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## A DATA-DRIVEN APPROACH TO ASSESSING ICT COMPETENCIES IN VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS

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## **Article Info**

**Keywords:** Information and Communication Technology (ICT), ICT competencies, educational units

### **Abstract**

The development of information technology has had a profound impact on all aspects of life, including education, making Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competencies an essential component for learners in solving problems using technology. Educational units that adopt a learning approach based on ICT can foster independent learning innovations compared to conventional methods, leading to a more consistent standard of learning quality. Blended Learning, in particular, has shown promising results in improving learning outcomes when integrated with ICT in educational institutions.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, full online or blended learning has become a critical solution, necessitating effective and efficient changes in the learning process. To ensure smooth learning experiences and support pedagogical planning, it is crucial to map and visualize the ICT competencies of students. Such mapping serves as a valuable reference for formulating lesson plans, ICT policies, and placements for Industrial Work Practices (Prakerin) for students.

Data clustering, a Data Mining technique, is employed to automate the analysis and extraction of knowledge from ICT competency data. The K-Means Clustering Algorithm is one such method that partitions data into distinct clusters based on similarities, facilitating the identification of highly competent, competent, and less competent students in the field of ICT.

This study focuses on SMKN 3 Lhokseumawe, an educational unit implementing blended learning, to determine the ICT competency levels of its students. By calculating the shortest distance between data points and centroid in each cluster, the K-Means algorithm generates distinct groups of students based on their ICT competencies. Previous research using the K-Means algorithm has demonstrated its effectiveness in clustering participants in the National Science

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Olympiad and determining superior class students. Additionally, the algorithm has been applied to measure the correlation between student profiles and grades and cluster student interest in school selection. Through this study, we aim to provide valuable insights into the ICT competency levels of SMKN 3 Lhokseumawe students and contribute to the enhancement of educational practices through data-driven decision-making.

#### 1. Introduction

Student profiles related to Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competencies must be mapped by each educational unit. This is due to the development of information technology which has affected all spheres of life, including in the world of education. This condition cannot be denied that every learning and curriculum application process is permanently attached to the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) approach. It is essential to increase the competence of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor learners in solving problems based on information technology [1] [2] [3] [4]. Therefore, educational units that apply a learning approach based on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can present independent learning innovations compared to conventional learning approaches without collaboration with ICT. Learning through the ICT approach provides a new method in teaching and learning because it can minimize differences in teaching methods and materials, thus providing a more consistent standard of learning quality [5] [6] [7]. The results of previous studies showed that the application of interactive learning with the Blended Learning approach could improve the quality of learning for students at SMKN 3 Lhokseumawe [8]. This makes SMKN 3 Lhokseumawe an educational unit that implements blended learning where the learning process collaborates with ICT, thus making the ICT competence of students an essential aspect to know and map. The results of the ICT competency mapping can be used as a reference by the education unit to formulate lesson plans, formulate ICT policies and become a reference for determining the place for Industrial Work Practices (Prakerin) for students. Therefore, it is deemed necessary to cluster Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competency data at SMKN 3 Lhokseumawe so that it can automatically generate a visualization of the ICT competency mapping of students. Mapped ICT competencies refer to Permendikbud number 45 of 2015 where ICT competencies are mapped in terms of the ability to search, store, process, present and disseminate data and information in various ways to support smooth learning. Full online or blended learning is the best solution during the COVID-19 pandemic, causing differences in the learning process. Changes in the learning process are expected to be implemented effectively and efficiently [9]. Data clustering is one of the methods of Data Mining, which is a process that performs one or more computer learning techniques (machine learning) to analyze and extract knowledge automatically. Where the main functions of Data Mining are classification, assessment, prediction, relevance grouping or association rules, grouping, description and visualization [10] [11]. Data classification is seen as very important in the current era of information technology because the Education unit will easily process data and the data security aspect will be guaranteed [12] [13].

The algorithm that can be used to cluster data is the K-Means Clustering method. K-Means Clustering Algorithm is a technique in Data Mining that can partition data into several clusters so that data with the same characteristics will be grouped into one cluster while data with different characteristics will be grouped into other clusters. K-Means performs two processes, namely the process of determining the center of the cluster (centroid) and the process of finding members from each cluster and requires k input parameters or the number of clusters [14] [11] [15].

