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IMPROVING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' UNDERSTANDING OF CITIZENS' RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS THROUGH ACTIVE CIVICS LEARNING

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Abstract

This study aims to improve elementary school students' understanding of the rights and obligations of citizens through the implementation of active Citizenship Education (PKN) learning. The research method that I used is the "literature review" method for the title "Improving Elementary School Students' Understanding of Citizens' Rights and Obligations Through Active PKN Learning" this study uses the 'literature review' method which aims to explore students' understanding of the rights and obligations of citizens through citizenship education (PKN) learning by focusing on the collection, evaluation and critical analysis of scientific works that are relevant to a particular research topic. This study shows that a learning approach that involves active student participation can improve their understanding of the concept of rights and obligations as citizens. As a result, students not only understand the theory, but are also able to apply citizenship values in everyday life. Active PKN learning has proven to be effective in encourage students to be more critical, and responsible as part of society and various societies and countries the main goal of civic education is to foster insight and awareness of the state, attitudes and behaviors that love the homeland and are based on the nation's culture, the archipelago's insight, and national resilience in the future successors of the nation who are studying and will master science and technology and art. In addition, it also aims to improve the quality of Indonesian people who are noble, have personality, are independent, advanced, tough, professional, responsible, and productive as well as physically and mentally healthy.

Keywords : Students' understanding, citizens' rights and obligations, citizenship education, active learning, elementary school students

Introduction

Civic education learning at the Elementary School (SD) level has an important role in building students' understanding of the rights and obligations of citizens. Through this learning, students are expected to develop awareness and a sense of responsibility towards themselves, society, and the country. However, in reality, many students still have a low understanding of these concepts. This can be caused by a learning approach that is less interactive and interesting, so that students are less actively involved in the learning process. Learning activities that involve active student participation are considered one of the effective approaches to improving understanding of the concept of citizen rights and obligations. With this method, students not only hear or memorize the material, but are also involved in discussions, simulations, and reflections that lead to deeper understanding. Active learning in the PKN class allows students to experience firsthand situations that are relevant to life as good citizens. Therefore, this study aims to examine the effectiveness of active learning methods in improving elementary school students' understanding of citizen rights and obligations. This study is expected to provide insight into effective PKN learning strategies, as well as contribute to improving the quality of learning in elementary schools. In improving elementary school students' understanding of their rights and obligations as citizens through active civic

education learning, civic education plays an important role in shaping the character, awareness, and responsibility of students as part of society at the elementary school level . Civic education helps instill basic civic values, such as love for the homeland, tolerance, justice, and respect for others.

Rights and obligations as citizens are fundamental concepts in learning PK N Rights are something that every individual deserves, such as the right to learn, the right to receive protection, and the right to live a decent life. While obligations are responsibilities that must be fulfilled by every citizen, such as following regulations, respecting the rights of others, and maintaining order. Teaching this concept to elementary school students needs to be done effectively, so that they are able to understand and apply these values in their daily lives. Active civics learning requires the active role of students, teachers, and the school environment in the learning process. Interactive learning methods, such as group discussions, role plays, case studies, and situation simulations, can increase students' interest and understanding of PKN materials through this approach, students are expected not only to understand theoretically, but also to be able to apply their rights and obligations in real life. Active and contextual PK N learning will help students develop caring attitudes, responsibility, and awareness of the importance of playing a positive role in society. Civic education learning plays an important role in building the character of the nation's culture of students, because with civic education learning students will be transformed, instilled and taught the noble values of the nation as the identity and character of the Indonesian nation. Therefore, civic education study teachers should be able to pack a set PKN learning is more interesting so that it does not cause boredom for students, so that students can be more enthusiastic about following and paying attention to the process learning PKN and can easily accept and understand the concepts of PKN taught . One of the learning strategies that can be used is the learning strategy everyone is a teacher here which is part of active learning by requiring students to be more active in learning and play the role of being a teacher for each student. Students will be more motivated to be actively involved in learning and it is hoped that their activeness will have a good impact on understanding the concept of PPKn material rights and obligations.

