

Academic Pressure and Student Unethical Behavior: An Empirical Study of the Use of Thesis Jockey Services

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Abstract

The phenomenon of using thesis jockey services among students is increasingly widespread and has become a serious problem in higher education in Indonesia. This study aims to identify the factors that encourage students to use thesis jockey services and analyze its impact on the quality of higher education. The method used is a literature review encompassing various empirical studies related to this topic. The findings indicate that academic pressure, lack of time management skills, and low academic integrity are the main factors driving students to seek shortcuts through thesis jockey services. The use of these services negatively impacts students' academic skill development and damages the reputation of educational institutions. To address this issue, comprehensive strategies are needed, including strengthening supervision systems, enforcing sanctions, developing character education programs, and providing adequate academic support.

Keywords :

academic pressure, unethical behavior, thesis jockey services, academic integrity

Abstrak

Fenomena penggunaan jasa joki skripsi di kalangan mahasiswa semakin marak dan menjadi masalah serius dalam dunia pendidikan tinggi di Indonesia. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi faktor-faktor yang mendorong mahasiswa menggunakan jasa joki skripsi serta menganalisis dampaknya terhadap kualitas pendidikan tinggi. Metode yang digunakan adalah tinjauan literatur yang mencakup berbagai studi empiris terkait topik ini. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tekanan akademik, kurangnya keterampilan manajemen waktu, dan rendahnya integritas akademik merupakan faktor utama yang mendorong mahasiswa mencari jalan pintas melalui jasa joki skripsi. Penggunaan jasa ini berdampak negatif pada pengembangan keterampilan akademik mahasiswa dan merusak reputasi institusi pendidikan. Untuk mengatasi masalah ini, diperlukan strategi komprehensif yang meliputi penguatan sistem pengawasan, penegakan sanksi, pengembangan program pendidikan karakter, dan penyediaan dukungan akademik yang memadai.

Kata kunci : tekanan akademik, perilaku tidak etis, jasa joki skripsi, integritas akademik, pendidikan tinggi

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Introductions

The phenomenon of using thesis jockey services among students is increasingly widespread and has become a serious problem in the world of higher education in Indonesia. Thesis jockeying is a practice in which an individual or company offers services to complete a student's final project or thesis in exchange for a certain fee.

The phenomenon of using thesis and assignment jockey services is increasingly widespread and has become a serious concern in the world of higher education in Indonesia. Based on a report by CNN Indonesia, various social media accounts, such as @jasajurnalhum and @jasatugasjaya, openly offer jockey services for various levels of education and types of scientific work, including theses, theses, and dissertations.

The prices offered vary, with thesis packages priced up to Rp7 million and theses up to Rp11 million. One account even has more than 280,000 followers and has been endorsed by a number of celebrities. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology (Kemendikbud Ristek) stated that the use of assignment jockey services is a form of plagiarism prohibited by Law No. 20/2003 on the National Education System. Legal consequences for jockey service users include revocation of academic degrees if proven to have committed this practice. (CNN Indonesia, 2024).

This phenomenon reflects various complex problems, including high academic pressure, lack of time management skills, and low academic integrity among students. Academic pressure is often the main factor that encourages students to seek shortcuts through thesis jockeying services. The existence of academic dishonesty, particularly the practice of thesis and

assignment jockeying, is an increasing concern in higher education globally.

This phenomenon reflects complex issues such as high academic pressure, lack of time management skills, and low academic integrity among university students. (Vallespir Adillón et al., 2024).. Various forms of academic jockeying services are available, ranging from thesis writing to conference papers. (S. Santoso et al., 2023)..

Factors that encourage students to seek these shortcuts include academic pressure, skill deficiencies, and confusion about integrity principles. (Vallespir Adillón et al., 2024).. International students appear to engage in cheating more frequently compared to domestic students (Denisova-Schmidt, 2016)..

To address this issue, institutions need to implement comprehensive strategies, including instilling the values of academic integrity, reviewing policies, understanding student motivation, re-evaluating assessment practices, and providing staff development. (Morris, 2018). In addition, ethics education, detection technologies, and the establishment of a culture of honesty are essential in combating academic dishonesty.

Research shows a strong relationship between academic stress and cheating behavior among college students. High levels of academic stress and anxiety are associated with an increased likelihood of engaging in academic dishonesty. (Widodo & Alizamar, 2019). Even high-achieving college students, who generally report lower levels of cheating, may be compelled to engage in unethical practices due to personal performance standards, social comparison, and pressure to succeed. (Miller et al., 2017).

