

## THE ACTIVE ROLE OF STUDENTS IN THE SECRETARIAT AND PDI PERJUANGAN FACTION OF THE SURABAYA CITY REGIONAL PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL DURING A 40-DAY INTERNSHIP

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### Abstrak

#### Keywords:

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*An internship program is a form of experiential learning that provides students with the opportunity to apply the theories they have learned in the classroom to the real world of work. This article aims to analyze the active role of students in the scope of secretariat and faction activities within the Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle (PDI Perjuangan) during a 40-day internship. The method used is qualitative descriptive with a field experience study approach. The results of the analysis show that students made significant contributions in supporting administrative activities, drafting official documents, and managing the faction's agenda. Furthermore, this internship provided valuable experience in understanding the political institutional system, the working mechanisms of the secretariat, and the party's internal communication processes. Thus, the internship not only enriched the students' professional competencies but also fostered an awareness of the importance of ethics, discipline, and active participation in the workplace and practical politics*

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### INTRODUCTION

Higher education institutions bear the responsibility of producing high-quality, professional human resources capable of adapting to the needs of the workforce. One form of learning that supports this objective is the internship program, which integrates theory with practical field experience. Internships at political institutions such as the PDI Perjuangan parliamentary faction provide a unique experience for students, as they involve not only administrative and secretarial work but also the dynamics of political communication, managing public aspirations, and coordinating among legislative members and support staff. In this context, students' active participation is crucial to



ensuring the smooth operation of the secretariat and the parliamentary faction while honing their professional skills and sense of social responsibility.

Through this internship program, students are given the opportunity to gain firsthand experience in understanding the operational mechanisms of a political institution. Working within the secretariat of the PDI Perjuangan parliamentary faction enables students to observe how legislative activities are organized and supported through effective administrative management. The internship environment provides valuable exposure to the workflow of public service institutions, allowing students to develop a deeper understanding of governance, policy discussions, and the role of political parties in representing public interests.

During the internship period, students are involved in various tasks that contribute to the efficiency of daily operations within the faction office. These activities may include preparing official documents, managing correspondence, organizing archives, assisting in meeting preparations, documenting events, and supporting communication between members of the legislative body and external stakeholders. By participating in these activities, students enhance their organizational abilities, attention to detail, and professional work ethics, which are essential competencies in any workplace environment.

In addition to administrative responsibilities, the internship also exposes students to the practical aspects of political communication. Students have the opportunity to witness how public aspirations are received, recorded, and conveyed through formal legislative channels. This experience provides valuable insights into the relationship between elected representatives and the communities they serve. Understanding these interactions helps students appreciate the importance of transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in democratic governance.

Furthermore, the internship fosters the development of interpersonal and communication skills. Working closely with staff members, legislative assistants, and public representatives requires students to communicate effectively, collaborate within teams, and adapt to diverse working situations. Such experiences strengthen students' ability to interact professionally with individuals from various backgrounds while maintaining ethical standards and confidentiality in handling sensitive information. The internship program also encourages students to apply theoretical knowledge acquired during their academic studies to real-world situations. Concepts related to public administration, communication, organizational behavior, and leadership can be observed and analyzed within the practical context of political institutions. This integration of theory and practice helps bridge the gap between classroom learning and professional application, making students better prepared for future careers.

Moreover, exposure to the dynamic environment of a parliamentary faction enables students to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students learn how organizations respond to challenges, manage priorities, and coordinate activities under time constraints. These experiences cultivate adaptability and resilience, qualities that are increasingly important in today's rapidly changing professional landscape. Ultimately, the internship serves as an important platform for personal and professional growth. Beyond acquiring technical knowledge and workplace experience, students gain a broader perspective on public service, democratic processes, and the responsibilities associated with political institutions. The experience nurtures a sense of civic awareness

and social responsibility, encouraging students to contribute positively to society through their future professional endeavors.

Therefore, the internship program at the PDI Perjuangan parliamentary faction not only supports the academic development of students but also equips them with practical competencies, professional attitudes, and valuable insights into the functioning of political institutions. Through active participation in the workplace, students are better prepared to become competent graduates who can meet the demands of the workforce while contributing meaningfully to the development of society and the nation.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **The Concept of Student Active Participation**

The active role of students reflects their direct involvement in activities that support the development of academic and social knowledge, skills, and values. According to Djojonegoro (1998), students function not only as learners but also as agents of change who play a role in social, economic, and political dynamics.

### **Internships as Experiential Learning**

Kolb (1984) explains that experiential learning emphasizes the process of learning through direct experience. In the context of internships, students have the opportunity to observe, participate in, and reflect on real-world activities relevant to their field of study.