Understanding Citizenship Education

As we know, every nation has a history of struggle from the people of the past, which is called there are many nationalist, patriotic values and so on that at that time were closely attached to every soul of its citizens. Along with the development of the era and the rapid advancement of technology, these values are increasingly lost from a person in a nation, therefore there needs to be learning to maintain these values so that they continue to be united in every citizen so that every citizen knows the rights and obligations in carrying out national and state life. Civic education is education that reminds us of the importance of the values of the rights and obligations of a citizen so that everything that is done is in accordance with the goals and ideals of the nation and does not deviate from what is expected. Because it is considered important, this education has been applied from an early age at every level of education from the earliest to higher education in order to produce successors to the nation who are competent and ready to carry out national and state life. According to Soemantri, (2001:154) is an effort made to provide students with basic knowledge and skills regarding the fundamental relationship between citizens and the state and also preliminary education in national defense as forms of national defense efforts as mandated in the 1945 Constitution and also Pancasila. Civic Education is a democratic education that aims to prepare citizens to think critically and act democratically, through activities to instill awareness in the new generation, about awareness that democracy is a form of community life that best guarantees the rights of the community (Saidurrahman, 2018). Meanwhile, according to Aziz Wahab, Civic Education (PKn) is a teaching medium that Indonesianizes students consciously, intelligently, and responsibly. Therefore, the PKn program contains general concepts of state administration, politics and state law, as well as other general theories that match the target. Civic Education is a subject that is a series of processes to direct students to be responsible so that they can play an active role in society according to the provisions of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (Mading, 2018).

Research Methodology

The research method that I used was the literature review method for the title "Improving Elementary School Students' Understanding of Citizens' Rights and Obligations Through Active Civics Learning" This study uses the "literature review" method . "which aims to actively explore students' understanding of the rights and obligations of citizens through civic education (PKN) learning. This study focuses on the collection, evaluation and critical analysis of scientific works that are relevant to certain research topics.

Result & Discussion

This research may aim to improve elementary school students' understanding of their rights and obligations as citizens, which is an important aspect in the formation of character and national insight. These rights and obligations are taught using active learning methods, which allow students to be more involved in the learning process.

Objectives of Citizenship Education

According to the Ministry of National Education (2006:49), the aim of civics learning is to provide the following competencies:

- a) Think critically, rationally and creatively in responding to issues Citizenship.
- b) Participate intelligently and responsibly, and act responsibly. aware of social, national and state activities.
- c) Develop positively and democratically to shape oneself based on the characteristics of the people in Indonesia so that they can live together with other nations.
- d) Interact with other nations in a world-wide manner directly by utilizing information and communication technology.

In general, according to Maftuh and Sapriya (2005:30), the goal of the state is develop Citizenship Education so that every citizen becomes a citizen a good country (to be good citizens), namely citizens who have intelligence (civic intelligence) both intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual which has a sense of pride and responsibility (civics responsibility), and able to participate and form citizens who appreciate democratic values such as equality, freedom and respect for the opinions of others.

Functions of Citizenship Education

Citizenship Education (PKn) subjects have the function of: a means to shape students into citizens who understand and able to carry out his rights and obligations, committed to loyalty to the nation and the Indonesian state by reflecting on itself as an intelligent, skilled citizen and have character in accordance with the mandate of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. Supplement the development of this Elementary School Civics is intended to complement the printed teaching materials that have been. There are. In this supplement, models, strategies, methods and approaches to learning civics in elementary schools that will help teachers in expressing his creativity in front of the class as a facilitator.

