

## **CARTOGRAPHIC SKILL IN DIFFERENT AREAS**

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Geographic knowledge is a daily information about life. Many things could be rationalize in a geographic way of thinking. Formally, geographical knowledge present in class as Geography course. In Indonesia students learn geography since they were in the third grade at the Elementary School. By that time students know how to explain geographical phenomenon in their local areas. Beside the knowledge, students also has to understand how to use cartographic skills such as drawing simple maps of their neighborhood. At the end of Elementary School (sixth grade), students have to comprehend in identifying geographical phenomenon and their spatial order in the local areas, either by drawing sketch or writing paper. The national standard of education only determine the objective of the courses. Teachers and schools have to develop their creativity in inventing tools and teaching materials for the education activities. Because of the difference circumstantial condition, different areas do not have the same education activities. This research investigated students differences in understanding geographical knowledge through cartographic skills. Students of the fourth and sixth grade at the Elementary School are the target of this study. This study accomplished in four different area, two are in outer Java, and the other two are ini Java city. The two city in outer Java are Kota Karimun and Kupang. Kota Karimun is a small city in one of the small island close to Sumatera. This city is closer to Singapore than to big city in Sumatera. While Kupang is in east Nusa Tenggara, a small city, even it is the capital city of the Province, and relatively isolated. The two city in Java are Bogor and Pangandaran, Bogor is a big city and close to Jakarta, the capital city of the country. Pangandaran is a small city but function as tourism destination. Students asked to make a skechta of their daily journey from home to their school, and also mapping the center of the city where they live. They have to draw the land use at these two different places. All the information were gathered through a field survey.

Students ability are correlated with teachers performance, teaching facilities, and local area condition, using statistics correlation. Teachers performance depend on the closeness to Jakarta. The closer the city, the better performance of the teachers. While students performance depend on the teachers performance.