

# The Influence of Parents' Socio-Economic Status on the Interest of Vocational High School Students to Continue Study to Higher Education

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Submitted: 25/10/2025

Accepted: 27/11/2025

Published: 29/12/2025

Vol. 3

No. 3

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**Abstract-** This study aims to determine the influence of parental socioeconomic status on students' interest in continuing their studies at university in SMK 1 Pekanbaru and SMKS Masmur Pekanbaru. This study used a quantitative descriptive method. The sample size was 76 students. Data collection was conducted using a questionnaire. Data analysis was conducted using the Chi-Square Test. The results showed an Asimp.Sig. value of 0.001, which is less than 0.05. Therefore, it can be concluded that there is a significant influence between parental education level and students' interest in continuing their studies at university. Furthermore, a significance value of 0.468 ( $p > 0.05$ ) indicates that parental occupation has no effect on students' interest in continuing their studies at university. A significance value of 0.000 ( $p < 0.05$ ) indicates a significant influence between parental income and students' interest in continuing their studies at university.

**Keywords:** Parental Socioeconomic Status, Parental Education, Parental Occupation, Interest in Continuing Studies, SMK Students

## 1 Introduction

Higher education provides opportunities for students to develop science and technology (Nurrohmatulloh, 2016). Education is one of the main instruments in developing the abilities or potential of a nation's next generation to become quality human resources (Munira, 2019).

The BMW orientation (Work, Continuing, Entrepreneurship) which was proclaimed as a strategic road map for Vocational High Schools (SMK) in Indonesia, has become a strong foundation that legitimizes and justifies the urgency of this research. Fundamentally, the inclusion of Continuing (M) elements at the tertiary level in the three main focuses of graduates, confirms the shift in the paradigm of vocational education, Vocational Schools are no longer solely positioned as producing ready-to-use workforce, but also as a solid educational base for continuing study. This official recognition of the "Continuing" route shows the government's commitment to opening up opportunities for vocational school graduates who want to improve their academic and vocational qualifications, so that graduates have double competitiveness.

The interest of students at SMK Negeri 1 Pekanbaru and SMKS Masmur Pekanbaru to continue their studies at higher education is still relatively low or not yet optimal, even though the school has been proactive in trying to increase interest through career guidance services that discuss long-term plans, the benefits of studying, exploring relevant majors, and providing scholarship information. Interview data specifically shows that only 25% of SMKS Masmur students continued their studies (leaving 75% who did not) and 35% of students at SMK Negeri 1 Pekanbaru who continued their studies (leaving 65% who did not), confirming the condition of very low interest in the two vocational schools. This low interest is reinforced by the general view among students that university graduates do not necessarily guarantee employment, and even have the potential to be unemployed, so this perception is the main factor that reduces their motivation to continue their education to a higher level.

### How to Cite

Rezki Ramadan, et al (2025). The Influence of Parents' Socio-Economic Status on the Interest of Vocational High School Students to Continue Study to Higher Education. *Journal of Science, Learning Process and Instructional Research (JoSLEPI)*. 3(3), 16-20

## 2 Research Methodology

This research is a type of survey research using a quantitative approach. Quantitative research is a research method that uses statistical analysis and is adapted to quantitative data or data that is quantified, namely in the form of numbers. The quantitative data obtained was analyzed statistically and using simple calculations (Syahza, 2021).

This research was carried out at SMK Negeri 1 Pekanbaru and SMK Masmur Pekanbaru. This research was carried out from December 2024 until completion. The sample in this study amounted to 76 students. Results and Discussion

### a. Parental Education

**Table 4.5** Contingency table for Socioeconomic Status Variable (Parents' Education Level) and Y Variable (Students' Interest in Continuing to Higher Education)

Parents' education level	Interest in Continuing Studies		Total	P value
	Interested	Less interested		
Elementary and intermediate	22	29	51	0,001
Higher education	21	4	25	
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>76</b>	

Based on table 4.5, out of a total of 51 students whose parents had primary & secondary education, 22 students were interested in continuing their studies, while 29 students were less interested in continuing their studies. Meanwhile, students whose parents were in the highly educated category, with a total of 25 students, 21 students had an interest in continuing their studies, while the remaining 4 students were less interested in continuing their studies.