Previous research using the K-Means Clustering Algorithm was carried out by Miftahul (2021) who examined the implementation of the K-Means Algorithm for Clustering of Participants in the National Science Olympiad

at the High School Level which resulted in C1 there were 12 highly competent students to take part in OSN, in C2 there were 14 competent students. but have not been able to take part in OSN and in C3 2 students are less competent to take part in OSN. Ari Sulistiyawati's research (2021) examines the implementation of the Kmeans Clustering Algorithm in the Determination of Superior Class Students, the result is that the implementation of the K-Means Clustering algorithm into the clustering information system provides the results of an effective data grouping classification and the process of each iteration of the centroid distance rotation, point determination clusters are formed, student data as a reference object saves more time on clustering superior classes [16] [17] [15].

Surohman's research (2019) on the use of the K-Means Algorithm in measuring the correlation between student profiles and grades using data on the 2019 National Examination scores at one of the Vocational High Schools in Jakarta obtained the results of the K-Means algorithm that can be used in grouping students based on social aspects. From the research, there were 36% or 184 of the total 512 students whose profile clusters and academic scores matched. 43 students with low grades and minimal family economy and 83 students with the highest academic scores and affluent family economic conditions [18]. Suhefi's research (2020) on clustering the determination of student interest in school selection uses the K-Means algorithm where in the research the data used is sourced from the Basic Education Data (Dapodik). The result is that the K-Means Clustering algorithm can be used to cluster students' interest in school selection. From 10 data on schools at the junior high school level, the results obtained for the less desirable category (C0) as many as 6 schools, the moderately attractive category (C1) as many as 3 schools, and the very attractive category (C2) as many as 1 school [19]. This study aims to find the group of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competency values of SMKN 3 Lhokseumawe students by calculating the shortest distance between the data and the center point (centroid) in a cluster. Thus the intended grouping will produce several clusters, namely Very Competent, Competent and Less Competent in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) [11] [20].

## 2. Methods

A research requires a framework where the research framework consists of the stages carried out to complete the research. The stages of work in this research can be seen in Figure 1 below:

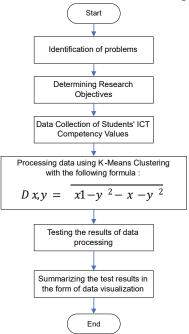


Fig 1: Stages of Research Work

Based on the flow of the above work stages can be described as follows:

## 2.1. Identification of problem

The purpose of this research is to determine the competency clusters of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) students who can determine the location of Industrial Work Practices (Prakerin). Based on the recapitulation of the ICT competency test scores, three clusters were formed, namely Highly Competent, Competent and Less Competent.

## 2.2. Research Purposes

The purpose of this research is to determine the competency clusters of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) students who can determine the location of Industrial Work Practices (Prakerin). Based on the recapitulation of the ICT competency test scores, three clusters were formed, namely Highly Competent, Competent and Less Competent.

## 2.3. Data Collecting

The data used in this study is the data of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competency test score. Where the data has been encapsulated into variables looking for, storing, processing, presenting and disseminating data or information.

## 2.4. Data Processing

Data processing in this study uses the K-Means Clustering algorithm, with the following steps:

- 1. Determine the number of k clusters, where the number of clusters depends on system requirements
- 2. Determine the centroid value as many as the number of clusters k
- 3. Allocate each data to the nearest cluster center, the formula used is as follows:

$$D x, y = x 1 - y i^{2} - x i - y i^{2}$$
 (1)

**Definition 6.1.** Euclidean Distance formula

Where D(x,y) is the data distance to the center of the cluster, x is the data record and y is the data centroid.

4. Recalculate the new centroid, the formula used is as follows:

$$C = \sum_{x} \sum_{\Sigma} 1 = \sum_{x} (2)$$

Where C1 is the new centroid, x1 is the value of the first data record, xn is the value of the nth data record while x is the number of data records.

5. Repeat process number 4.3. if the cluster center is still changing. If there are no more changes, the data allocation process to the cluster center is stopped.

## 2.5. Result Testing

Testing the results is intended to obtain accurate data from the system built so that it can run according to research objectives. Data testing is carried out by providing data used when testing applications, determining the results of ICT competency clusters, using the RapidMiner application to build models and visualize data.

## 2.6. Result Conclusioning

The conclusion is formulated based on the results of the calculation of the K-Means Clustering algorithm using the Rapid Miner application. The results of the clustering of students' ICT competencies will determine where to carry out Industrial Work Practice activities.

