



Bridging Borders: Exploring Diplomatic Ties Through Educational Exchange Between South Korea And Indonesia

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Article Info

Article history:

Received May 15, 2024

Revised May 18, 2024

Accepted May 24, 2024

Keywords:

Diplomasi,
Pertukaran pelajar,
Promosi,
Pendidikan

Keywords:

Diplomacy,
Student exchanges,
Promotion,
Education

ABSTRAK

Dalam era globalisasi, diplomasi publik melalui pendidikan menjadi semakin penting dalam memperkuat hubungan antar negara. Program pertukaran pendidikan antara Korea Selatan dan Indonesia menjadi salah satu contoh konkret dari upaya menjembatani perbatasan dan menjelajahi hubungan diplomatik antara kedua negara. Melalui program ini, kedua negara memperluas kerjasama bilateral dalam bidang pendidikan dengan memfasilitasi pertukaran pelajar, dosen, dan penelitian antar lembaga pendidikan. Program ini tidak hanya memperdalam pemahaman budaya dan nilai-nilai antar kedua negara, tetapi juga memberikan kontribusi nyata dalam pembangunan sumber daya manusia di Korea Selatan dan Indonesia. Dengan memanfaatkan konsep interkulturalisme dan diplomasi pendidikan, pertukaran pendidikan tidak hanya menciptakan hubungan bilateral yang lebih erat, tetapi juga berkontribusi pada pembangunan masyarakat yang lebih terdidik, berdaya saing, dan inovatif di kedua negara.

ABSTRACT

In the era of globalization, public diplomacy through education is becoming increasingly important in strengthening relations between countries. The educational exchange program between South Korea and Indonesia is a concrete example of efforts to bridge borders and explore diplomatic relations between the two countries. Through this program, the two countries expand bilateral cooperation in the field of education by facilitating student, lecturer and research exchanges between educational institutions. This program not only deepens understanding of culture and values between the two countries, but also makes a real contribution to human resource development in South Korea and Indonesia. By utilizing the concepts of interculturalism and educational diplomacy, educational exchanges not only create closer bilateral relations, but also contribute to the development of more educated, competitive and innovative societies in both countries.

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1. INTRODUCTIONS

Diplomacy through education is one form of public diplomacy that is becoming increasingly popular in the international arena. Public diplomacy itself is a "softer" approach to conducting diplomacy, aiming to increase public knowledge about a country, change perceptions, enhance appreciation, and strengthen relationships between countries through various means, including education and pop culture [1]. Diplomacy in international relations through education plays a crucial role in strengthening ties between countries. Through student exchanges, scholarship programs, and academic collaborations, nations can build strong intercultural bridges. Education serves as a tool to broaden understanding, enhance tolerance, and promote peace among nations. Student exchange programs provide individuals with the opportunity to study in a new environment, understand other cultures and customs, and deepen their knowledge of global issues [2].

In 2024, the diplomatic relations between the Republic of Indonesia and the Republic of Korea reach 51 years, marking a long journey of bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Although their official relations began in September 1973, consular-level relations had existed since August 1966, marking the initial steps in building a close cooperative relationship. The establishment of official diplomatic relations in 1973 was a significant milestone in strengthening and expanding the partnership between Indonesia and South Korea, paving the way for broader collaboration in various fields, including politics, economics, culture, and education [3].

The educational exchange program between South Korea and Indonesia is a concrete example of efforts to bridge borders and explore diplomatic relations between the two countries. Through this program, both nations strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of education by facilitating the exchange of students, lecturers, and research between educational institutions. By experiencing different educational environments, program participants can enhance their understanding of each other's culture, language, and daily life. Additionally, this program encourages the exchange of knowledge, technology, and experiences between the two countries, which can yield long-term benefits in education and human development. Through this collaboration, South Korea and Indonesia fortify their bilateral relationship, promote mutual understanding and cooperation, and expand their diplomatic networks at the educational level. Thus, educational exchange becomes an effective means of building connections between countries, bridging cultural differences, and deepening diplomatic relations between South Korea and Indonesia [4].