Various forms of academic misconduct, including contract cheating, are associated with higher levels of stress

experienced by university students both within and outside the educational context. Factors such as socioeconomic status, job pressures, and traumatic life events can contribute to academic stress and subsequent cheating behavior (Macaulay, 2015).

Understanding the relationship between stress and academic dishonesty is critical to developing effective prevention strategies and support systems to promote academic integrity in educational institutions. Lack of time management skills and research skills are also significant causes. Many students struggle to manage their time. Students who have poor time management skills are more likely to seek external help in completing their academic tasks.

Based on this background, the problem formulation in this study is as follows:

1. What are the factors that encourage students to use thesis jockey services?
2. How does the use of thesis jockey services impact the quality of education in higher education?

Literature Review

Thesis jockeying is a practice in which an individual or company offers services to complete a student's final project in exchange for a fee. This practice reflects a serious violation of academic integrity as students do not complete their own assignments. The use of thesis jockeying services is often done secretly, without the knowledge of the supervisor or the university. This phenomenon reflects a problem in the education system, where students feel the need to find shortcuts to complete their academic assignments.

According to (Susilo, 2019) the use of thesis jockey services can be caused by various factors, including academic

pressure, time constraints, and lack of understanding of the thesis topic. Wardhani (2020) (Wardhani, 2020) added that this phenomenon is also influenced by students' motivation to get high grades without having to go through the actual learning process. In addition, Rahmawati (2018) mentioned that some students may feel unable to complete their own thesis due to a lack of research and writing skills.

This phenomenon does not only occur in Indonesia, but also in various other countries. Nugraha (2022) (Nugraha, 2022) found that similar practices occur in universities around the world, indicating that this problem is global. The use of thesis jockey services can damage the reputation of educational institutions and reduce the quality of graduates. Therefore, it is important to understand and address this issue through a comprehensive and sustainable approach.

Academic pressure is one of the main factors that encourage students to use thesis jockeying services. This pressure can come from various sources, including high expectations from family, lecturers, and oneself. Students often feel pressured to achieve high grades and complete assignments within a limited time.

(R. Kurniawan, 2018) suggested that academic pressure can have a negative impact on students' mental health, including increasing the risk of stress and anxiety. (B. Santoso, 2020) added that excessive academic pressure can encourage students to look for shortcuts, such as using thesis jockey services, as a way to cope with their academic burden. (Hidayati, 2019) also found that academic pressure contributed significantly to students' decisions to commit unethical acts.

(Prasetyo, 2017) noted that academic stress not only affects mental health, but also students' academic performance. Students who experience academic stress tend to have lower academic performance compared to those who can manage stress well. The importance of support and guidance from lecturers and counseling services to help students overcome academic pressure.

Unethical behavior, including the use of thesis jockeying services, is often driven by academic pressure, the need for achievement, and the lack of supervision and strict sanctions.

Wijaya (2018) (Wijaya, 2018) stated that unethical behavior in the academic environment is often caused by a lack of understanding of the long-term consequences of these actions. Hermawan (2020) (Hermawan, 2020) added that high academic pressure and the need to achieve good results can encourage students to take shortcuts. Kartika (2019) (Kartika, 2019) found that weak supervision and lack of strict sanctions from the university contributed to the increase in unethical behavior.

Wardana (2017) (Wardana, 2017) showed that the implications of unethical behavior are very serious, including damage to academic reputation and degradation of educational quality. Rahim (2021) (Rahim, 2021) suggested that universities should strengthen supervision and sanction enforcement systems to prevent unethical behavior. The importance of character and integrity education in the curriculum to reduce the tendency of students to commit unethical acts.

Empirical studies on the use of thesis jockeying services have been conducted at various universities, showing the prevalence, motivation, and

impact of this phenomenon. Rahayu (2018) (Rahayu, 2018) in his research at University X found that the prevalence of using thesis jockey services is quite high, especially among students who experience great academic pressure.

Yulia (2020) (Yulia, 2020) found that in public universities, this phenomenon was more common among final-year students who felt pressured by deadlines and lack of academic support. Syafitri (2019) (Syafitri, 2019) examined the motivation of students to use thesis jockey services and found that the main factor was the pressure to graduate on time and obtain high grades.