## 3. Results and Discussion

The clustering of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competencies for SMKN 3 Lhokseumawe students can be explained in the following stages:

1. Recapitulation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Competency Test Scores
The amount of data processed in this study was 154 data according to the number of students at level XI at
SMKN 3 Lhokseumawe. The ICT competency test scores of these students can be seen in the following table:
Table 1. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Competency

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Test Score Students of SMKN 3 Lhokseumawe – Level XI

Name	Searching	Storing	Processing	Presenting	Sharing
ANJALI DEYA RANI	88.00	79.00	71.00	76.00	63.00
SINAGA					
ARIFA MUTIARA	86.00	80.00	81.00	78.00	78.00
BUNGA SABILA NARIZKI	78.00	81.00	83.00	81.00	88.00
CUT NURINA FITRI	81.00	76.00	80.00	79.00	68.00
DINI RIVANI	80.00	86.00	82.00	80.00	69.00
EGI VIRLA AKBARI	84.00	82.00	76.00	70.00	81.00
HAFIZAH JIKRA	90.00	81.00	80.00	85.00	81.00
INTAN SRI WIDYA	90.00	79.00	76.00	87.00	83.00
KHANSA ALYANIZAR	80.00	76.00	77.00	78.00	88.00
LUBNA AL QADRI	81.00	83.00	70.00	79.00	67.00
MAYATUL HUSNA	87.00	76.00	75.00	83.00	80.00
MUHAMMAD ALVIAN	81.00	80.00	71.00	83.00	64.00
MUHAMMAD FITRAH	80.00	77.00	89.00	83.00	77.00
DAVID					
NATASYA ZULMAIRA	85.00	83.00	70.00	87.00	68.00
NURUL IZZA	82.00	78.00	86.00	89.00	62.00
PUTRI SALSABILA	83.00	86.00	70.00	85.00	84.00
RAIHAN MOULANA	81.00	76.00	76.00	84.00	64.00
RISKY PRATAMA	81.00	90.00	73.00	75.00	83.00
ROUZATUL SHA FHITRI	90.00	78.00	83.00	80.00	82.00
ROZATUL ZANNAH	88.00	85.00	85.00	70.00	83.00
SITI FAZIA	85.00	89.00	76.00	89.00	63.00
SIVA NADILA	90.00	87.00	79.00	81.00	89.00
SUCI RAMADHANI	88.00	76.00	76.00	81.00	86.00
ULYA SALSABILA	85.00	79.00	79.00	77.00	65.00
ASMAUL HUSNA	85.00	87.00	82.00	88.00	81.00
BINDIA AZZAHRA	89.00	90.00	89.00	89.00	80.00
ELSA TRIRANDA	81.00	76.00	85.00	83.00	74.00
FARISYA HUSNA	89.00	88.00	84.00	89.00	80.00
HETI MAWADDAH	90.00	87.00	88.00	84.00	81.00
IRFANDI	84.00	76.00	87.00	84.00	73.00
KHAIRUL NISA	83.00	88.00	80.00	82.00	84.00

