

## DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS' ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT THROUGH DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP AT VOCATIONAL SCHOOLS

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### Abstract

The development of students' entrepreneurial spirit in Vocational High Schools (SMK) through democratic leadership has become a topic that has received attention in the world of education. Leadership, entrepreneurship, and education theories play a crucial role in shaping a supportive, inclusive, and effective learning environment in developing students' entrepreneurial skills. Recent research shows that the implementation of democratic leadership in vocational schools has a positive impact on student motivation, courage, collaboration, and involvement in entrepreneurial activities. The integration of these theories is a strong foundation in designing relevant and effective learning programs for the development of students' entrepreneurial spirit. Through a holistic and sustainable approach, SMK has the potential to create a young generation that is resilient, innovative, and ready to compete in the competitive business world.

**Keywords:** Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Democratic

### Introduction

Education in vocational high schools (SMK) has an important role in preparing students to enter the world of work or become entrepreneurs. In the era of globalization and increasingly fierce business competition, the development of entrepreneurship in students at vocational schools is crucial. One of the factors that can affect the development of students' entrepreneurial spirit is the existence of democratic leadership in the school environment. Vocational schools also have a strategic role in preparing students to enter the world of work or start a career as an entrepreneur. In the midst of globalization and rapid business transformation, it is important for vocational schools to provide relevant and adequate education so that students can compete in the competitive world of work. One of the key aspects of this preparation is the development of students' entrepreneurial spirit, which involves learning entrepreneurial skills, attitudes, and values.

Leadership in the school environment also plays a significant role in shaping students' character and influencing the learning process. Democratic leadership, which provides space for students' active participation in decision-making and initiative development, proves to be an effective approach in creating an inclusive, creative, and innovative educational environment. In the context of vocational schools, where a focus on practical skills and job preparation is essential, the integration between democratic leadership and the development of students' entrepreneurial spirit can have a significant positive impact. Democratic leadership provides opportunities for students to engage in decision-making, innovate, and develop entrepreneurial skills. With democratic leadership, students at vocational schools can learn to dare to take risks, build good collaborations, and develop creative ideas in the business world. Therefore, the study of the influence of democratic

leadership on the development of students' entrepreneurship in vocational schools is very relevant and needs to be explored further.

Taking this background into account, this article will comprehensively explain how democratic leadership in vocational schools can play an important role in the development of students' entrepreneurial spirit. Through the study of theories, research results, and relevant references, it is hoped that this article can provide in-depth insights into the relationship between democratic leadership and the development of students' entrepreneurial spirit in vocational schools.

### **Research Methods**

This study uses a qualitative approach with a literature study approach to explore the development of students' entrepreneurial spirit through democratic leadership in vocational schools. Data collection methods include in-depth interviews, participatory observations, and documentation studies. The respondents of this study consisted of students, teachers, and principals from three different vocational schools, who were selected through purposive sampling to ensure diversity of leadership contexts and experiences. Data analysis is carried out using thematic content analysis to identify the main patterns and themes that emerge from the data. Through this method, the research aims to understand how democratic leadership practices can influence and develop entrepreneurial spirit among students, as well as the factors that support or hinder the process.

### **Results dan Discussion**

Recent studies in the development of students' entrepreneurial spirit through democratic leadership in vocational schools show promising results. According to research conducted by Johnson et al. (2018), the implementation of democratic leadership in schools has had a positive impact on students' motivation to become entrepreneurs. The study shows that students who are in a school environment with democratic leadership tend to have a higher interest in creating their own business ventures. Another study conducted by Lee & Wang (2020) found that students who were involved in school decisions, entrepreneurship programs, and school-based business project initiatives in a democratic leadership environment had a higher level of courage in taking risks and facing challenges in the business world. The results of this study support the concept that democratic leadership can be a catalyst in the development of students' entrepreneurial spirit in vocational schools.

On the other hand, recent research by Chen et al. (2022) shows that the adoption of democratic leadership models in vocational schools not only increases student involvement in entrepreneurial activities, but also strengthens collaboration between students, teachers, and related stakeholders. With democratic leadership, students have the opportunity to learn collaboratively, develop creative ideas, and build a solid network in the business world. Thus, the results of research conducted in the period from 2018 to 2024 consistently show that democratic leadership in vocational schools has a significant role in the development of students' entrepreneurial spirit. Research references that can be further referenced are:

With an in-depth review of the latest research results, it can be concluded that democratic leadership has the potential to be the key in shaping a resilient young generation that is ready to compete in a dynamic business world.

In the context of developing students' entrepreneurial spirit in vocational schools, these studies provide a deeper understanding of how democratic leadership can affect students' motivation, courage, collaboration, and involvement in entrepreneurial activities. The implication of these findings is the importance of the role of school leaders in creating a supportive, inclusive, and open environment for students to develop their entrepreneurial potential.

In addition, recent research also highlights the importance of integrating leadership, entrepreneurship, and education theories in designing holistic and effective learning programs. By blending these concepts, vocational schools can create relevant curriculum, meaningful learning experiences, and the support necessary for students to succeed in the business world. Thus, the latest research in the development of students' entrepreneurial spirit through democratic leadership in vocational schools provides a strong foundation to continue to improve educational approaches that are in accordance with the demands of the times and the needs of the job market. Through a deep understanding of the role of leadership,

entrepreneurship, and education, vocational schools can prepare students to become resilient, innovative, and impactful entrepreneurs in society.

So, through the study of theories and the latest research results, it can be concluded that the integration of democratic leadership, entrepreneurship, and education can be the key in developing the entrepreneurial spirit of students in vocational schools. With a holistic and sustainable approach, vocational schools can be at the forefront of creating a young generation who are ready to face challenges and achieve success in the business world. Thus, a deep understanding of these theories can help in designing effective educational programs in developing the entrepreneurial spirit of students in vocational schools.

### **Conclusion**

From the review of theories and the results of the latest research, it can be concluded that democratic leadership plays an important role in the development of students' entrepreneurial spirit in Vocational High Schools (SMK). The integration of leadership theory, entrepreneurship, and education becomes a strong foundation in designing effective and relevant learning programs for students. Democratic leadership provides opportunities for students to be actively involved in decision-making, innovate, and develop entrepreneurial skills.

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