

Indonesian transcript:

Pewawancara: Kang Dedi, berbicara tentang pendidikan, kira-kira masalah apa yang hmm paling.. perlu diperbaiki tentang pendidikan nasional di Indonesia dan khususnya tentang pendidikan pondok pesantren seperti di Lampung?

Dedi: Kalau saya berbicara soal pendidikan secara nasional, saya tidak tahu persis. Tetapi, kalau berbicara pendidikan bagaimana pendidikan itu itu di pesantren, saya kira pemerintah perlu lebih mensupport dalam penyediaan SDM-SDM yang berkualitas. Karena di pondok pesantren itu, kebanyakan selama ini dari semua mata pelajaran yang diajarkan di kelas banyak guru-guru yang lulusan bukan pada bidangnya. Misalnya lulusan pendidikan agama Islam seperti saya, mengajar Bahasa Inggris. Itu kan jadi mismatch, jadi tidak cocok gitu. Ada yang lulusan pendidikan agama Islam tapi mengajar Biologi.

Jadi hal yang perlu diperhatikan oleh pemerintah adalah bagaimana memberikan upgrading kepada mereka, memberikan sertifikasi sehingga mereka layak menjadi guru sesuai dengan bidang studi yang diajarkan. Kemudian yang kedua, memberikan dukungan kepada peningkatan ketrampilan siswa pada taraf Sekolah Menengah Umum.

Di pondok pesantren kami memiliki lembaga sesuai dengan apa yang ada di sekolah-sekolah umum. Misalnya dari SD, SMP dan SMU. Nah pada tingkat SMU kebanyakan ketika mereka lulus dan mereka tidak mampu melanjutkan ke perguruan tinggi, banyak dari mereka yang nganggur karena ketika di pondok pesantren, tidak didukung dengan dana yang cukup oleh pemerintah untuk meningkatkan ketrampilan. Misalnya entrepreneurship, atau.. ya kewirausahaan atau ketrampilan-ketrampilan yang lainnya.

Pewawancara: Apakah perlu dibuka kelas-kelas baru untuk pendidikan kejuruan?

Dedi: Hmm... sejauh, hmm... untuk pondok pesantren kami, kami tidak membuka kejuruan, tetapi jalan keluarnya yang bisa.. bisa kami tawarkan adalah eee... semacam semi, semi kejuruan. Jadi, sekolah itu bisa melanjutkan ke perguruan tinggi, tetapi sekolah itu juga menyediakan hmm... pelatihan-pelatihan untuk ketrampilan. Misalnya kewirausahaan, atau ketrampilan mengelas atau ketrampilan apa saja. Sehingga ketika selesai dari sekolah yang bersangkutan dan tidak sanggup maka dia akan memiliki kemampuan khusus untuk bisa bertahan hidup di masyarakat.

Pewawancara: Apakah dengan program dibukanya kelas-kelas kejuruan oleh pemerintah sekarang ini akan membantu masalah pendidikan?

Dedi: Tergantung sudut pandangnya karena umumnya mereka yang masuk ke pondok, itu mereka ingin pada suatu saat dia melanjutkan ke perguruan tinggi umum, baik negeri

maupun swasta dan perguruan tinggi luar negeri. Jika mereka ingin sekolah ke sekolah kejuruan maka umumnya mereka tidak pergi ke pondok pesantren.

Pewawancara: Kalau pendidikan kejuruan itu sendiri diyakini akan memecahkan masalah pengangguran di Indonesia?

Dedi: Sejauh ini menurut saya, menurut pengamatan selama ini yang ada di.. pada masyarakat yang ada di sekitar pondok itu ternyata pendidikan kejuruan itu sangat dibutuhkan karena tidak semua wali murid, tidak semua orang tua murid, itu mampu mengantarkan anaknya ke jenjang pendidikan yang lebih tinggi. Dan itu sangat-sangat bagus sekali program kejuruan.

English translation:

Interviewer: *Kang*¹ Dedi, when we talk about education, in your opinion what are the things that need to be improved within the Indonesian national education system, especially with regard to education in *pondok pesantren*² like the ones in Lampung?

Dedi: I don't know much about national education. However, if I talk about education in term of the state of education in *pesantren*, I think the government needs to give more support by providing higher quality human resources. In *pondok pesantren*, most of the teachers' educational background is totally different with the subjects they teach. For example, an Islam Studies graduate like me is teaching English. It's a mismatch, so it's not proper. There is also a graduate in Islam Studies who teaches Biology.

So, the thing that the government needs to be concerned about is how to provide them with options to upgrade, to provide certifications for them so that they would be able to specialize in teaching a particular subject. Another thing is providing support for high school level students to improve certain skills.

In *pondok pesantren* we have institutions just like what they have in public school. For example: SD,³ SMP⁴ and SMU.⁵ Well, in SMU most of students who graduated are not able to continue their education to a higher level. Lots of them are jobless because when they were in *pesantren*, they didn't receive enough training in certain practical skills . . . such as entrepreneurship and other skills.

Interviewer: Do you think it's necessary to open new classes for vocational education?

¹ *Kang* is Sundanese language for brother.

² *Pondok Pesantren*; Islamic boarding schools in Indonesia.

³ SD stand to *Sekolah Dasar* or Primary School in Indonesia. It is the most basic level of formal education in Indonesia. Primary School is conducted within six years, starting from grades one to six.

⁴ SMP; *Sekolah Menengah Pertama*; middle school. After graduating from elementary school, students attend middle school for three years from the ages of 13-15.

⁵ SMU; *Sekolah Menengah Umum* or High School in Indonesia.

Dedi: Hmm, so far ... for our *pondok pesantren*, we do not have vocational classes, but it's possible for us to provide semi ... semi vocational classes. So, those schools are able to continue to higher education, but the schools also provide trainings for specific skills, for example, welding skills, or other types of skills. So when the students graduate from these schools, yet are unable to continue their education, they would already have special skills to survive living in society.

Interviewer: Does the opening of vocational classes by the government nowadays solve our country's educational issues?

Dedi: It depends how we look at it because generally for those who studied in the *pesantren*, most of them want to continue their education to the university: state universities, private universities or universities overseas. If they want to study in vocational schools, normally they won't go to *pondok pesantren*.

Interviewer: Is vocational education believed to be able to solve unemployment problems in Indonesia?

Dedi: So far in my opinion, what happens in the community around [the] *pondok*, vocational education is really needed because not all parents are able to send their children to higher education, and vocational education is a really-really good program.

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