M. FARHAN MAULANA	90.00	87.00	82.00	90.00	69.00
MUDA BALIA	83.00	84.00	90.00	84.00	79.00
MUHAMMAD ANDIKA	85.00	80.00	82.00	76.00	76.00
MUHAMMAD HAFIZ	81.00	85.00	78.00	78.00	78.00
MUHAMMAD HIZAAM	83.00	84.00	82.00	87.00	66.00
MUHAMMAD HUSAIRI	85.00	89.00	86.00	80.00	60.00
MUKHTARIZAL	87.00	81.00	78.00	80.00	87.00
NITA PERTIWI	78.00	79.00	82.00	76.00	69.00
PUTRI AZURA	78.00	82.00	74.00	76.00	90.00
PUTRI SALSABILA	88.00	88.00	75.00	79.00	73.00
REVALDY AGUSTRIADI	80.00	82.00	80.00	95.00	84.00
RISKA NAJWA PUTRI	82.00	76.00	75.00	80.00	66.00
SITI NUR AZHURA	87.00	79.00	73.00	84.00	81.00
SRI WAHDINI	81.00	79.00	87.00	85.00	82.00
SYAWALUDDIN	87.00	75.00	87.00	78.00	60.00
UNCI AMALIA	80.00	82.00	80.00	80.00	80.00
ZUNNUR AINI	86.00	88.00	80.00	80.00	70.00
ALDI AGUSTI	79.00	86.00	90.00	90.00	82.00
CHAIRUL IKRAMA	90.00	88.00	72.00	95.00	81.00
DANIL MISWAR	81.00	88.00	90.00	79.00	61.00
FEBRIANSYAH	90.00	95.00	88.00	91.00	92.00
HAYATUL DAMAYANI	81.00	87.00	74.00	78.00	73.00
ISWANDA	81.00	80.00	79.00	80.00	69.00
KAMAL SANDANA	87.00	88.00	90.00	78.00	86.00
KHAIRIL AKMAL	80.00	84.00	84.00	76.00	83.00
MUHAMMAD AR	IS80.00	75.00	81.00	80.00	78.00
MAULANA					
MUHAMMAD DAFVA	80.00	85.00	88.00	81.00	89.00
MUHAMMAD HAIQAL	80.00	79.00	75.00	84.00	60.00
MUHAMMAD MUKSALMIN	IA90.00	80.00	73.00	84.00	69.00
MUHAMMAD NAUFAL	88.00	89.00	94.00	89.00	84.00
MUHAMMAD SYIVA	80.00	84.00	78.00	79.00	77.00
MUHAMMAD ZIAUDDIN	85.00	83.00	75.00	89.00	88.00
MUHAMMAD ZULHAM	82.00	84.00	75.00	80.00	82.00
MUKTARRIZA	81.00	76.00	88.00	86.00	82.00
MUNAZILLA RAHMI	78.00	87.00	80.00	88.00	82.00
MUTIA IBRAHIM	83.00	82.00	86.00	84.00	64.00
RASHA IMAM MAULANA	88.00	90.00	73.00	82.00	68.00
RISKA MULFADHILLAH	83.00	86.00	90.00	84.00	73.00
YASIR ARAFAT	83.00	79.00	90.00	84.00	88.00

ADAWWIYAH SUFIYANI	80.00	86.00	88.00	89.00	85.00
ALSYIFA NABILA	85.00	80.00	83.00	79.00	60.00
ANNISA	85.00	86.00	70.00	89.00	79.00
ANNISA AULIA	82.00	76.00	89.00	84.00	75.00
AVIRATUL AZIMAH	85.00	86.00	86.00	82.00	80.00
CUT IZZARA SYAQILLA	86.00	76.00	80.00	86.00	78.00
DEA DARAPONA	88.00	76.00	73.00	89.00	83.00
DELVIANI PUTRIA	81.00	83.00	89.00	82.00	77.00
DIRA SALIMA	81.00	81.00	78.00	77.00	85.00
FAHRUL	79.00	88.00	81.00	87.00	88.00
FITRI AZ ZAHARA	88.00	84.00	75.00	87.00	67.00
ISKAL JUA INTAHA	79.00	84.00	87.00	89.00	90.00
ISMA RAHMATIKA	79.00	90.00	80.00	80.00	81.00
KHIZAYA AZZURA NASYIFA	89.00	86.00	74.00	83.00	87.00
MUHAMMAD RAFI QUL A'L	A80.00	67.00	70.00	65.00	68.00
MUHAMMAD ZIKRI	87.00	78.00	75.00	77.00	71.00
NABILA SYIFA	90.00	79.00	76.00	83.00	74.00
NAHDATUL MUSBAR	88.00	87.00	83.00	85.00	78.00
NAJWA SYAKBAN NAZILA	78.00	86.00	70.00	76.00	74.00
NURFAZILA	91.00	89.00	90.00	87.00	90.00
NURUL HAYATI	80.00	90.00	82.00	79.00	76.00
RAHMATUNNISA	90.00	78.00	78.00	80.00	62.00
RAHMAYANI	87.00	82.00	74.00	77.00	71.00
SABNATUL JANNAH	87.00	86.00	78.00	82.00	79.00
SITI AURA NABILLAH	84.00	70.00	64.00	68.00	78.00
TEGUH FIRMANSYAH	86.00	83.00	78.00	88.00	61.00
ZHULHAYYA FITRI	90.00	78.00	80.00	77.00	70.00
ASSYIFA ANZAR MIATI	90.00	87.00	80.00	80.00	90.00
CITRA WULANDARI	87.00	80.00	77.00	80.00	67.00
DHILVI DHANIA	90.00	78.00	80.00	90.00	82.00
FACHRINA	81.00	84.00	89.00	89.00	80.00
FITRAH YANI	90.00	77.00	77.00	78.00	73.00
FITRIANI	85.00	75.00	87.00	82.00	82.00
HASHIFA NURI	86.00	75.00	90.00	83.00	68.00
JUNITA MUNASARI	89.00	84.00	81.00	84.00	65.00
MELISA HAKIKI	89.00	89.00	87.00	88.00	87.00
MIFTAHUL JANNAH	89.00	86.00	80.00	88.00	72.00
MUHAMMAD RAIHAN	90.00	90.00	79.00	76.00	70.00
NURI ASYIDAH	83.00	80.00	84.00	75.00	63.00
NURUL ALISA	79.00	76.00	79.00	75.00	80.00

