

## Personal Statement

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I was born in Semarang and completed my primary and secondary education there. I was graduated from my secondary education in 1993 and was admitted to the Faculty of Biology, Gadjah Mada University, one Indonesia's leading university. I received my bachelor in Biology in 1998 with an overall GPA of 3.22 and in April 1999 I started my apprenticeship in Lembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia, Research and Development of Biotechnology, as a research assistant. My responsibility was to help establishing indigenous thermophilic bacteria traits in order to produce alkaline detergent.

While doing my apprenticeship, I applied for master and in August 1999 was admitted to the Department of Biology, Institut Teknologi Bandung, another Indonesia's leading university. My major field was molecular genetics, in which I have learned so much from my apprenticeship, and I received my magister in Biology in 2002. It took me three years to finish my master study. In spite of that, I graduated with an overall GPA of 3.68 and was very satisfied with that achievement. After finishing my master, I applied for a job in the State University of Yogyakarta and was offered to teach Biology at Primary Teacher Education Study Program, Faculty of Education.

At this study program, I experienced educational hardship which was one significant factor that has influenced my educational and professional development. I have had zero background in the field of education while the university kept demanding its lecturers to upgrade their educational level and degree. Since it was very difficult to do PhD in the field that was different from my academic background, I applied for my second master in science education and in 2006 was admitted to Monash University, Australia.

After completing my second master and back to Yogyakarta in December 2007, I planned to continue my work as a lecturer at the same study program and as a researcher. My research interest is primary science teaching approach in socio-cultural contexts which I have developed since when I did my thesis in Australia. For the first six months teaching, again, I experienced professional hardships. I frequently disagree with others' opinions, particularly in terms of the way others do research. There is a serious dearth of research concerning primary education, only few such previous studies have been attempted.

Reflecting on my practical experience regarding my research area, I contend that more education is still needed. I am now improving the state of affairs and developing my professional career by pursuing higher education. After accomplishing my education, I play my role as a science educator that would contribute to developments and improvements in the Indonesian education system, particularly in primary education sector. As the researcher and an educator who has an interest in cultural influences on my teaching, that part of my concern is to promote and share those culturally enriching teaching resources. It includes collaboration researches among ethnic cultures in Indonesia. I aim at researching another society and cultures so it will strengthen institutional capacity in primary education. Using socio-cultural approaches allow young students to be quite capable of high level engagement with appropriate scaffolding from their teachers and peers.