

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Decentralization of education is the first step of educational reformation (Isjoni, 2006: 8). Decentralization of education is an effort to look for a new paradigm to find the philosophy and national education system. Therefore, decentralization of education must always be applied in order that national education system as a vehicle of the national unity and to improve the nation's competitiveness in facing the global world.

One implementation of educational decentralization is school-based management. It is the granting of autonomy to school in implementing educational activities. In this case, the school must empower people in managing the school's household by referring to the national policy framework. School-based management is held in order to make the school can be freely to manage sources based on the priority of need and respect toward local need.

School as an organization has its own culture which is established and influenced by the values, perception, habit, custom, education policies, and behavior of people who are in it (Komariah, 2008: 101). As an organization, school shows distinctiveness in accordance with the core business that is learning. School culture should show the capability which is relevant to the demand of learning i.e. develop students based on the humanitarian principles.

The process of education or learning in school can not proceed without any adequate financial support. Implication of the implementation of educational decentralization makes decision-makers often have several difficulties in finding reference about the educational funding components. The need is felt even more urgent since the commencement of regional autonomy implementation, which also includes education. Moreover, the financial issue has a high contribution to determine the success of school-based management program, Competence-Based Curriculum, and Standard-Based Curriculum which are applied today.

Educational funding is all expenditure which is directly related to education (Harsono, 2008: 9). According to its source, educational funding can be classified into four types: (1) educational fund from the government; (2) educational fund from parents; (3) educational fund from the society not parents; and (4) educational fund from the institution itself. One form of educational funding from the government based on the school-based management is the Operational Assistance for Quality Management (OAQM) for Senior High School and Vocational School students.

The Operational Assistance for Quality Management (OAQM) has been running for a year, since 2009-2010. Several evaluations have been done and it has a positive value in which almost 80% of pioneering schools have implemented this program properly, so this condition gives big hope that the scope of this program can be expanded. From this reason, the Operational Assistance for Quality Management is expected to be applied by all schools.

In the early of Operational Assistance for Quality Management, the school that becomes the pioneer gets fund from Operational Assistance for Quality Management (OAQM). But it must be understood that the OAQM fund is only as the financial inducement. In the end, all schools are expected to use this fund without relating it with a certain incentive.

In fact, from several studies found that one of the school weaknesses is the quality of human resources and not well-organized of quality improvement system in school. Even just a few schools have a comprehensive of quality improvement system. Generally, school has an annual action plan, but seldom to have a continuous quality improvement plan. In addition to that, there are many schools in preparing annual an annual action plan seem oriented to the use of their own fund, even if there are schools which are asked about their annual activities plan, they show School budget plan.

On the other hand, experts agree that the school quality improvement plan is essential to guide all parties to which the school will be upgraded. The phenomenon of the emergence of annual activity plan on the use of fund is considered because of the school's lack of understanding toward the integrated quality improvement management system. Consequently, when the school has to make an annual activity plan, thing that happened is how to utilize the budget as well as possible. The unavailability of comprehensive quality improvement plan also makes the school's annual plan is not sustainable from year to year.

Based on the above description and the many problems of OAQM fund management in school, the researcher is interested in conducting a research about the management of OAQM fund management. This study tries to find information whether the OAQM fund management is relevant with the procedure or not. It has a title about *The Management of Operational Assistance for Quality Management (OAQM) at SMA Negeri 3 Salatiga*. This location is selected because *SMA Negeri 3 Salatiga* has not become the pioneering of International standard school. OAQM fund is only given to school that has no status of Pioneering of International standard school. *SMA Negeri 3 Salatiga* also has an academic achievement which is quite prominent than other high schools in Salatiga. The good success and academic achievement is not lost of the effective leadership and school management, in which one of it related to the management of school finance.

B. Focus

Based on the above research background, this research has a focus on, “*What are the characteristics of OAQM Fund Management at SMA Negeri 3 Salatiga?*” The focus is elaborated into two subfocuses.

1. What are characteristics of OAQM fund policy at *SMA Negeri 3 Salatiga*?
2. What are characteristics of the use of OAQM fund at *SMA Negeri 3 Salatiga*?

C. Research Objective

There are two objectives to be achieved in this study.

1. Describing the characteristics of OAQM fund policy at *SMA Negeri 3 Salatiga*.
2. Describing the characteristics of the use of OAQM fund at *SMA Negeri 3 Salatiga*.

D. Research Benefit

1. Theoretical Benefit

a. Policy maker

This research is expected to become an input for the policy maker taking a decision related to the management of OAQM fund.

b. Development of Science

This research is expected to increase the repertoire of science in the educational management science, especially school finance.

2. Practical Benefit

The result of this study can provide several practical benefits to.

a. Department of Education

As the input, especially for the policy maker toward the implementation of operational assistance for quality management in order to improve the quality of education in Salatiga.

b. For Senior High School

As the material of evaluation toward the implementation of operational assistance for quality management that has been running.

c. For the principal of Senior High School

As an input in proposing, disbursing, and reporting of operational assistance fund for quality management.

d. School community

As an input of developing school's quality.

e. For the next researcher

As a reference to do a study related to the management of grant especially for poor students.

E. Glossary

1. School's financial management includes the management of school's fee payment, fund from the government, and financial management from school's fee.
2. The operational assistance for quality management is the government program of funding non-personnel cost of high school educational unit as a compulsory program executive.