SALSA NADILA	82.00	78.00	85.00	85.00	75.00
SEPTIA RAHAYU	81.00	85.00	78.00	90.00	88.00
SITI FAZIRA	70.00	65.00	74.00	65.00	75.00
ZUHRA ULVINA	84.00	87.00	72.00	75.00	66.00
ZULFA SALMA FATIN	83.00	78.00	71.00	77.00	79.00
ALDY SYALWANI	86.00	86.00	87.00	86.00	67.00
ARIEL SYAHREZA	88.00	83.00	84.00	85.00	67.00
BASYIRUN NAZIR	83.00	83.00	77.00	78.00	65.00
FAKRUL RAZI	84.00	87.00	90.00	79.00	79.00
FATURROZI	87.00	78.00	81.00	90.00	85.00
FIRMAN ALFATHY	80.00	80.00	78.00	88.00	82.00
MARSIDA ARISTA	89.00	87.00	72.00	84.00	72.00
MUHAMMAD DAFFA ANNAS	85.00	88.00	77.00	89.00	74.00
MUHAMMAD DANIL	89.00	88.00	75.00	88.00	86.00
MUHAMMAD FAIZIR GIBRAN	89.00	83.00	74.00	86.00	87.00
MUHAMMAD FANNY	90.00	88.00	80.00	84.00	60.00
MUHAMMAD HABIL	81.00	76.00	85.00	90.00	73.00
MUHAMMAD HAFIDZ	81.00	80.00	75.00	76.00	72.00
MUHAMMAD HARDIANSYAH	83.00	79.00	82.00	82.00	69.00
MUHAMMAD IKBAL	79.00	76.00	70.00	75.00	87.00
MUHAMMAD IKHFAR	86.00	81.00	72.00	77.00	61.00
MUHAMMAD KHADAFI	79.00	79.00	87.00	85.00	63.00
MUHAMMAD RAFLI	79.00	89.00	87.00	85.00	71.00
MUHAMMAD RAIYAN AKBAR	83.00	90.00	86.00	78.00	70.00
MUHAMMAD REHAN	79.00	83.00	75.00	77.00	87.00
MUHAMMAD RIFA'I ALFIZAL	84.00	85.00	83.00	76.00	74.00
MUHAMMAD RISKI	84.00	86.00	79.00	85.00	60.00
RAHMAWATI	90.00	78.00	85.00	83.00	80.00
REVA FAZILLAH IZZATI	81.00	83.00	73.00	89.00	75.00
SYIFA ALIYA	82.00	80.00	88.00	83.00	69.00
TURHAMUN	90.00	85.00	87.00	86.00	76.00
ZAHWA	83.00	88.00	77.00	86.00	63.00
ZAWIRA ANNISA	79.00	78.00	73.00	78.00	76.00
ZULFIKAR	86.00	77.00	90.00	82.00	69.00
AURA MAULIZA	87.00	76.00	79.00	78.00	80.00
AUREL RAYA RAMADHANI	87.00	80.00	80.00	85.00	87.00
FADILA NUFUS	88.00	86.00	82.00	75.00	87.00
FIKI MAULANDA	87.00	85.00	81.00	84.00	76.00

Name	Searching	Storing	Processing	Presenting	Sharing
LAIYA PUTRI	87.00	80.00	86.00	89.00	76.00
MUHAMMAD RIZAL	82.00	90.00	75.00	82.00	67.00
RISMA AULIANA	83.00	89.00	86.00	79.00	90.00
SITI ZAHARA	85.00	79.00	85.00	87.00	87.00
ULFIA RAHMAH	88.00	76.00	73.00	77.00	62.00
ZAWIL KIRAM	86.00	86.00	87.00	82.00	90.00

### 2. Determine the number of clusters

The number of clusters in this study amounted to three clusters, namely Very Competent, Competent and Less Competent.