The positive impacts of educational exchanges on human resource development and the enhancement of educational quality in both countries are significant. By expanding access to cross-border education, educational exchange programs encourage innovation and collaborative learning, which in turn can contribute to the economic and social development of Indonesia and South Korea. Through programs such as student exchanges, lecturer exchanges, and other academic collaborations, individuals from both countries have the opportunity to study and work in different educational environments, broadening their understanding of each other's culture, language, and traditions.

It is crucial to strengthen the cooperative network between educational institutions, governments, and the private sectors in South Korea and Indonesia. Close collaboration among

these various parties can lead to innovations in education and research, as well as support the effective implementation of educational exchange programs. This, in turn, supports the development of stronger bilateral relations between South Korea and Indonesia. Educational exchanges are not just about transferring knowledge; they are also about building understanding, trust, and mutually beneficial relationships between the two countries.

2. METHOD

The type of research used in this research proposal is qualitative research. The purpose of qualitative research is research that is used to find out a phenomenon about a research subject that you want to study. Qualitative research methods are research methods based on literacy, which are used to research on scientific conditions (experiments) where researchers are instruments, data collection techniques and qualitative analysis emphasize more on meaning. More specifically, the coverage part of the type of research used by the author is descriptive type. Descriptive studies present a description of the type of person or social activity and focus on the question "How?" "Who is involved?" and more in-depth to investigate new problems or explain the reasons for something happening. The purpose of this descriptive type is to make a description, description systematically, factually, and accurately about the facts, properties and relationships between the phenomena being investigated. qualitative descriptive research method is a method used by researchers to find knowledge or theory on research at a certain time [5].

In this study using a research approach using *Grounded Theory* will provide in-depth insight into the dynamics of diplomatic relations through educational exchanges between the two countries. The *Grounded Theory* approach is a qualitative research method that aims to develop new theories from the data collected, not to test pre-existing hypotheses [6].

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

3.1 The Dynamics of Educational Exchange Between South Korea and Indonesia in Influencing the Diplomatic Relations of Both Countries.

The exchange of education encompasses not only student exchanges but also involves collaboration between educational institutions, joint academic programs, and other collaborative activities. Through educational exchange, both countries can understand each other's cultures, values, and education systems, thereby deepening bilateral relations between the two countries. Educational exchange becomes an important instrument in public diplomacy that enables interactions between individuals from diverse cultural and social backgrounds. Through these exchanges, students and academics can exchange experiences, knowledge, and skills, which help build a better understanding of each other's societies, cultures, and traditions. Education cooperation between South Korea and Indonesia also provides concrete benefits in the development of human resources (HR) in both countries. Students participating in educational exchange programs have the opportunity to learn in different academic environments, enhance interpersonal skills, and expand their professional networks. This ultimately contributes to the competitiveness and quality of human resources in both countries. Additionally, educational exchange creates opportunities for further collaboration in various fields, including scientific research, technology development, and innovation. Through joint academic and research cooperation, South Korea and Indonesia can share knowledge and

experiences, enhance research and innovation capacities in both countries, and promote sustainable development.

The dynamics of educational exchange between South Korea and Indonesia not only create closer bilateral relations but also contribute to the development of more educated, competitive, and innovative societies in both countries. Therefore, it is important for both countries to continue strengthening their educational cooperation and harnessing collaborative potential to strengthen diplomatic relations and achieve shared development goals.

South Korea has utilized education as one of its tools of public diplomacy, aiming to strengthen bilateral relations and influence Indonesian society's perception of South Korea. One of the bodies involved in this effort is the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). KOICA employs various strategies in implementing its educational programs, such as Quality Primary Education, Training Technical Resources, and Development of Human Resources Through Higher Education. KOICA's education projects aim to influence partner countries to follow South Korea's desired path.

