

ABSTRAK

Latar belakang penelitian ini adalah fakta bahwa di Gampong Blang Pulo terdapat remaja lulusan SMA yang memilih menunda kuliah, remaja tersebut tidak hanya berasal dari keluarga miskin, juga ada yang berasal dari keluarga mampu. Selain itu di gampong tersebut juga dekat dengan kampus yang seharusnya mudah akses terhadap perguruan tinggi, tetapi mereka memilih menunda kuliah. Namun keputusan menunda kuliah mendapatkan stigma negatif dari masyarakat seperti dilabelkan pemalas, pengangguran, hingga tidak punya masa depan. Penelitian ini mengkaji faktor sosial yang mempengaruhi keputusan remaja lulusan SMA di Gampong Blang Pulo untuk mengambil penundaan kuliah, dan tanggapan masyarakat terhadap remaja lulusan SMA di Gampong Blang Pulo memilih menunda kuliah. Perspektif teoritis yang digunakan adalah teori pilihan rasional menurut James Coleman. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan teknik pengumpulan data yaitu observasi, wawancara dan dokumentasi. Temuan penelitian ini menunjukkan faktor sosial yang mempengaruhi keputusan remaja lulusan SMA di Gampong Blang Pulo untuk mengambil penundaan kuliah yaitu kondisi ekonomi keluarga yang sulit yang tidak mampu membiayai kuliah, adanya kesempatan kerja, ingin mengikuti tes seleksi calon Polisi dan TNI, dan gagal masuk seleksi perguruan tinggi. Tanggapan masyarakat terhadap remaja lulusan SMA di Gampong Blang Pulo memilih menunda kuliah yaitu bagi remaja yang memilih bekerja dianggap dapat membantu meningkatkan perekonomian keluarga terutama bagi remaja yang berasal dari keluarga miskin, remaja mengembangkan potensi diri/skill dengan mengikuti berbagai pelatihan keahlian, mendapatkan stigma pengangguran dan tidak punya masa depan, dan dapat mengurangi minat untuk melanjutkan kuliah.

Kata Kunci: Faktor Sosial, Masyarakat, Menunda Kuliah, Remaja, Tanggapan, Gampong Blang Pulo Kecamatan Muara Satu Kota Lhokseumawe.

ABSTRACT

This study is motivated by the phenomenon of high school graduates in Gampong Blang Pulo who choose to postpone pursuing higher education, including those from both economically disadvantaged and well-off families. This phenomenon is worth examining because Gampong Blang Pulo is located relatively close to higher education institutions, providing easy access to universities; however, some young people still choose to postpone college. This decision also generates negative stigma from the community, such as being perceived as lazy, unemployed, and having no future. This study aims to analyze the social factors influencing the decision of high school graduates in Gampong Blang Pulo to postpone college and to examine the community's responses to this decision. The study employs James Coleman's rational choice theory as its theoretical perspective and uses a qualitative approach. Data were collected through observation, interviews, and documentation. The findings indicate that the social factors influencing the decision to postpone college include difficult family economic conditions that limit the ability to finance higher education, employment opportunities, the desire to participate in recruitment tests for the Indonesian National Police and the Indonesian National Armed Forces, and failure to gain admission to higher education institutions. Community responses to young people who postpone college vary. Some view employment as a way for young people, particularly those from economically disadvantaged families, to contribute to their families' economic well-being. Others view participation in skills training as an opportunity to develop their potential and abilities. However, some young people face negative stigma as unemployed individuals who are perceived as having no future. Such stigma may also reduce their motivation to pursue higher education.

Keywords: *Social Factors, Community, Postponing College, Youth, Community Responses, Gampong Blang Pulo, Muara Satu District, Lhokseumawe City*