Calculating the data distance with the centroid using the Rapid Miner application. Calculating the data distance with the centroid using the Rapid Miner application, RapidMiner is a reliable software or application in data processing. Based on data mining principles and algorithms, RapidMiner extracts patterns from large data sets and combines statistical methods, artificial intelligence and databases [21]. RapidMiner can be a solution for analyzing data mining and predictive analysis [22]. Data processing of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competencies for SMKN 3 Lhokseumawe students uses data and operator configurations, as shown in the following figure:

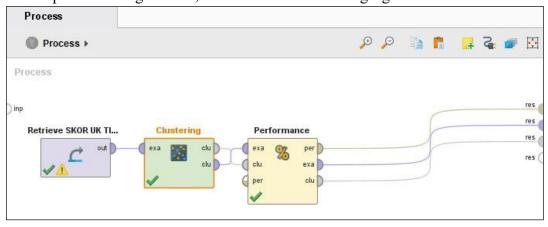


Fig 2: Data and operator configuration

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competency test score file is imported into the RapidMiner application worksheet then the configuration is followed by importing the K-Means algorithm operator and Cluster Distance Performance segmentation. In the K-Means algorithm operator, 3 (three) clusters are determined and in the performance section the main criterion selected is Davies Boludin. Once the operator configuration and performance are confirmed, the process can be started. The results of the data processing are displayed in the form of Cluster Model, Clustering Example Set and Performance Vector. In the Cluster Model section, you can see the results of the cluster names of participants who have been divided into 3 clusters and the cluster data distribution plot, as shown below:

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Fig 3: Folder View pada Cluster Model RapidMiner

Based on the results of the data processing using 3 (three) clusters, it is obtained that cluster\_0 contains 80 students, cluster\_1 contains 64 students and cluster\_2 contains 10 students. The results of the process through RapidMiner can be seen in the following image:

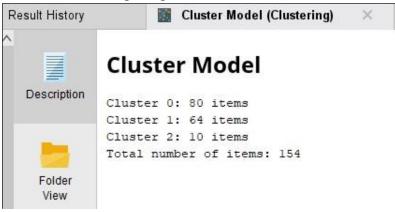


Fig 4: Cluster Model Process Results

Based on the resulting cluster model, only the number of members in the cluster can be seen. To find out which cluster has the highest score group, the plot features in the cluster model can be used. The data plot can be seen in the following figure:

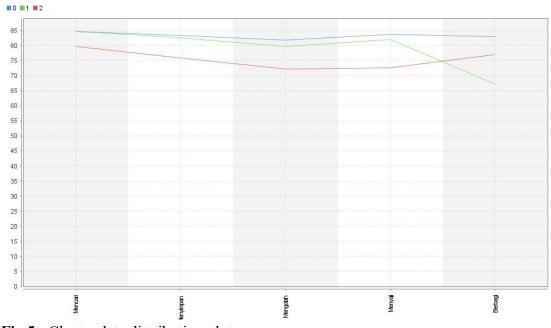


Fig 5: Cluster data distribution plot

Through the picture above, it can be seen that cluster\_0 is identified using blue where the cluster is at the highest level, meaning that cluster\_0 contains data on students who have a high level of competence (very competent). Cluster\_1 is an intermediate (competent) cluster identified in green while cluster\_2 is identified in red as a cluster of students who have a low level of ICT competence (less competent).

## 4. Conclusion

Based on the results of the data processing of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) competency test scores 154 students of SMKN 3 Lhokseumawe using the RapidMiner application with a configuration of 3 (three) clusters resulting in 80 (eighty) students in cluster\_0 with a rating of Very Competent, 64 (sixty four)) students in cluster\_1 with a Competent rating and 10 (ten) students in cluster\_2 with a Less Competent rating. Based on the results of the mapping, the education unit can formulate a policy for Industrial Work Practices (Prakerin) for students in each cluster.

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