Based on these data, it can be concluded that there is a tendency for a relationship between the level of parental education and students' interest in continuing their studies at university. Students whose parents have a higher level of education tend to be more interested in continuing their studies compared to students whose parents have primary and secondary education.

Based on the results of data analysis using the chi square test, a significance value of 0.001 ( $p < 0.05$ ) was obtained. It can be concluded that parental education influences students' interest in continuing their studies at university. The results of this research are in line with the research of Talitha Syaikha et al., (2024) that the level of parents' education influences interest in continuing their studies to college, then the findings in the research of Sobayar et al., (2020) state that the level of parents' education influences the interest in continuing their studies to college. And this is also in line with the research results presented by (Lase, 2020) which states that the better the parents' education level, the better the student's interest in continuing to college.

### b. Parents' job

**Table 4.6** Contingency table for Socioeconomic Status Variable (Parents' Occupation) and Variable Y (Students' Interest in Continuing to Higher Education)

Parents' job	Interest in Continuing Studies		Total	P Value
	Interested	Less Interested		

Private-sector employee, entrepreneur, civil servant	27	18	45	0,468
Informal Worker	16	15	31	
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>76</b>	

Based on Table 4.6, of the total 45 students whose parents work as private-sector employees, entrepreneurs, or civil servants, 27 students are interested in pursuing further studies, while the remaining 18 students show low interest in continuing their education. A total of 31 students have parents working in the informal sector; within this employment group, 16 students express an interest in pursuing further studies, whereas the remaining 15 students show low interest in continuing their education.

Based on the results of data analysis using the chi square test, a significance value was obtained 0.468 ( $p > 0.05$ ) it can be concluded that parents' work has no effect on students' interest in continuing their studies at university. This research supports the results of research conducted by Oryza & Listiadi (2021), namely that parents' work has no effect on children's interest in continuing their studies.

### c. Parental Income

**Table 4.7** Contingency table for Socioeconomic Status Variable (Parents' Occupation) and Variable Y (Students' Interest in Continuing to Higher Education)

Parental Income	Interest in Continuing Studies		Total	Nilai P
	Interested	Less Interested		
≤Minimum wage	15	27	42	0,000
>Minimum wage	28	6	34	
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>76</b>	

Based on Table 4.7, out of a total of 42 students who come from families with incomes less than or equal to the Regional Minimum Wage, 15 students are interested in continuing their studies, and 27 students are less interested in continuing their studies. Then, out of a total of 34 students who came from families with incomes greater than the Regional Minimum Wage, 28 students were interested in continuing their studies, while the remaining 6 people were less interested in continuing their studies. Overall, it is clear that the higher the family income level, the more likely students' interest in continuing their studies is in the high category, and the less likely they are to have low interest.

Based on the results of data analysis using the chi square test, a significance value of 0.000 was obtained ( $p < 0.05$ ), it can be concluded that parents' income influences students' interest in continuing their studies at university. This research is in line with research conducted by Talitha Syaikha et al., (2024) which states that parents' income influences interest in continuing their studies at higher education. In line with research conducted by Istiqomah et al., (2016) which also states that parents' income influences their interest in continuing their studies at university.

## 3 Conclusion

This research is to determine the influence of parents' socio-economic status on students' interest in continuing to college. Socioeconomic status includes 3 indicators, namely parents' education level, parents' employment, and parents' income. Based on the research results as described in the previous

chapter, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. The level of parental education influences students' interest in continuing their studies at university.
2. Parents' jobs have no effect on students' interest in continuing their studies at university.
3. Parental income influences students' interest in continuing their studies at university. This shows that the higher the parents' income, the more students will be interested in continuing their studies at university.

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