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ATIKAN: Jurnal Kajian Pendidikan will provide a peer-reviewed forum for the publication of thought-leadership articles, briefings, discussion, applied research, case and comparative studies, expert comment and analysis on the key issues surrounding the educational studies in general and its various aspects. Analysis will be practical and rigorous in nature. The ATIKAN journal, with print-ISSN 2088-1290 and online-ISSN 2714-6243, was firstly published on June 1, 2011, in the context to commemorate the Birth of Pancasila (Five Basic Principles of the Republic of Indonesia)'s name in Indonesia. Since issue of June 2011 to date, the ATIKAN journal has been organized and published by Minda Masagi Press, as a publisher owned by ASPENSI (the Association of Indonesian Scholars of History Education) in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia. The ATIKAN journal is published twice a year, i.e. every June and December. Website: www.journals.mindamas.com/index.php/atikan

FOREWORD



“Research is to see what everybody else has seen, and to think what nobody else has thought”, according to Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, a Nobel Prize recipient for Medicine in 1937.

People in the academe are required to do research related to their respective area of specialization. It is mostly mandatory, if they want to hope on to higher ranks and be appropriately compensated; and most importantly, to be able to build impressive credentials.

However, doing theses or dissertations almost always, poses the most difficult challenge in the life of a graduate student. It begins with problem formulation, how to best state a research problem, what questions to ask, what methods to use, how to gather data, what statistical treatments to apply, how to analyze data, how to present the results, and what recommendations can be given.

All these, coupled with the necessary connections and resources are necessary. As Albert Szent-Gyorgyi (1937) said above, research is four things: brains with which to think; eyes with which to see; machines with which to measure; and, lastly, money.

How does a graduate student – who happens to be an employee, maybe a teacher, a lecturer, or even head of an organization – work on a tedious research process? The thirst for knowledge, the discovery of something wonderful, and the opportunity to offer a solution to existing unbearable conditions, issues or problems are the most noble and probably the most decent motivation one can have.

Armed with appropriate motivation, a researcher or a graduate student will embark on a mission that will totally change his or her life for the next two or more years. Reading a hundred or more books and journals, finding gaps among the most current researches, and deciding on the best research topic that a student can formulate are just initial steps.

Colleges and universities would always assign an adviser, somebody who is considered an expert to the field of specialization of the researcher, who will serve as the mentor of the researcher. The thesis or research adviser is expected to give all the necessary guidance and assistance to the researcher. This person, the adviser, is instrumental to the success or failure of the researcher. Finding a really good adviser makes the research fifty percent done, if the researcher follows her/his guidance.

In the life of graduate students, defense is another ordeal. Facing panelists, who would ask critical questions regarding the research proposal, can be a real challenge to overcome. One must foresee the possible questions and prepare the most sensible answers. Defense panelists are expected to be more knowledgeable in the field of research, have related area of specialization as the defender, and most of all, have the patience to go through the hardcopy of the proposal with the intentions of giving the necessary comments and suggestions for the improvement of the thesis proposal.

These panelists must also be the same people, who should sit at the final defense, so that they will be able to know whether their suggestions and corrections were followed and implemented by the researcher. It would be unfortunate and extremely difficult for the researcher to be following the suggestions of different sets of panelists in every defense.

Given all these predicaments, still, a graduate student must bear the ordeal and try finishing the race with flying colors. These experiences prepare a person in the academe to pursue more academic researches that will contribute to solving some problems in the education sectors and in the global society as a whole.

With all the accumulated theses, dissertations, and journal publications, one can just wonder what percentage have been utilized in their respective organizations, schools, colleges, and universities. Are they just representations of how much research have been done in compliance to certain requirements for whatever purposes they serve best?

What I stated above is the result of my reflection when conducting research and its results to be published, especially in scientific journals, which will be read and cited by many academics throughout the world. So, how important it is to conduct research carefully, diligently, tenaciously, and not to make elementary mistakes, so that our research work is truly quality; and proud when read and cited by many people.

I am sure and believe that the articles presented in the ATIKAN journal this time, the June 2019 edition, which are generally the result of research, the authors have done what I reflected in the statement above. Conducting research and publishing research results, so that they can be read and accessed by many people, not only makes history for the authors themselves, but also academically useful for others. Science can indeed develop based on the results of research and studies from previous scholars.

I also express my gratitude and high appreciation to Minda Masagi Journals, owned by ASPENSI (Association of Indonesian Scholars of History Education) in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia, who has been willing to invite me as a Guest Editor for the ATIKAN journal, June 2009 edition. I am sure and believe, this is a good action and policy, so that the ATIKAN journal can be read not only by academics from Indonesia, but also from countries in Southeast Asia, and even throughout the World.

Happy reading articles in the ATIKAN journal. Hopefully a lot of benefits.

Quezon City, Philippines: June 30, 2019.

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