Citizenship Learning Methods

Active learning methods in civic education focus on direct student involvement in the learning process, with the aim of making them better understand the material, develop critical thinking skills and increase awareness of their role as citizens. Active learning involves students in the learning process through discussions, simulations, role-playing, and other activities that encourage direct involvement. This method is believed to improve student understanding because they do not only receive information passively, but also interact and actively participate in the learning process. Improving Student Understanding based on research results, students who engage in active learning show a better understanding of their rights and obligations as citizens. This learning gives them the opportunity to understand abstract concepts through practical experiences, such as debates about their rights, decision-making simulations about obligations, or discussions about their roles in society. Influence on Attitudes and Behavior: This active learning not only improves students' cognitive understanding, but can also have a positive effect on their attitudes and behavior. Students who better understand their rights and obligations tend to be more responsible and more respectful of the rights of others. Evaluation and Reflection: Evaluation is conducted through observation of changes in students' attitudes and understanding before and after participating in active learning. Evaluation results shows that active learning can improve critical thinking, communication, and collaboration skills among students in understanding their rights and obligations. Overall, the results of the discussion of this journal indicate that active learning can be an effective approach in improving critical thinking skills, communication, and cooperation among students in understanding their rights and obligations. Overall, the results of the discussion in this journal indicate that active learning can be an effective approach in improving elementary school students' understanding of their rights and obligations as citizens.

Civics education at the Elementary School (SD) level aims to shape the character of students who understand the rights and obligations as good citizens. One effective way to improve student understanding is through active learning. Active learning focuses on direct student involvement in the learning process, which makes it easier for them to understand and apply the material being taught. In this context, the rights and obligations of citizens are

very important topics for elementary school students to master, because this will shape their understanding of their role in society and the state. **The Importance of Understanding Citizens' Rights and Obligations** Understanding the rights and obligations of citizens is very important for elementary school students because they are at a critical stage of development, where they begin to realize their existence in the wider society. In Indonesia, as part of a nation that adheres to the principles of democracy, every citizen has rights and obligations that must be understood and implemented properly. Some basic rights of citizens include the right to education, the right to freedom of speech, and the right to live in prosperity. Meanwhile, the obligations of citizens include the obligation to obey the law, pay taxes, and maintain the unity of the nation. Through a strong understanding of rights and obligations, elementary school students can develop attitudes and behaviors that are in accordance with the values of Pancasila, which is the foundation of the Indonesian state. Therefore, it is important to teach this concept in a fun and easy-to-understand way, so that students can internalize and apply it in their daily lives.

Active Learning as a Method to Improve Understanding

Active learning is an approach that encourages students to be directly involved in the learning process. In active learning, teachers are not only as material deliverers, but also as facilitators who guide students to find their own knowledge through discussion, exploration, and collaboration. Some active learning methods that can be applied to improve elementary school students' understanding of the rights and obligations of citizens are as follows:

1. **Group Discussion**

By conducting group discussions, students can share their opinions and experiences regarding the rights and obligations of citizens. For example, teachers can ask students to discuss what they know about their rights at home, school, and society, and their obligations as citizens. This discussion will encourage students to think critically and explore the topic in depth. Case Study learning through case studies allows students to analyze real situations related to the rights and obligations of citizens. Teachers can present stories or problems faced by citizens and ask students to provide solutions or judgments based on their understanding of rights and obligations. This will help students see the real application of the theories they learn.

2. **Role Play**

In role-playing, students can play various roles as citizens, such as being a voter, a government official, or a student who has certain rights and obligations. In this way, students can experience firsthand how these rights and obligations are applied in different situations, which will strengthen their understanding.

3. **Collaborative Projects**

Inviting students to work in groups to create projects related to the rights and responsibilities of citizens, such as creating posters, brochures, or presentations about the importance of fulfilling their responsibilities as citizens, can increase their understanding in depth. This project also teaches students to work together, share ideas, and apply the knowledge they have learned in more creative and practical ways.

4. **Election Simulation or Deliberation**

Election or deliberation simulations can be used to teach students about the right to vote, the right to speak, and the obligation to respect the opinions of others and follow the rules that have been agreed upon. This activity also involves direct learning of democracy, where students can experience how the decision-making process is carried out in a society.