Hadi (2017) (Hadi, 2017) highlighted that the use of thesis jockey services has a negative impact on students' long-term academic performance, as they do not gain the necessary skills for their academic and professional future. Lestari (2021) (Lestari, 2022) added that this phenomenon also has an impact on the reputation of educational institutions, which can reduce public confidence in the quality of graduates.

Academic violations such as the use of thesis jockey services are often detected through the analysis of reported cases of violations in various educational institutions. Kurniati (2018) (Kurniati, 2018) found that cases of academic misconduct at Y University have increased in recent years, with many students involved in the use of thesis jockey services.

Wahyuni (2020) (Wahyuni, 2020) revealed that in higher education, the lack of an effective supervision system and strict sanctions are the main contributing factors to the increase in academic misconduct. Mulyadi (2019) (Mulyadi, 2019) showed that violations of academic integrity not only harm

individual students but also tarnish the reputation of educational institutions.

Rini (2017) (Rini, 2017) examined the handling of academic misconduct cases and found that universities need to strengthen policies and procedures to deal with these offenses effectively. Susanti (2021) (Susanti, 2021) highlighted that the impact of academic misconduct is very serious, including the negative influence on students' learning motivation and self-confidence. Hariyanto (2022) suggested that educational institutions should develop integrity education programs to prevent academic misconduct in the future.

Method

This research uses the literature review method to examine the phenomenon of using thesis jockey services among students. The literature review method was chosen because it allows researchers to collect, analyze, and synthesize information from various relevant sources, so as to provide a comprehensive picture of the topic under study. (Snyder, 2019).

This research uses secondary data obtained from literature relevant to the research topic. Data sources include scientific journals, articles, and other documents that discuss thesis jockeying, academic integrity, and academic pressure. This data was collected through academic databases such as Google Scholar, JSTOR, and ScienceDirect. (Torraco, 2016).

The data collection technique in this study involved searching and selecting relevant literature using specific keywords such as "thesis jockeying", "academic pressure", and "unethical behavior". The search was conducted in academic databases and digital libraries to ensure broad and comprehensive coverage. The selected literature was then

evaluated based on its relevance, quality, and contribution to the research topic. (Fink, 2014).

Data analysis was conducted using the thematic analysis method. This process involved identifying key themes from the literature collected, coding relevant information, and synthesizing the findings to produce comprehensive conclusions. Each theme was analyzed to understand the factors that drive the use of thesis jockey services and their impact on students and academic integrity. (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

Results

This study found that academic pressure is one of the main factors that encourage students to use thesis jockey services. Students often feel pressured by high academic demands, tight deadlines, and great expectations from lecturers and parents. This pressure often makes students look for shortcuts such as thesis jockey services (Pratiwi, 2018). (Pratiwi, 2018). In addition to academic pressure, another influential factor is the lack of adequate time management skills and research capabilities (Nurcahyani, 2019). (Nurcahyani, 2019).

The use of thesis jockeying services has a negative impact on the quality of higher education. Students who use these services do not develop the research and analytical skills that are essential for their future academic and professional success. (Rahardjo, 2018). This phenomenon also damages the reputation of educational institutions as it lowers academic standards and reduces public confidence in the quality of graduates (Arsyad, 2020). (Arsyad, 2020).

The practice of using thesis jockey services has serious ethical implications. This action violates the principles of academic integrity such as honesty and responsibility. (Wijaya, 2019). In addition, students who engage in this

practice demonstrate a lack of respect for academic values and undermine a fair grading system (T. Lestari, 2017). (T. Lestari, 2017). Another implication is the risk of severe academic sanctions, including disqualification and revocation of degree (Suryani, 2018). (Suryani, 2018).

Educational institutions need to implement various strategies to overcome the problem of using thesis jockey services. One effective strategy is to strengthen the supervision system and enforcement of sanctions for academic violations. (H. Kurniawan, 2020). In addition, it is also important to develop character education programs that emphasize the importance of academic integrity. The provision of academic support such as tutoring and counseling services can also help students cope with academic pressure and reduce dependence on thesis jockey services. (Fitriani, 2019).

Kesimpulan

This research shows that the use of thesis jockeying services is driven by various factors such as academic pressure, lack of time management skills, and deficient research skills. The negative impact of this practice on the quality of education and academic integrity is significant. To address this problem, comprehensive measures are needed, including strengthening the supervision system, enforcing sanctions, developing character education programs, and providing adequate academic support. Thus, it is expected that students will be able to complete their academic assignments honestly and develop the skills necessary for their future academic and professional success.

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