The diplomatic relations between South Korea and Indonesia have been further strengthened by the signing of the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership to Promote Friendship and Cooperation in the 21st Century by President of the Republic of Indonesia Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and President of the Republic of South Korea Roh Moo Hyun in Jakarta in 2006. This signing marks a new chapter in strengthening relations between the two countries and enhancing cooperation in various sectors, including education. South Korea's cooperation projects in Indonesia have proven effective as tools of public diplomacy. This can be seen from the achievements South Korea has obtained in its public diplomacy efforts. However, this success also poses a challenge for Indonesia, as the projects carried out by KOICA in Indonesia are generally aimed at influencing Indonesian society's perception of South Korea, raising concerns that Indonesians may become more interested in South Korea than their own country [7].

3.2 The Contribution of Educational Exchange in Deepening Cultural Understanding and Cooperation Between South Korea and Indonesia

The contribution of educational exchange can be understood through two main concepts: first, interculturalism, and second, educational diplomacy. With explanations as follows:

1. Interculturalism

Highlighting the importance of intercultural interaction in enhancing understanding and tolerance among individuals from different cultural backgrounds. Through educational exchange, students and academics from South Korea and Indonesia can engage in deep cultural dialogues, exploring both the similarities and differences in their cultures, and enriching their cultural experiences. By directly interacting in multicultural environments, they can better understand each other's values, traditions, languages, and cultural perspectives, thereby deepening bilateral relations between the two countries [8].

2. Educational Diplomacy

Educational diplomacy facilitates educational exchanges and promotes cooperation between countries. It encompasses various activities dedicated to expanding access to education, improving its quality, and building international relations through education. In the context of educational exchange between South Korea and Indonesia, educational diplomacy facilitates

the implementation of exchange programs, the development of collaboration between educational institutions, and the increased mobility of students and academics. Through these initiatives, educational diplomacy helps deepen cultural understanding and strengthen cooperation between the two countries.

By combining the concepts of interculturalism and educational diplomacy, educational exchanges between South Korea and Indonesia not only enrich individuals' experiences in understanding each other's cultures but also lay a strong foundation for broader bilateral cooperation. Thus, educational exchange becomes an important instrument in deepening cultural understanding and strengthening cooperation between South Korea and Indonesia, as well as promoting peace and harmony among nations globally.

Another contribution to deepening cultural understanding and cooperation between South Korea and Indonesia through educational exchange can be seen through various initiatives undertaken by the King Sejong Institute Foundation (KSIF). One of the main programs run by KSIF is the cultural exchange program, which includes Korean language and culture courses as well as an annual cultural festival called "Korean Culture Day". This festival introduces various aspects of Korean culture such as language, dance, games, traditional clothing, food, and even calligraphy, all provided free of charge. Additionally, KSIF also hosts special guest lectures on Korean language and culture and invites celebrities to deliver special lectures broadcasted through YouTube and Nuri-Sejonghakdang. These programs not only introduce Korean culture to the Indonesian community but also strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries through deeper cultural understanding.

Cooperation in the cultural and educational fields is also supported by official agreements between the Indonesian and South Korean governments, signifying both countries' commitment to strengthening friendship through people-to-people exchanges. With these programs in place, both Indonesia and South Korea can learn from and understand each other's cultures, ultimately strengthening cooperation in various other fields [8].

3.3 Educational Exchange and Human Resource Development (HRD) in South Korea and Indonesia

Educational exchange plays a significant role in human resource development (HRD) in South Korea and Indonesia. In South Korea, HRD has been a primary focus, with core cultural values such as respect for authority, concern for the collective, harmony in interpersonal relationships, and emphasis on teamwork contributing directly to efficiency and effectiveness. On the other hand, in Indonesia, education and health are considered vital components in driving economic growth and human resource development [9].

