

THE CHARACTERISTIC FORMATION OF INSPIRATION GROUP IN ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (AEC)

Susanti¹, EkaAprilia Mardiansyah, Dimas Fahrudin

Universitas Negeri Semarang
(susantixe@gmail.com¹)

Abstract

The era of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is a challenge and an opportunity for the Indonesian. The impact of the MEA is not only in the economic sector but also all sectors for example like international communication and education. All sectors must be prepared to deal with the implementation of the AEC. One need to be prepared is the quality of Human Resources. In this case, improving the quality of human resources can be prepared through education, particularly at universities. The efforts of student preparation in order to be prepare for contribution in MEA can be done by forming groups of study which based on characters, this group of study called inspiration group. In the inspiration Group, each group will give some information about EAC by forming their characters. The method that used in this research were sharing, discussions, mini research, and speech in English about Indonesian culture. The characteristic formation that demand in this group were competitive, independent character, hardworking, high nationalism, and the most importance thing is international communication.

Keywords: *Characters, formation, groups, MEA, students*

Introduction

It has been one year since the formation of the AEC takes place from Desember 2015. Based on that, Indonesian should understand how AEC and what skills must be mastered in order to survive in the AEC. When a nation can compete in the AEC, the nation can boost the economy of his country which improved the economy could rise prosperity a nation, particularly in the ASEAN level.

In the implementation of the AEC by 2015, Indonesia still faces challenges both external and internal. The external challenges faced by, among others, is the level of competition is getting tougher trade, the magnitude of the trade balance deficit in Indonesia with other ASEAN countries, Indonesia is and how it can enhance the attractiveness of the investment. AEC while, internal challenges such as low level of understanding of the people against the AEC, unpreparedness area facing the AEC, the level of regional development that still vary and the conditions of employment and human resource Indonesia. This implementation of the AEC, had chances and risks that will be encountered, such as human resources, the results of the product, the willingness of good infrastructure, government policies were taken and others. Such risks could be addressed by maximizing the role of each of the parties involved. For example the role of students in the enhancement of human resources.

AEC went on for a year and can be used as material for the evaluation, the elements of what became a priority and should be improved. Education is the main element that must be improved to increase human resources in the AEC. Ki Hajar Dewantara as stated that "education is an effort to advance the growth of manners

(inner strength, character), mind (intellect) and the body of the child, where such parts may not be separated so that we can advance the perfection of life our children".

Preparation of human resources carried out one of them through the higher education that is on the students who are in college. The average college student who was 20 years old, is the nation's most valuable assets because the students are still at the golden age in search of identity. The College became a very broad field to multiply the science that is needed in the future. So that students graduate with expectations had couple of competence or have the ability (skill) on him. The competence of graduated students and ready to face the AEC is not just academic competencies (intellectual) course is required. Because it is a very open competition will be present at the AEC in search of human resources who have certain qualifications and certification. Then the college graduates have to really deliver outcomes in meeting the expectations of the AEC. College graduates should have sued the hard skills and soft skills (characters).

The ability of hard skills has been taught in a structured curriculum in higher education while the soft skills, ability yet taught just as much with the hard skills are structured in higher education. Whereas a balance between soft skills and hard skills is important. Improvement of soft skills can enhance a person's character. It is also in accordance with the statement of Marzuki (2012) that character is the actualization of the soft skill of a person; character is a way of thinking and behavior that shows typical of someone and in collaboration with others and capable of responsible with what remained of his decision. Then the soft skill in individuals (students) can be built and developed, therefore the soft skill development through various training is not much different with what is now known by the character development of the nation. So, the concept of soft skill, intent is not another character.

To reduce the imbalance between education soft skills and hard skills in the shape of student gatherings in small forums that discuss the characters need to be built to deal with the AEC. These forums as a form of soft skills, education lack of facilitation of the present higher education.

The purpose in the form of inspiration group is shaping the character of the students at the college level as a competitive, independent, hard working, nationalism, and communication in the English to confront the AEC.

The benefits of this activity are for students to develop themselves, forming the characters needed in AEC, and became one of the useful activities.

Findings and Discussion

The formation of students' character is more complex than in teenagers and children. In accordance with the mental characteristics of the students who are still seeking identity, formation of character is creating an environment as well as possible by giving a lot of positive activity so that the student has a character that supports the future especially in the AEC.

