

THE MODEL OF ISLAMIC HIGHER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM QUALITY MANAGEMENT ON THE CONTEXT OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL AUTONOMY IN INDONESIA

(A Qualitative Studies in Indonesia Islamic University of Yogyakarta
and Yogyakarta Muhammadiyah University)

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A. INTRODUCTION

Along with the rapid flow of global competition in the world of higher education in the third millennium makes many private universities in Indonesia often difficult to follow its development, especially private Islamic colleges (PTAIS) that in fact, its quality and instrumentation are still far from what is expected. In effect, many of those who suffered a tragic fate, or '*shut down*'. The reality was further brought tremendous impact to the image emergence of quality gap between the State and private universities, which in turn led to the dichotomous view that state university (PTN) is a university that has a better quality than the private university (PTS/PTAIS). These conditions make people more confidence and tend to choose public state universities (eg Unair, ITB, UI, UGM, etc.) than with Islamic universities (eg UIN / IAIN), especially when compared to PTAIS. The more difficult challenge among with the implementation of regional autonomy laws that implicitly gives autonomy to the state university as a consequence of the mandate of Law 32 of 2004 which increasingly provide high flexibility for them to manage their institutions included in determining the recruitment of prospective students. This means that the level of competition among universities in Indonesia will be higher and inevitable.

The reason is based on the phenomenon and the reality on the ground that the quality of higher education in PTAI is often unable to compete with the quality of public higher education seen as more qualified and competitive. This phenomenon also applies to PTAIS in Indonesia, which has as one of Islamic Civilization Epicentrum in developing education and science in which the quality of education is much lower, and less competitive. The proof, based on the results of research conducted by Sobirin, "*Nearly 43% of graduates each year of PTAIS unable absorbed by the world of work,*

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both in the public and non-public."³⁰⁷ Borrowing language of **Mastuhu**, "Scary but true,"³⁰⁸ It means so very poor condition and need serious attention from the institution itself. Not to mention the quality of higher education management at PTAIS today is relatively low due to the lack of knowledge and skill in the field of program quality management.

The conditions of Islamic higher educational quality such PTAIS was exacerbated by the fact that the quality of our human resources are still low. Therefore, we really should worry about our human ability to compete in a globalized world in the third millennium. Imagine, data published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)³⁰⁹ asserts that in 2004, the quality of our human resources are at a very alarming, which is ranked 102 of 174 countries in the world. Even according to **Sugiharto**³¹⁰, In 2010, Indonesia gets dragged in position 110, below Malaysia (61), Thailand (73), Philippines (84) and Vietnam (108). UNDP report contained a number of quality indices (Human Development Index-HDI) which includes three things: education, health and economy average of the community. Therefore, the private higher education reform, especially PTAIS is an absolute requirement to do towards changes in the quality and existence of its are better in the future. This is consistent with what was once said by **John F. Kennedy**³¹¹, "Change is a way of life. Those who look to the past or present will miss the future." That is, in our education reform should stick to challenges future to the global competition to be able to compete well.

The lack of quality higher education in private universities in general shows that PTAIS especially at this point has not been able to capture and respond to any issues that developed, and do not yet have higher educational program quality management is good. For that reason, Islamic universities must continue to improve, if they hope to continue to exist, accepted, and can maintain viability and still believed by the stakeholders, especially regarding his future due to the universities as an organization that have responsibility to develop qualified human resource. As stated by **Jalal** and

³⁰⁷. Sobirin, A. *Tantangan dan Peluang Lulusan Tarbiyah*. (7 Juni 2009), p.11. The paper was presented at National Seminar on Islamic Education Prospect and Its Challenge at The Faculty of Islamic Studies, Islamic University of Indonesia Yogyakarta.

³⁰⁸. Mastuhu. *Menata Ulang Pemikiran Sistem Pendidikan Nasional*. (Yogyakarta: Safiria Insania Press, 2004), p.9.

³⁰⁹. Suyanto dan Hisyam. *Refleksi dan Reformasi Pendidikan di Indonesia Memasuki Milenium III*. (Yogyakarta: AdiCita, 2000), p.4.

³¹⁰. Sugiharsto. *Transnasionalisme Mutu Pendidikan Indonesia di Pasca Reformasi*. Radar Djogja, 14 Oktober 2011

³¹¹. Colling, C.C. Teaching Quality Revisited: Warnock Words for Policy Practice. *Journal of Quality Assurance in Education*. Vol. 1 No. 3, 21-25. 1993., p.22.