Student exchange programs, such as those launched by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia, such as the Merdeka Belajar (Freedom to Learn) and Kampus Merdeka (Freedom Campus) programs, provide opportunities for students to enhance their self-efficacy and broaden their horizons. Additionally, human resource management in educational institutions, such as in SMPIT (Islamic Junior High School), plays a crucial role in improving the quality of education through various aspects such as planning, organizing, directing, and controlling. The importance of quality human development is also evident in research in Indonesia, where the quality of human development positively contributes to economic growth, with health having a greater impact than education. Character education is also considered an

important factor in preparing quality human resources, and educational exchange, human resource development, and human resource management play crucial roles in strengthening HRD in South Korea and Indonesia, which in turn will support the economic and social development of both countries [10].

Quality human resources are vital assets for the progress and economic growth of a country. Aspects to consider in the contribution of educational exchange to human resource development in South Korea and Indonesia include:

1. Enhancement of Access and Quality of Education

Educational exchange enables students from both countries to study in different academic environments and gain access to quality curriculum, facilities, and faculty. This can enhance the quality of education in both countries and provide valuable learning experiences for students.

2. Skills and Competency Development

Through educational exchange, students can develop interpersonal skills, openness to diversity, and adaptability to new environments. Additionally, they can also expand their professional networks and develop foreign language skills, all of which are important aspects of comprehensive human resource development.

3. Knowledge and Technology Transfer

Educational exchange also facilitates the transfer of knowledge and technology between South Korea and Indonesia. Students studying abroad can bring back new knowledge and skills they have acquired, as well as introduce best practices in their fields of study to their home countries. This can help enhance innovation and productivity in certain sectors.

4. Enhancement of Labor Mobility

Educational exchange can also facilitate labor mobility between South Korea and Indonesia. Students with experience studying abroad often find it easier to obtain international job opportunities or scholarships for further advanced studies. This can increase skilled labor mobility between the two countries and support sustainable economic growth.

Educational exchange not only provides individual benefits for students but also significantly contributes to human resource development in South Korea and Indonesia. Through ongoing educational cooperation, both countries can continue to strengthen their human capacity and better address global challenges [11].

South Korea is known for its highly competitive and high-standard education system. They place a strong emphasis on formal education, with a focus on mathematics, science, and technology. On the other hand, Indonesia has a more diverse education system, with an emphasis on the development of practical and technical skills. South Korea has been successful in sending thousands of students abroad to study at leading universities worldwide. They also welcome many international students to study in South Korea, creating a multicultural and diverse environment. On the other hand, Indonesia is also experiencing an increase in educational exchange, but more efforts are needed to attract international students and enhance educational mobility.

South Korea has successfully created highly skilled and innovative human resources, contributing to the economic growth of the country. With a focus on technical and scientific education, South Korea has been able to produce a workforce ready to compete in the global market. On the other hand, Indonesia still faces challenges in creating high-quality human

resources. Despite its rich natural resources, the lack of equitable educational opportunities and inconsistent education quality have been obstacles to human resource development in Indonesia.

4. CONCLUSIONS

The dynamics of educational exchanges between South Korea and Indonesia have a significant impact on the diplomatic relations between the two countries. Educational exchanges not only include aspects of student exchange, but also involve cooperation between educational institutions, joint academic programs, and other collaborative activities. Through these exchanges, the two countries can understand each other's cultures, values, and education systems, which in turn deepens the bilateral relationship between the two countries. Educational exchanges are an important instrument in public diplomacy, allowing interaction between individuals from different cultural and social backgrounds. Students and academics from both countries can exchange experiences, knowledge and skills, helping to build a better understanding of each other's societies, cultures and traditions.

Future research could focus on analyzing the role of diplomatic bodies, such as Embassies and Consulates, in facilitating and promoting educational exchange programs between the two countries. This includes an evaluation of the public diplomacy efforts undertaken by diplomatic agencies to support educational exchanges. It can also explore the contribution of educational exchanges to human resource development in South Korea and Indonesia. This involves analyzing the impact of educational exchange programs in improving the quality and skills of human resources, as well as their implications for economic growth and sustainable development.

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