One such effort is the formation of character in the face of the AEC is the establishment of inspiring group. The inspiring Group was a discussion forum which comprises students aged 19-22 years. This forum has been running for two months in Semarang State University. In the expansion of this group will continue to be developed in quantity and quality. The number of each group is restricted to between 5-7 people so the resulting output is the maximum. The inspiration Group was a discussion forum conduct sharing, strengthening motivation, the mini collaborative research, and speech in English with the theme local wisdom in Indonesia. These methods are intended for the formation of character students, especially student of Semarang State University.

According to Zamroni (2010), character education is related to the development of values, good habits, and a positive attitude in order to realize the individual who is mature and responsible. Therefore this inspiring group put forward the activities that form the values, habits, and a positive attitude of the participants of the group to face the AEC. The following explain the activities in a group of inspiration:

Sharing

Sharing activities are share their feelings and thoughts among the group members about barriers and tips about activities lectures, English skills, and competencies that will be followed. In these activities psychological burden is reduced. Sharing is one of the media to think positively can decrease psychological stress (Kholidah, 2012).

Discussion

The discussion are a process of interaction between the learners with educators or learners with learners to analyze, dig and solve the problem by asking the views to reinforce his opinion. Step-by-step methods discussion inspiration group, among others, the Chairman of dividing duties as executor of the discussion, the Chairman presented the problem in accordance with the AEC, group members discuss and present problem-solving, the other members give feedback on exposure delivered another member, Chairman of group gives feedback, as well as to conclude the results of the discussion. According to Mahtuhah (2012), this method can help the student whose his character is off to become more active in fringe opinions.

This discussion explores specific themes revolved around the characters that need to be achieved in order to survive in the AEC. The discussion also addressed the potential of Indonesia such as local wisdom. Discussion of the local wisdom is very important because local wisdom can be advantageous and the national identity of Indonesia that does not belong to other Nations in competition of AEC. It is in accordance with the statement of Mubah (2011) that instill local wisdom early in the younger generation is one of the efforts to build nation identity.

Mini Research Collaboration

The problems of the group discussion are fear trying to doing scientific research because the lack of research knowledge. This is where the role of collaborative research to address these problems. Collaborative research is a mini research procurement department. This collaborative research can improve the soft skills of cooperation and basic research. The advantages of collaboration, cost of research is low, and greater cooperation between the Department for students.

Speech in English about Indonesian Culture

The speech is a technique, the use of words or language which effectively AEC skill or proficiency in choosing words that can affect communication (sham, 2004:7). This method is used because of the lack of students in the improvement of English ability. Even though the language is the first gate to compete and win in the competition of AEC. A method of speech is chosen because in addition to improve English proficiency can also train the communication of public speaking. Public speaking is the soft skills that are important for international communication. The material of the speech in English is about the culture of Indonesia, especially local wisdom. Examples of local wisdom delivered e.g. batik from each region. The advantage of this method is

to improve English skills, public speaking, and knowledge about the Indonesian culture.

Characters (Soft Skills) that try to be Formed

Elfindri, et al (2011:10) defines soft skills as life skills which largely determine the success of a person, that his hard work in the form of, among others, executors, honest, visionary, and discipline. Soft skills and life skills are a must-have to either yourself, your group, or community, as well as related to the creator. According to Kaipa & Milus (2005; 3-6) that soft skills are the key to success, including leadership, completion of the decision-making, communication, creativity, presentation skills, humility and confidence, emotional intelligence, integrity, commitment and hard work.

Berthal (IllahSailah, 2008) soft skills are "Personal and interpersonal behaviors that develop and maximize human performance (e.g., coaching, team building, decision making initiative, etc.). Soft skills do not include technical skills such as financial, computing and assembly skills". While Peggy in her book entitled *The Hard Truth about Soft Skills*, published in 2007, states that "soft skills encompass personal, social, communication, and self management behaviors, they cover a wide spectrum: self awareness, trustworthiness, conscientiousness, adaptability, critical thinking, organizational awareness, attitude, initiative, empathy, confidence, integrity, self-control, leadership, problem solving, risk taking and time management".

Based on research conducted by the countries of the United Kingdom, America and Canada, there are 23 attributes of soft skills that are dominant in the field of employment. The 23 attributes are sorted by the priority of interests in the world of work, namely:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Initiatives | 13. Self management |
| 2. Ethics/integrity. | 14. Can summarize |
| 3. Resolve the issue | 15. Flexible |
| 4. Critical Thinking | 16. Work in teams |
| 5. spirit learner. | 17. Independent |
| 6. commitment | 18. To listen |
| 7. Motivation | 19. Tough |
| 8. Excited. | 20. Logical reason |
| 9. Be reliable. | 21. Time management |
| 10. Oral Communication | 22. Berkoperasi |
| 11. The analytical capabilities of | 23. Creative |
| 12. Can reduce stress | |

Based on the above research, inspiring group form some of the characters needed in global competition. The characters are formed by groups of inspiration include:

Competitive

Competitive created through speech in English, and the mini collaborative research. In the discussion, the Chairman of group gives the motivation of the importance of a competitive, the importance of following the competition. The members group became interested in following all types of competition and be competitive. On the speech activity, each member of group is encouraged to showcase his best speech because the speech is done in the presence of all the members of Group and this unconsciously building up competitive soul group members. On the collaborative research, members

group of each minicolaborative research is encouraged to take part in research as well as their field, this certainly encourages the competitive soul group members.