Technically, all three steps can explained more comprehensively by the author and the relevance of its application to Islamic universities in Indonesia as follows:

- a. Planning the quality of higher education (PT) is preparing steps and processes to produce the products according to the needs of its customers, both strategic and technical level, as envisaged in the vision and mission of the universities (PTAI).
- b. Implementation of the quality of higher education (PT) is implementing a quality plan, both strategic and technical level, with careful monitoring of all processes that occur, so there is no error and thus the product quality of PTAI is guaranteed.
- c. Evaluation of the quality of higher education (PT) is an attempt to rectify the shortcomings that occurred, and make a breakthrough of quality so that product is superior, both at a strategic and technical level. In that context, PTAIS in Indonesia should always have a level of transparency and accountability, both internally and externally so that the quality of processes and products of higher education are as expected.

2. Research Prosedures Implemented

In accordance with the focus on issues raised at previous exposure then the place or location of the study was the Indonesian Islamic University (UII) in Yogyakarta and Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta (UMY). The selection of the two objects, to further specify the object of study (*purposive sampling approach*) by focusing on PTAIS which has a good quality of higher education and has applied the educational program quality management as part of the implementation of total quality management in the universities. Thus they can compete in national and international levels.

This research is a qualitative study with a phenomenological approach (phenomenology approach) that aims to describe the state or a naturally occurring phenomenon. **Sukmadinata**³¹⁸ or **Lincoln dan Guba**³¹⁹ stated that “*A research with phenomenological approach efforts to understand the meanings of interrelated phenomenon with people in certain situation by inductive analysis.*” This approach is an appropriate way to express and interpret the various activities that are interrelated and affect the application of Islamic higher educational program quality management in UII in Yogyakarta and UMY, which is closely related to the effort of understandings, quality of program planning, implementation of program quality, evaluation of the quality of educational programs, as well as its quality result of higher education. This

³¹⁸. Sukmadinata, N.Sy. *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan*. (Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya. 2006), p.27.

³¹⁹. Lincoln, Y.S.. dan Guba, E.G. *Naturalistic Inquiry*. (Beverly Hills: Sage Publication. 1995), p.19.

qualitative research seeks to look at the various complex that occurs in UII and UMY, with gathering information that is in UII and UMY ranging from leadership (rector), foundations, and bureau chiefs (Center for Quality Assurance, Planning Board, Board of Academic Development, etc.). This study uses data collection procedures include interview, observation, and documentation. While the analysis of the data uses an interactive analysis model of **Miles and Huberman**³²⁰, which consists of three activity flows, namely; data reduction, data display, and conclusion / verification.

3. The Result of Research and Its Analysis

a. Introduction, Understandings and Dissemination of Islamic Higher Educational Program Quality Management in the Context of Higher Education Autonomy

1) In Indonesian Islamic University of Yogyakarta (UII)

From the research is known that essentially Islamic University of Indonesia Yogyakarta has to know and understand the concept of program quality management in Islamic higher education. It is evident that in developing its universities management, UII has used ISO 9001:2008 implicitly stated in the UII's Strategic Plan policy. Even so in application, Islamic higher educational program quality management used by UII is not the same as the concept that developed by Juran, Edward Sallis, Besterfield, and General Director of Indonesian Higher Education. However, it has undergone several modifications that would have adjusted to the conditions and capabilities of its own UII. The concept used by UII are more likely to adopt the model developed by *New Mexico State University* (NMSU) of United States. While not exactly the same but the two institutions, namely UII and NMSU, has been put "*strategic quality direction*" as the basis for determining the institution's quality policy.

To strengthen the foundation of quality management application of Islamic higher education program, efforts to internalize Islamic values that done by UII on the substance of the application in view of the author is very precise. With 5 philosophical principles of Islamic quality in UII such as: 1). Islamic leadership, 2). Islamic commitments, 3). Islamic work ethics, 4). partnership, and 5). Islamic sense of belonging will make UII more solid in tradition of scientific integralism, academically and spiritually that eventually could produce output of higher education that has capacity, integrity and credibility of science as well as the superior morality of individual characters. It is also in harmony with the nature of true educational purpose

³²⁰. Miles dan Huberman. *Kualitatif Data Analysis*. Tjetjep Rohendi Rohidi (penerjemah). *Analisi Data Kualitatif*. (Jakarta: UI Press. 1992), p.20.

innovation from internal human resources at the institution, especially management level.”

