

## **CAREER TREE PROJECT-BASED LEARNING IN THE CAREER PLANNING OF STUDENTS AT DARULRAHMAH SCHOOL, NARATHIWAT, THAILAND**

*Anan Ayuning Tyas<sup>1</sup>, Abdi Fauji Hadiono<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1,2</sup>Universitas KH. Mukhtar Syafaat

e-mail: [1anaayuning86@gmail.com](mailto:1anaayuning86@gmail.com), [@2abdifauji777@gmail.com](mailto:@2abdifauji777@gmail.com),

### **Abstract**

Students at Darulrahmah School in Narathiwat, Thailand faced challenges in career planning, a situation largely caused by frequent absenteeism and boredom with conventional classroom learning. This study aims to examine the implementation of the Career Tree project-based learning model and to explore the perspectives of the school principal and teachers regarding its role in students' career planning. The research employs a qualitative, descriptive field research approach, with data collected through observation, interviews, and documentation. The results reveal that the implementation of the Career Tree project-based learning at Darulrahmah School has had a significant positive impact on students' career planning. This affirms that the learning approach is effective in preparing students to face real-world employment challenges with greater readiness and confidence..

**Keywords:** *Project Based Learning of Career Tree, Career Planning*

### **Abstrak**

Para Peserta didik Darulrahmah School Narathiwat Thailand mengalami kesulitan dalam perencanaan karir, peristiwa tersebut terjadi karena siswa sering bolos sekolah, bosan mengikuti pembelajaran di kelas. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui penerapan project based learning pohon karir dan mengetahui perspektif kepala sekolah dan guru tentang Project Based Pohon Karir Dalam Perencanaan Karir Siswa Darulrahmah School. Metode penelitian ini menggunakan kualitatif dengan metode deskriptif field reseach, Teknik pengumpulan data menggunakan observasi, wawancara, dan dokumentasi. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pelaksanaan project based learning pohon karir di Darulrahmah School telah memberikan dampak positif yang signifikan dalam perencanaan karir siswa. Hal ini menegaskan bahwa pendekatan pembelajaran ini efektif dalam mempersiapkan siswa untuk menghadapi tantangan di dunia kerja dengan lebih siap dan percaya diri.

**Kata kunci:** *Project Based Learning Pohon Karir, Perencanaan Karir*

## INTRODUCTION

Education is one way to improve skills and enhance the quality of life in national development. Education is an invaluable asset for both individuals and society, as it not only imparts academic knowledge but also provides new insights and experiences. Education helps adolescents become more professional in their thinking and planning for their future careers. By continuously learning about their career aspirations through the educational process, young individuals will be better prepared to face the competitive job market in the globalized era after completing their studies (Agustin & Apriatama, 2023).

Adolescents, in carrying out their developmental tasks, are required to experience changes in attitudes and behavior. According to Santrock, high school students experience a transition phase between childhood and adulthood, which includes biological, cognitive, and socio-emotional changes. Choosing a major in college is the first step for students to identify their talents and interests (Amalia, Handayani, & Hartini, 2020). A child's academic success is influenced by several factors. These factors include health, talent, interests, maturity, motivation, fatigue, attitude, attention, teachers, parents, friends, and environmental conditions.

According to Pooh Mamad, the principal of Darulrahmah School, students often come to school as if it were just a playground. After arriving in class, they often simply sign in and then disappear. This behavior poses a serious challenge to students' enthusiasm and motivation in planning their future careers. The problem at Darulrahmah School is low school enthusiasm, which directly impacts students' career prospects (Interview with Pooh Mamad Abdulwaris, July 10, 2023).

One tool that can be used in career guidance is the career tree. According to Lestari, a career tree is a guidance and counseling tool specifically designed to resemble a tree, making it easier for students to understand the career process according to their individual interests. Career trees are considered

more effective in helping students understand and develop their future careers (Lestari & Putri, 2021). As a guidance and counseling tool, career trees enable students to clearly understand what a career is and how their potential aligns with various career paths (Pranoto & Paxi, 2020).

Based on the explanation above, students' understanding of career planning must be developed effectively and appropriately, one way to do this is through the career tree method. This is because Darulrahmah School students must have a proper understanding and well-structured career planning to support their future according to their potential and abilities. Therefore, the researcher chose the title: *"Project-Based Career Tree in Career Planning of Darulrahmah School Students, Narathiwat, Thailand."*

## **METHOD**

The approach used in this study is qualitative research, which aims to present the social world and its perspectives in terms of concepts, behaviors, perceptions, and issues related to the individuals being studied. The method applied is descriptive qualitative, a research method that utilizes qualitative data and describes it in a structured manner. The type of research conducted is field research, which involves direct data collection in actual locations. The goal of descriptive research is to produce an accurate picture of a group, describing the mechanisms of a process, or the relationships between variables in a specific setting (Moleong, 2016).

