



Socialization in Improving the Quality of English Teaching at SMA Negeri 3 Pematangsiantar: A Case Study on TOEFL

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Abstract

This socialization activity aims to introduce and provide knowledge and insight to students at the SMA Negeri 3 Pematangsiantar about the TOEFL test. The socialization activity regarding the introduction of TOEFL to vocational school students, was held on January 18, 2024. Participants in this socialization activity were 11 grade vocational school students totaling 31 people. Participants gain new knowledge about the TOEFL test. There were three phases in conducting this socialization, namely preparation, implementation and evaluation. The results obtained from this socialization activity are, they know and understand what the TOEFL test is, types of questions in the TOEFL test, number of questions tested in the TOEFL test, duration and time for completing TOEFL questions, tips for studying TOEFL and also the importance of TOEFL test. This socialization can also increase student's motivation to study English more seriously. They can view the TOEFL exam as a challenge to overcome and as a first step towards success in their future academic and professional careers. From the results above it can be concluded that this activity gave a positive impact for the students in the future.

Key words: socialization, improving, TOEFL, quality

Abstrak

Kegiatan sosialisasi ini bertujuan untuk memperkenalkan dan memberikan pengetahuan serta wawasan kepada para siswa-siswi di SMA Negeri 3 Pematangsiantar mengenai tes TOEFL. Kegiatan sosialisasi mengenai pengenalan TOEFL kepada siswa-siswi SMK ini, dilaksanakan pada tanggal 18 Januari 2024. Peserta dalam kegiatan sosialisasi ini adalah siswa-siswi SMK kelas 11 yang berjumlah 31 orang. Peserta mendapatkan pengetahuan baru mengenai tes TOEFL. Terdapat tiga tahap dalam pelaksanaan sosialisasi ini, yaitu persiapan, pelaksanaan, dan evaluasi. Hasil yang diperoleh dari kegiatan sosialisasi ini adalah, mereka mengetahui dan memahami apa itu tes TOEFL, jenis-jenis soal dalam tes TOEFL, jumlah soal yang diujikan dalam tes TOEFL, durasi dan waktu pengerjaan soal-soal TOEFL, kiat-kiat dalam mempelajari TOEFL dan juga pentingnya tes TOEFL. Sosialisasi ini juga dapat meningkatkan motivasi siswa untuk belajar bahasa Inggris dengan lebih serius. Mereka dapat memandang ujian TOEFL sebagai tantangan yang harus dilalui dan sebagai langkah awal untuk meraih kesuksesan dalam karir akademis dan profesional mereka di masa depan. Dari hasil di atas dapat disimpulkan bahwa kegiatan ini memberikan dampak yang positif bagi para siswa di masa depan.

Kata Kunci : sosialisasi, peningkatan, TOEFL, kualitas

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INTRODUCTION

TOEFL or Test of English as a Foreign Language is a test used to measure a person's English language skills. Created to specific standards, the test results will show whether a person has active English language skills or not. Usually, those who take TOEFL will be asked to take a number of tests and are expected to get a good score. In practice, TOEFL administering institutions usually have scoring guidelines to determine a person's abilities based on the scores obtained. This test is a registered test service from ETS (Educational Testing Service) which has been around since 1947 in the United States.

The TOEFL test is carried out with the aim of assessing the extent of a person's grammar and writing skills to be able to write scientific writing. Then the TOEFL test is carried out to measure a person's ability to read English so that they can later understand the required books and materials.

For students the TOEFL test is useful for continuing their education to university. Because some majors in universities have requirements for the TOEFL test. TOEFL is also useful for getting scholarships for students, especially for high school students.

TOEFL is divided into 4 parts, namely:

1. Listening Comprehension

This section is to test your ability by listening to conversations or short speeches in English via recordings or other audio provided by the TOEFL test committee. In listening comprehension, the number of questions has 50 questions with a time of 40 minutes.

2. Structure and Written Expression

In this section, what is tested is understanding English grammar and everyday expressions found in written English. In addition, this section also requires the ability to use and where errors in expression or grammar. The number of questions has 40 questions with a time of 25 minutes.