In this context also, UMY as known after getting information of various quality management models including ISO, then eventually UMY chooses quality management models SPMPT (Quality Assurance System of Higher Education Program) developed by the Directorate of Higher Education. The model selection that have been determined by UMY based on analysis of author with looking at the internal condition of UMY is considered reasonable. Namely: (1). UMY managerially have a management structure that is simpler than other PTAS, so they see that the model of SPMPT is more appropriate to be applied in UMY. (2). In human resources, UMY have limited human resources who have the competence and professionalism in the field of ISO 9001:2008 in particular, so as to implement the ISO model is considered quite difficult because administratively and managerially needs infrastructure and human resources who are competent in the field. 3). SPMPT is assessed administratively more simple, in addition to their positive value is that UMY will automatically get referrals and direct instruction from Directorate of Higher Education about the application in universities because the concept of SPMPT was developed by them who view and analyze the patterns and characteristics of Indonesia's universities which structurally mostly have a simple institutional structure.

To strengthen the application of higher educational program quality management, UMY also seeks to intensify efforts and internalize Islamic values into its management system. Islamic values have been elaborated into Kemuhammadiyah values with principles of doing good and avoiding evil (*amar ma'ruf nahi munkar*) according to analysis of the authors is also appropriate. In the context of socialization model of higher educational program quality management, UMY prefers to choose a *top-down approach* facilitated by the Executive Board Meeting (RPU), which involves a number of leadership elements of the study program, majors, Dekanat, to Rectorats (chancellor and provost). This approach on the management theory generally, is considered very effective and simple, but in the context of quality management studies, such approach seems quite bureaucratic and less flexible.

b. The Quality Planning of Islamic Higher Educational Program on the Context of Higher Educational Autonomy

1) In Indonesian Islamic University of Yogyakarta (UII)

The research findings inform that the formulation of its higher educational program quality using three stages, namely; diagnosis, planning, and preparation of document of program quality plans. These findings are in line when analyzed with the concept of quality planning of higher educational program based Total Quality

that "The holder of authority to apply quality plan is under operational management." In this context, operational management, as assumed by Juran and Besterfield is course unit and majors who later assisted by the Academic Section. Course unit and majors in the context of its implementation has become the driving forces that will largely determine the success rate of quality goals to be achieved. However, from the analysis of researcher, there is a weak point in the process of implementation where its process is very static. It is theoretically opposed to quality characteristics itself that do asserts the importance of dynamic quality according to the needs of public customers. Generally, less optimal of its implementation in UMY is due to several constraints as follows;

- a. **Decreasing the number of students entering UMY.** As another universities, especially PTAIS, UMY also confronted by the constraint of decreasing number of students. Or in other words, the number of new students entering in UMY in a span of 4 years is fluctuative with significant inconsistencies. The reality that is quite alarming, on its reality has implications for the lack of UMY's income to support the application of higher educational program quality. Analysis of Middugh³²⁹ who asserts that "Quality is not free" or in need of many funds. Therefore, a more serious, creative and innovative effort is needed faster.
- b. **Yet real another sector funding.** In addition to the decline in the number of new students in recent years, organizationally UMY confronted also by the lack of funding from other sectors that are expected to support the implementation of its higher educational program quality. This case on author's analysis is more likely caused by the lack of units 'business supporting' in UMY.
- c. **Not yet optimal for organizational productivity (academic).** The unoptimal organizational productivity is seen from the lack of papers produced by the lecturers at the UMY in a span of 3 years later. On author's analysis, the conditions experienced in UMY caused by several important points: (1). fairly low commitment of its lecturers performance through research medium and community service. This is caused by the lack of reward perceived by them of UMY leadership, and (2). minimum allocation of research funds provided by UMY for his lecturers.
- d. **Not yet comprehensive support for UMY's excellence.** One indication of it can be analyzed from one of the indicators like the development of the international studies program at UMY that has not entirely run by bilingual system between English and Arabic, but most still use Indonesian language as instructional learning process.

³²⁸. *Ibid*, Besterfield, *Total Quality Management*, 1999.p.61.

³²⁹. Middugh, M.F. *Understanding Faculty Productivity, Standards and Benchmarks for Colleges and Universities*. (San Fransisco: Jossey Bass Publisher. 2008), p.182.

