for undergraduate and 2 years for undergraduate is not a short process to go through the twists and turns as a student who studies while working. But behind it all, of course, students also get a lot of experience from the two things they live.

### **6. *Indebted to Boss for College Needs and Paid with Salary***

One of the challenges in continuing to study in college is money, so it is not uncommon for prospective students or parents to have discouraged from sending their children to college for fear of not being able to pay for it.

For students who work while studying, the money factor is still a problem because salary is not always able to meet the needs of college. Plus, sometimes you have to pay college on time while the amount of salary collected is not sufficient.

In this condition, students are usually allowed by business or bus owners to make loans and are usually paid by deducting salaries every month. This of course has to be agreed by both parties, whether there is interest or maybe through a letiga party such as a cooperative, or the amount of monthly salary deductions to pay the debt and so on.

This is as expressed by EW (20 Years old) as follows,

"...From the beginning I applied for a job here, indeed I asked the manager if I could borrow money if I needed it at any time for my college needs. The manager said usually the boss allows this, some other boss employees and also students if they need them to borrow money from the boss for college needs and then get paid with a salary deduction" (interview on June 30th, 2021)

As stated by EW, we can find out that students can find it easy to meet their college needs if at any time they need it by asking for a loan from their boss or the owner of the business where they work. Of course, this is a very big help for students, especially for those who really only rely on their work to continue their studies or for those who don't want to burden their parents and family.

Then also expressed by BN (24 years old) as follows,

"...to be honest, if not while working like this it would be very difficult for me to continue my studies. Especially about paying UKT (single tuition) every 1 semester, by working like this I can save my salary and can also borrow money from the boss if my salary is not enough to pay the UKT. Indeed, for this tuition fee as much as possible I don't want to burden my parents who are also in a difficult situation in the village" (interview on June 12th, 2021).

According to the researcher, this loan facility for student employees can also be used as a strategy by business owners in finding employees, especially to get employees who are hardworking and serious in their work because they are indeed working to continue their studies.

## **7. *Accustomed to Thinking Independently in Various Situations***

In daily life, students who work while studying are busy with activities all the time, even to the point that they don't have free time anymore like most other students who only focus on studying. The various problems they face at work and on campus naturally make them trained to think independently, plus most of the students who work while studying are immigrants from the village so they can no longer rely on their families to help overcome the problems they face overseas.

As expressed by BN (24 years old) as an overseas student from South of Pesisir as follows,

"...whose name is in the world of work, of course, there are many kinds of problems that we face even unexpectedly. But like it or not, we have to face it and we look for a solution, whether it's by asking colleagues, superiors, or solving it by thinking independently. I also experienced the same thing on campus, whatever it is this is our choice and we must not rely too much on other people, we must be independent in this overseas" interview on June 12th, 2021).

BN revealed how important it is to be an independent person overseas. Students who work while studying should not be allergic to problems, they must be trained to deal with and solve problems, especially for overseas students who are far from their families so they have no other choice but to be independent.

Then also revealed by KK (21 years old) as follows,

"...indeed, many challenges during my college while working. Sometimes getting scolded by customers, pressured by bosses, fighting among employees, problems with lack of money, college problems, and many other things that I have to deal with. Tired of course tired, but because there is no other person, I can rely on to help me, I can't help but gradually get used to doing it myself, looking for a way out on my own." (Interview on Mei 14th, 2021)

According to the researcher, on their own, students like this will be able to live and overcome their own problems because they are used to doing it every day, both at work and in college, especially for overseas students who are far from their parents.

## **8. *Rarely Go Home***

The demands of work and college sometimes force students to make choices they don't always expect. Especially for overseas students who work while studying, they cannot always return home regularly every year, or even if they can, it is not on time to return home. For example, when student workers are needed by their workplace during Eid by their boss, students may not

return home or return home late, and other conditions that can occur.

As stated by RS (24 years old) as follows,

"...If it's been 2 years since I've gone home, it's usually because I have to work on Eid-ul-Fitr or Eid-ul-Adha because they need me. Even though I was allowed to return home after the holiday, I thought I would also bear it because usually the longest I was given was only 7 days while my village was far away. Maybe next year I'll try to ask the boss for permission so I can take a day off on holidays" (interview on July 14th, 2021)

The hospital revealed that the reason for not going home was because the energy needed by the bus where he worked was on a day off when students usually had college holidays and went home RS sacrifices his desire to return home for the sake of his duties at work, such is the reality of the struggle of students who work while studying. So many sacrifices they have to make in order to realize the desire to get a degree in their respective universities.

Further disclosed by BN (24 years) as follows,

"...if at my workplace each employee takes turns going home on the Eid al-Fitr holiday. For example, this year's Eid al-Fitr, I was assigned to stay at the cafe and other employees were allowed to go home, so next year it will be my turn to go home and other employees who come to work at the cafe. So, it can be counted that I return home every 2 years" (interview on June 12th, 2021).

According to the researcher, the conditions experienced by students who work while studying, who rarely return home, are a consequence of the choices they make to work while studying. Even though if you look at the explanations of the students above, generally the problem with rarely returning home is because of the rules at work, this may be because automatically you are also off when there are big holidays and red dates.

But whatever it is, the struggle of students who are still struggling to study while working, which is not easy, is something that should be followed as a motivation that anything we can achieve if there is a strong determination to make it happen, dare to take risks from every decision we take in this life.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of observations and interviews of researchers in the field, researchers found eight phenomena of student life while studying while working in the city of Padang as follows: 1. Work in Afternoon or Night Shift and Study during the Day, 2. Often Fall Asleep During Lectures and At Work, 3. Often Late to Work and to Campus, 4. Stealing Time Doing College Assignments at Work, Gaining Two Experiences and

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