Independent

Independent formed through discussion, sharing, collaborative mini research, and speech in English. Through sharing, group members are required to independently analyze problems and the need for themselves so it is found a solution to their progress. Through discussion, the group members in the push to independently express their opinion. Through a speech using English, a member of the group in the push for independently compose speeches and finding material with their own abilities.

Hard work

Hard work developed from the collaborative mini research activities and speech in English. Through collaborative mini research and English speech, each Member of the group must work hard to pursue the target in speech. Through these activities, they should work on mini research and preparation of speech, besides the duties within the course are already quite draining time, funding, and energy.

Nationalism

Nationalism was formed through speech activity in English. English speech is done using mandatory themes related to culture and local wisdom in Indonesia. It will increase their knowledge about the culture of Indonesia that will directly enhance the sense of nationalism. It is in accordance with statement of Andriani (2015) that knowledge is no less important that should be owned by Indonesian students is the knowledge of cultural identity, to avoid some cultures claim Indonesia's actions by neighboring countries.

International Communication

International communications was formed through the activity of speech in English. A method of speech in English can improve English skills quickly. English has a very important role and strategic in the era of globalization. Most multilingual communities use English in various areas of life. In accordance with the statement of Handayani (2016) that mastery of the English is the capital base in the face of competition in the global era, mainly AEC. Only those who master English could take a golden opportunity in the AEC. According to Solanki (2015), in this case the role of English is indispensable both in mastering the technology-based communication as well as in communicating directly.

The author believe that activities in inspiring group done continuously (conditioning), discipline, and a conducive will form the characters mentioned above to deal with the AEC. It is in accordance with the research by Fakhri Hamdani(2012), which is in the research entitled the formation of religious character on learners in the junior high school, District Purwokerto Banyumas, explained that the formation of the character can be done through example, refraction, the creation of a conducive atmosphere, the cultivation of discipline, as well as integration and Internalization.

Conclusion

The methods in inspiring group such as sharing, discussions, collaborative research, and mini speech in English to aim improving and shaping character such as independent, hard working, competitive, nationalism, and good communication inenglish to face the AEC

References

- Andriani, C (2015).Mahasiswa Dan Perguruan Tinggi Dalam Era ASEAN Economic Community 2015. *SNEMA-2015 FAKULTAS EKONOMI UNIVERSITAS NEGERI PADANG*
- Elfindri, dkk (2011).*Soft Skills untuk Pendidik*. Praninta Offset
- Handayani, S (2016).pentingnya bahasa inggris dalam menyongsong AEC 2015.*ISPI JAWA TENGA VOLUME 1,MEI 2016*
- Hamdani, Fakhri (2012). “Pembentukan karakter religius pada pesertadidik di SMP Negeri 8 Purwokerto Kabupaten Banyumas Tahun ajaran 2011-2012”. *Skripsi. STAIN Purwokerto*. 2012.
- Illah, Sailah (2007). Pengembangan Soft Skills di Perguruan Tinggi, Sosialisasi Pengembangan Soft Skills di Kopertis VII Surabaya
- Kaipa P & Milus T. 2005. Soft Skills are Smart Skills. Diunduh dari <http://www.kaipagroup.com>
- Kholidah EN dan A Alsa (2012). Berpikir Positif untuk Menurunkan Stres Psikologis..*JURNAL PSIKOLOGI VOLUME 39, NO. 1, JUNI 2012: 67 – 75*
- Marzuki (2012). Pengembangan Soft Skill Berbasis Karakter Melalui Pembelajaran IPS Sekolah Dasar. *Makalah seminar Nasional di IKIP PGRI Madiun*.
- Mubah S (2011).Strategi Meningkatkan Daya Tahan Budaya Lokal dalam Menghadapi Arus Globalisasi.*Volume 24, Nomer 4 Hal: 302-308*
- Zamroni (2010). *Strategi dan Model Implementasi Pendidikan Karakter dalam Pendidikan dan Pembelajaran*, Yogyakarta: PHK-I UNY