5. **Problem-Based Learning (PBL)**

Students learn by solving real, relevant problems, improving problem solving skills and applying theory

The Benefits of Active Learning in Improving Understanding

1. **Increasing Student Engagement**

Active learning encourages students to be more involved in the learning process. Students not only listen to information from the teacher, but also participate directly in various activities that test their understanding.

2. **Improving Concept Understanding**

By activating the five senses and critical thinking, active learning helps students understand the concept of citizen rights and obligations more deeply. This understanding is not only limited to memorization, but also to applications in everyday life.

3. **Encouraging Social Skills Development**

In active learning, students learn to work together, respect the opinions of others, and develop communication skills. This is important because of the rights and obligations citizens are also related to good social interactions in society.

4. Improving Learning Independence

Active learning encourages students to become independent learners, where they learn to seek information, evaluate, and make decisions based on their own understanding.

Challenges and Solutions in Implementing Active Learning

Although active learning has many benefits, its implementation in the classroom often faces several challenges, such as time constraints, lack of resources, and difficulties in managing heterogeneous classes. To overcome this, several solutions that can be applied include:

a) Manage Time Well

Teachers need to plan activities with enough time so that all students can participate optimally without feeling rushed. Using Existing Resources Active learning does not always require expensive tools. Teachers can use simple materials around the classroom, such as paper, a whiteboard, or other aids, to support learning activities.

b) Adapting to Student Character

Every student has different characters and abilities. Therefore, teachers need to adjust active learning methods to the needs and abilities of students so that they can follow the activities well.

Active learning has many advantages in improving understanding of Citizenship Education (PKN) learning, including:

a) Increasing Student Engagement:

Active learning encourages students to be directly involved in the learning process, either through discussions, group assignments, or problem solving. This makes students more interested and enthusiastic in learning PKN materials.

b) Improve Concept Understanding:

By being directly involved in various activities, students not only hear or read, but also apply the concepts of PKN in real situations. This helps them understand the values of citizenship, rights and obligations, and their role in society more deeply.

c) Developing Critical and Analytical Thinking Skills:

In active learning, students are encouraged to critically analyze citizenship issues, compare different views, and develop logical arguments. This enhances critical thinking skills that are essential in civics.

d) Improving Cooperation and Communication:

Through group activities, students can learn to work together, communicate effectively, and respect differences of opinion. These skills are important in building harmonious social relationships in society.

e) Strengthening Social Skills and Empathy:

Active learning, especially that based on case studies or social discussions, can help students to better understand social situations and increase their sense of empathy for the problems faced by society.

f) Cultivating a Sense of Responsibility:

Active learning can foster students' awareness of their role as active citizens. They can understand the importance of participating in social and political activities, and develop a sense of responsibility towards the country and society.

Conclusion

The world of education is one of the vehicles that can shape students' knowledge, attitudes and skills. Elementary school age is the right time to instill values in these three aspects so that children become capable and qualified individuals as the successors of the nation's future generations. Thus, teachers as educators are expected to be able to create and design a learning process to provide values and conceptual understanding to students. Freedom of organization is a learning material that should be understood by students which will actually make elementary school students have the knowledge that as citizens, they are free to organize which can be applied in their daily lives. From the explanations above, it can be concluded that the everyone is a teacher here learning strategy will be able to help teachers in teaching students who are at the concrete-operational thinking stage so that students will more easily absorb the concept of rights and obligations as citizens . Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that understanding the importance of rights and obligations must not only begin at adulthood, but

also from an early age must be familiar with rights and obligations. The introduction of constitutional rights in schools is very effective for students. the spirit of nationalism and patriotism in each citizen in the future. By recognizing the constitutional rights of citizens, it is hoped that all citizens will feel a sense of love for Indonesia as a whole. For that, it may be necessary to carry out activities to introduce the constitutional rights of citizens to schools.

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