Data collection techniques in this study used interviews, documentation, and observation. Interviews involve direct questions and answers between the interviewer and respondents. Documentation comes from the word "document," which refers to written material. Observation is a data collection process in which the researcher goes directly into the research field, carefully and systematically examining the object of study (Sugiyono, 2010).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. The Implementation of Project Based Learning on Career Tree in Career Planning for Students of Darulrahmah School.**

In this study, the subjects were students who were struggling with career planning, and several students in the same class frequently skipped class. The reason for their absence was a lack of motivation to study. According to MK. Abdullah in his book, *Kamus Lengkap Bahasa Indonesia* (Complete Indonesian Dictionary), laziness is defined as reluctance or unwillingness. Laziness is a condition in which a person feels unwilling to do something due to negative perceptions or a lack of desire to engage in the activity. Therefore, academic laziness can be defined as a student's reluctance to learn, influenced by negative factors.

Examining the situation at Darulrahmah School, the researchers proposed the implementation of Project-Based Learning (PBL) using the Career Tree, which aims to develop students' career planning mindset by fostering their enthusiasm for learning. Career planning is a systematic process for designing and managing one's career development. It involves identifying career goals, assessing strengths and weaknesses, exploring career options, developing necessary skills and knowledge, and taking concrete steps to achieve those goals. Career planning is crucial for students, even those who face learning challenges or lack motivation (Sulistiyowati, Fitriawan, & Siregar, 2024).

Project-Based Learning (PBL) is an instructional approach in which students learn through practical experiences completing real-world projects that require problem-solving, collaboration, and the application of relevant knowledge and skills. PBL offers several advantages, including:

- a) Increasing student engagement through active participation.
- b) Encouraging collaboration and teamwork.
- c) Applying knowledge in real-life settings, making learning more relevant.

- d) Developing critical and creative thinking to solve complex problems.

A career tree is a visual tool that emphasizes the flexibility and variety of career paths individuals can take to achieve their professional goals.

The concept resembles a tree, where:

- a) The roots represent the foundations of a career, such as initial interests, basic education, and early skill development.
- b) The trunk represents the primary career path, outlining the chosen profession or core industry.
- c) The branches depict various options and specializations, offering individuals a variety of directions to explore within their career field.

In Project-Based Learning (PBL) using Career Trees for student career planning, teachers develop structured steps based on PBL theory to effectively guide students (George Lucas Educational Foundation, 2018). The implementation has several stages, namely:

At the beginning of the session, the instructor asks students casual questions to stimulate participation in Project-Based Learning. These questions focus on their personal interests, future aspirations, preferences in the school environment, and aspects they dislike about school. The next step involves the teacher explaining the concept of Project-Based Learning using Career Trees.

In the second session, students gather in their groups. Before beginning the career tree creation process, the teacher provides an in-depth explanation of the importance of career planning.

In the third session, students gather in their groups. Before beginning the career tree creation process, the teacher allocates time for all participants to pause and reflect on their aspirations and future goals.

In the final session, students are invited to provide a detailed explanation or presentation of the results of the Career Tree project they developed in the previous session. The main focus of their presentation is to explain how their aspirations relate to their chosen majors.

## **B. The Perspective of School Principals and Teachers on Project Based Learning of Career Trees in Career Planning**

By engaging in comprehensive evaluations of the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains, principals can provide holistic feedback to students on their progress in the Career Tree-based project.

### **1. Cognitive Aspect**

Based on interview findings, the researcher asked the principal: "What do you think the impact of the Career Tree project-based learning has been on students' career planning regarding the various career options available?" The principal's response was: "Through the career tree, students can broaden their awareness of the importance of schooling and gain insight into their future academic paths."

Miss Susrina Kalee also stated: "Through the career tree, students are now able to recognize the importance of school and the need to plan their careers for the future."

Similarly, Miss Reyhan revealed: "Thanks to the career tree, students at Darulrahmah are now aware of the steps they need to take after graduation; many of them are now more inclined to continue their higher education rather than immediately entering the workforce."

### **2. Affective Aspect**

Based on interviews with the principal: "The career tree makes students more proactive in planning their future based on their individual talents and interests." This study revealed that students' participation in the Career Tree project-based learning resulted in significant improvements in their affective dimensions.

### 3. Psychomotor Aspects

Based on interviews with the principal, he said, "When students successfully apply the practical skills they learn through the Career Tree project, they tend to receive positive feedback from teachers, mentors, or peers. This feedback can boost their confidence because they recognize their ability to perform tasks that reflect real-world situations."

Research conducted at Darulrahmah School showed a marked shift in students' motivation and career planning. Previously, students experienced a marked decline in their enthusiasm for learning, which hindered their ability to plan for the future. However, after implementing the Career Tree project-based learning model, a significant positive transformation occurred. This approach not only revitalized students' enthusiasm for learning but also helped them gain a clearer understanding of career planning.

## CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that the Career Tree Project-Based Learning model is effective in enhancing students' understanding and engagement in career planning. Through the implementation of this method, students not only gain knowledge about various career paths available but also develop the ability to connect their interests and skills with appropriate career choices. Thus, the overall findings of this study indicate that the implementation of the Career Tree Project-Based Learning model at Darulrahmah School in Narathiwat, Thailand, has had a significant positive impact on students' career planning. This confirms that this instructional approach is effective in preparing students to face real-world challenges with greater preparedness and confidence.

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