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Sidarta Prasetyo, Ratna Sari, Ratni Dewi

Harvesting Finnish Education Best Practice

*A Learning Diary
Approach*



HARVESTING

FINNISH EDUCATION

BEST PRACTICE

A Learning Diary Approach

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A Learning Diary Approach

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This book is dedicated to:

The **students** of Indonesia's vocational education system, whose potential and dreams inspire us to innovate and strive for excellence.

The **educators**, who are the torchbearers of knowledge, guiding the next generation toward a brighter future through transformative teaching practices.

The **future leaders** of vocational education, who will carry forward the lessons and insights shared in these pages, fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and student-centered learning environment in Indonesia.

Preface

This book is the result of an extraordinary learning journey. In 2023, a group of vocational educators from Indonesia were given a rare opportunity to immerse themselves in the Finnish education system—long admired as one of the best in the world. Through a non-degree professional development program facilitated by the Directorate General of Vocational Education, namely “Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences: Vision, Management, and Role in Education”, participants did more than just observe Finnish educational practices; they experienced a profound personal transformation as educators, leaders, and lifelong learners.

Harvesting Finnish Education Best Practice: A Learning Diary Approach, adopts a unique format: reflective learning diaries written by the program’s participants. This approach offers an authentic, personal, and empathetic lens into their cross-cultural experiences. The book is organized into two main sections—reflections from vocational lecturers and from institutional directors—providing a comprehensive portrayal of how core Finnish educational values such as trust, teacher autonomy, equity, and student well-being can serve as a source of inspiration for reforming vocational education in Indonesia.

We hope this book not only documents an academic journey but also sparks dialogue, inspires change, and serves as a reference for educators, policymakers, and anyone invested in the future of education in our country. In a world of constant change, the stories and insights shared here remind us that meaningful learning can happen anywhere—as long as we are open in both mind and heart.

Lastly, we extend our sincere gratitude to all who supported the publication of this book, particularly the Directorate General of Vocational Education, our Finnish partner institutions: Arctic Nest and Kajaani University of Applied Sciences, and all contributors who generously and sincerely shared their stories and lessons.

Happy reading—and may this book inspire small steps toward big changes.

Padang, June 2025

Willson Gustiawan, Ph.D. (Editor)

On behalf of the Writing Team

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Last but not least, we would like to thank our fellow colleagues who accompanied us on this educational journey. The camaraderie, exchange of ideas, and mutual support have enriched

our experience and made this endeavor both meaningful and memorable.

This book is a reflection of our collective learning journey, and it is dedicated to everyone who has been a part of this transformative experience. We hope that the insights shared within these pages will contribute to the advancement of vocational education in Indonesia.

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