### **The Scope of Secretariat and Political Faction Activities**

Secretariat activities are a crucial aspect of supporting the performance of political organizations. According to Suryosubroto (2005), the functions of a secretariat include record-keeping, archiving, drafting correspondence, and administrative coordination. Meanwhile, political party caucuses in legislative bodies serve as the party's extension in advocating for policies and the aspirations of the public.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This study employs a qualitative descriptive method with a field study approach. Data were collected through direct observation during a 40-day internship at the PDI Perjuangan Faction and the secretariat, as well as through informal interviews with administrative staff and faction members. The data were then analyzed using the Miles & Huberman (1994) interactive analysis approach, which includes data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Student Activities in the Secretariat**

During the internship, students were involved in administrative tasks such as handling correspondence, preparing activity reports, filing documents, and scheduling meetings. Students also learned about formal communication etiquette, digital document management, and the protocol of political institutions.

### **Participation in Faction Activities**

Students also helped prepare meeting materials, document meeting outcomes, and draft the faction's position statements. Through these activities, students gained an understanding of the party's internal decision-making process and the dynamics of communication among faction members.

### **Development of Competencies and Soft Skills**

The internship also contributes to improving communication skills, teamwork, discipline, and responsibility. Students learn to cope with time constraints and work pressure, and to maintain integrity in a work environment focused on the public interest.

### **Academic and Social Impact**

The 40-day internship provided broad insights into the workings of political institutions, the role of party bureaucracy, and interdepartmental relationships in supporting organizational performance. Socially, this program fostered a sense of empathy, compassion, and patriotism among the students.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **The Role of Students in Secretariat Activities**

During their internship with the PDI Perjuangan Faction of the Surabaya City Council, the students had the opportunity to be directly involved in various secretarial activities. These activities included managing incoming and outgoing correspondence, filing documents, preparing activity reports, and assisting with scheduling meetings and work visits. This involvement provided a deeper understanding of the importance of administration as a key supporting element in the continuity of an organization.

Through these activities, students not only learn administrative procedures in theory but also understand the application of effective administrative systems in a professional work environment. This experience aligns with the concept of experiential learning, which emphasizes that knowledge can be gained through direct experience in work-related activities. Students are also required to work meticulously and responsibly, as every document they manage holds significant administrative and legal value for the institution.

### **Student Involvement in Faction Activities**

In addition to secretarial duties, the students also participate in various activities related to the duties and functions of the faction in the Surabaya City Council. Their involvement includes assisting with preparations for internal meetings, documenting meeting minutes, compiling administrative materials for activities, and supporting coordination between faction members and the secretariat.

Through these activities, students gain an understanding of how legislative bodies operate and the role of parliamentary factions in carrying out their political representative functions. Students are also able to observe firsthand the process of political communication, the articulation of public aspirations, and the coordination efforts undertaken by faction members in formulating various policies. This experience serves as a learning opportunity that cannot be fully obtained through classroom instruction alone.

### **Development of Professional Competencies and Soft Skills**

Internships have a positive impact on the development of students' professional competencies. In carrying out their daily tasks, students are expected to communicate effectively, collaborate as part of a team, and complete their work within the specified timeframes. These conditions indirectly help develop their time management skills, discipline, and sense of responsibility.

In addition, students also learn to adapt to a work environment with an organizational structure and work culture that differ from the academic setting. This ability to adapt is one of the key skills required in the modern workplace. Internship

experiences also help boost students' confidence in interacting with employees, administrative staff, and legislative members from diverse backgrounds and positions.

### **Understanding the Political Institutional System**

An internship with the PDI Perjuangan Faction of the Surabaya City Council provides students with the opportunity to gain firsthand insight into Indonesia's political institutional system. Students can observe the working relationships between the faction, council members, the secretariat, and the public in support of legislative duties.

This understanding is important because it provides a real-world perspective on the implementation of theories of constitutional law, administrative law, and political systems that students have been studying in the classroom. Thus, the internship serves as a means of integrating theory and practice, enabling students to gain a more comprehensive understanding of local government administration and political processes at the local level.

### **Academic and Social Impact**

From an academic perspective, internships enhance students' understanding of how legal principles are applied in institutional practice. The experience gained during an internship helps students connect theoretical concepts with real-world situations. This serves as a vital foundation for improving the quality of student learning and their analytical skills.

Meanwhile, from a social perspective, the internship provides experience regarding the importance of public service, organizational cooperation, and responsibility toward society. Students come to better understand that every policy and activity of political institutions is fundamentally aimed at advocating for the interests of the public. This awareness fosters empathy, integrity, and a spirit of service—qualities essential for aspiring law graduates.

## **CONCLUSION**

The students' active role in the secretariat and PDI Perjuangan faction activities during the 40-day internship proved to offer dual benefits, both for the host institution and for the students themselves. From the organization's perspective, the students' presence helped ensure the smooth handling of administrative tasks and the documentation of activities. From the students' perspective, this experience strengthened their understanding of work ethics, the political system, and the importance of active participation in organizational life. Thus, internships in a political setting serve as a strategic platform for shaping the character, professionalism, and national perspective of the younger generation.

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