3. Reading Comprehension

This section is to test the ability to understand various types of scientific literature on: subject, main idea, content of reading, meaning of words or phrases, as well as detailed information about the reading. Due to the high level of vocabulary and difficulty of the text used in reading, appropriate strategies must be used in working on this section. Has 50 questions with 55 minutes.

4. Test of Written English (TWE)

In this part of the test is English writing skills in the form of an essay. Will accept a certain topic and you are asked to write a short essay. However, not all TOEFL tests test in the form of TWE, in fact only a few TWE include it as a form of testing material. The TWE score is also given separately from the overall TOEFL score. The rating scale starts from 1-6. When TWE is part of the TOEFL test, it is usually administered before Listening Comprehension. The number of questions is only one time 30 minutes.

This is the function of TOEFL:

1. College Entrance Requirements

When applying to study in both foreign and domestic universities, there are some universities that require TOEFL to determine the English language ability of each

student. Domestic universities will require a minimum score of 450 and overseas universities will require a minimum score of 600.

2. Job Application Requirements

Currently, some company agencies require applicants to take the TOEFL test first. English language skills will provide added value for applicants, especially in companies with an international scope.

3. Scholarship Requirements

Scholarship granting institutions, especially overseas scholarships, often require a TOEFL test for applicants in addition to academic and non-academic qualifications.

METHOD OF IMPLEMENTATION

The socialization activity regarding the introduction of TOEFL to vocational school students, was held on January 18, 2024. This activity was carried out at the SMA Negeri 3 Pematangsiantar for 11 grade students with a total of 20 student's.

This socialization activity includes several stages including:

1. Preparation

- Preparing a permit letter with the aim of requesting permission from the school principal to carry out socialization activities at the SMA Negeri 3 Pematangsiantar.
- Preparing tools and materials.

2. Implementation

- An opening socialization by saying thank you for providing the opportunity to socialize and then introductions to students in the class.
- Providing a presentation or explanation about TOEFL.

3. Evaluation

- Open a question and answer session on the material that has been presented.
- Closing the socialization by the presenters.



Figure 1. Explain material TOEFL to students by Mutiara



Figure 2. Interaction between researchers with students



Figure 3. Presentation about TOEFL by Mutiara

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

A. RESULTS

After conducting socialization, which was done on January 18, 2024, researchers discovered a number of outcomes. The outcomes that were reached were

1. Preparation

- Preparing a permit letter with the aim of requesting permission from the school principal to carry out socialization activities at the SMA Negeri 3 Pematangsiantar.
- Request that educators use the classroom as a socialization tool.
- On January 18 2023, distribute socializing materials for the TOEFL.
- Assure that students engage in socialization activities in a proactive and well-organized way.

2. Implementation

- An opening socialization by saying thank you for providing the opportunity to socialize and then introductions to students in the class.
- Providing a presentation or explanation about TOEFL.

3. Evaluation

After the presenter has finished providing an explanation regarding the introduction to TOEFL and its benefits, we will provide a question and answer session and open the opportunity for grade 11 students to ask questions about the material explained.

This socialization aims to provide the knowledge and skills needed in community life and encourage students to develop their abilities to be able to communicate effectively with other people and instill values and norms of behavior according to community rules and beliefs. To understand the role and social status of each individual.

B. Challenges in Socialization Activities

At SMA Negeri 3 Pematangsiantar, we encountered a number of obstacles that they faced after receiving an explanation about TOEFL.

1. Students don't know what TOEFL is,
2. most grade 11 students also don't know the various forms.
3. The majority of eleventh graders are unaware of the benefits of taking the TOEFL or the importance of meeting prerequisites for studying abroad.

C. Steps to Overcome Challenges

1. The speaker explains the material and provides an understanding of the types and benefits of TOEFL which can increase knowledge and interest in participating in TOEFL activities
2. The speaker reminds students to actively look for TOEFL test questions on any social media to practice their students' TOEFL
3. The speaker reminds students to understand how to determine TOEFL objective scores

CONCLUSION

Based on socialization activities on January 18 2024 at SMA Negeri 3 Pematangsiantar, it can be concluded

The results of this service activity are as follows:

1. Students and girls are very involved in socialization activities;
2. The results show that the socialization activities for students went well and smoothly.
3. Participants gain a new understanding of the TOEFL test, including what the TOEFL test is, what types of questions are included in it, and strategies for answering TOEFL questions.

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