



THE INFLUENCE OF THE MERDEKA CURRICULUM ON STUDENT LEARNING SYSTEMS

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Abstract

The independent curriculum is the Indonesian government's policy on student readiness for student learning outcomes. The curriculum is used as a reference and forum for achieving educational goals. The independent curriculum is basically student-centered. Educators are expected to act as mediators, facilitators and motivators who can improve the quality and quantity of students to achieve maximum results. This writing was carried out to analyze the application of the independent learning curriculum to students using the Literacy method through Library Research. This writing data comes from activities related to collecting library study information which uses sources and libraries to obtain information. To search for data in literacy studies, you can refer to books, journals, research that has been published both locally and internationally, writings. scientific, research that has been carried out by other people before and articles published in either magazines or newspapers.

Keywords : Merdeka curriculum, learning system

Introduction

One effort to improve the quality of human life is through the education process which is very important for humans. Referring to this, it means that everyone has the right to receive educational services. Education has a big role in improving human resources (HR) the first time a child receives education within the family. Like children learning to walk, learning to talk, and so on. Next is education in schools, and education in society. Education at school prepares for life in a good society later. Every education cannot be separated from the curriculum. The curriculum is a collection of plans, objectives and learning materials. Including teaching methods that will serve as guidelines for each teacher so that they can achieve learning targets and objectives well. The curriculum is an integral part of the educational process (Yufani, The Influence of the Independent Curriculum on the Quality of Primary School Students' Learning, 2023). Curriculum is a series of plans to facilitate the teaching and learning process. The plans drawn up are under the responsibility of educational institutions and the teachers there. Meanwhile, in the Law concerning the National Education System No. 20 of 2003, paragraph 1, point 19, it is stated that the curriculum is a set of arrangements and plans regarding objectives, content and materials, lessons and methods used as a guide for learning activities in order to achieve educational goals. Especially for formal schools where the curriculum will be a guide and provide direction in teaching. In accordance with the definition of curriculum, namely something that is planned, in the world of education, all student activities can be arranged in such a way that education can be achieved. The education curriculum in Indonesia has changed repeatedly. Curriculum policies that change or are frequently replaced have a negative impact on students whose achievements decrease. In fact, this condition will have a direct impact on the school, namely the school's vision, mission and goals. Currently, the independent curriculum is becoming popular. The independent curriculum has been

implemented since 2021, where it is hoped that the curriculum can restore learning after the Covid-19 pandemic. It is hoped that an independent curriculum can improve education standards in Indonesia by providing several opportunities to take part in extracurricular activities with more appropriate teaching material and provide time for students to be able to explore ideas, thoughts, be innovative, emphasize autonomy and develop competence. The initial concept of the independent learning curriculum is that there are actions that are characterized by freedom while continuing to deepen learning accompanied by limitations, criticism, and not diminishing the noble and moral values of education providers.(Friska Ria Sitorus., 2023). The independent curriculum is a response to challenges in the education sector that have arisen as a result of the post-pandemic education crisis.

The independent curriculum is designed to overcome problems by formulating new policies that provide freedom to institutions and students in implementing the learning process(Ariesanti, Mudiono, & Arifin, 2023). The independent curriculum has positive and negative influences in improving the quality of student learning. The positive influence is that students become creative and innovative with learning support. These students are able to manage their learning better, apart from that, students also become independent. The independent curriculum is the answer to changes in educational conditions and is an effort so that Indonesia does not lag behind the education systems in other countries. Apart from that, the aspect of strengthening student profiles is a concern that is developed in the concept of independent learning. Because educating humans only to think rationally without being accompanied by moral and character education is the same as creating a threat in the world. There are three concepts of an independent curriculum, namely curriculum as substance, as a system, and as a field of study. Curriculum as a substance is a document that contains formulations of objectives, teaching materials, teaching and learning activities, schedules and evaluations. The curriculum as a system includes personnel structure and work procedures on how to compile a curriculum. The aim of curriculum as a field of study is to develop knowledge about curriculum and curriculum systems.(Nurwiyatin, 2022)The independent learning curriculum will create active learning. This program is not a replacement for programs that are already running, but to provide improvements to systems that are already running. The freedom to learn offered by the Ministry of Education and Culture is a simpler learning process, this includes: (1) A one sheet learning implementation plan means it is made simply and not complicated as before (2) A zoning system for accepting new students that is flexible in its implementation (3) National exams have been replaced with minimum competency assessments and character surveys (4) National standard school exams have been shifted to continuous assessments such as portfolios (group assignments, written work, practicums, etc.).(Oktaviani, Marini, & Ms, 2023).

Research Methodology

This research method uses a literacy method, namely learning that aims to develop the ability to understand texts and relate them to personal experiences, think critically, and manage communication skills creatively through activities responding to enrichment text books and textbooks. Literacy methods are the main focus in developing the independent learning curriculum. Skills in the literacy method refer to a person's abilities and skills in reading, writing, calculating and solving problems in certain skills needed in everyday life.(Moleong, 2010). This research also uses the Library Research method. The Library Research method is an activity related to collecting library study information that uses sources and libraries to obtain information to search for data in literacy studies, which can refer to books, journals, research that has been published both locally and internationally, writings. scientific, research that has been carried out by other people before and articles published in either magazines or newspapers.

Result & Discussion

The independent learning curriculum aims to hone the greatest abilities of teachers and students so that they can be more varied in developing the quality of learning. The independent learning concept coined by Nadiem Makarim is in line with Ki Hajar Dewantara's concept which emphasizes the importance of the principle of independence for students, so that education is not only just pour water into a bottle. But it also provides students with the opportunity to develop their potential independently with the supervision of parents and teachers. The Minister of Education, Culture, Research and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia (Kemendikbud RI) has an innovation which creates an ideal and happy learning atmosphere without making it difficult for teachers or students who have to show high achievement in the form of grades, scores or minimum completion criteria. He wanted to cut the subjects so they wouldn't be too dense and stressful. Finally, an independent curriculum emerged in which the science and social studies subjects were combined into one, namely science and science. Before the implementation of the independent curriculum, education in Indonesia had implemented several curricula, including the 2013 curriculum. The 2013 curriculum had various impacts on education in Indonesia. The positive

impact of the 2013 curriculum is that students have critical reasoning in every lesson and teachers are also required to be creative. Meanwhile, the negative impact is a decline due to changes in the curriculum. The difference between the 2013 curriculum and the independent curriculum is that in the independent curriculum the science and social studies subjects are combined into science, SBdP only focuses on one field of arts, for example fine arts, dance, etc. In the independent curriculum, teachers teach using modules, while in the 2013 curriculum, teachers teach using theme books, in which all subjects are mixed into one theme. The Republic of Indonesia's 2013 curriculum has more assessments than the independent curriculum, making it difficult for teachers. Due to the many shortcomings in the 2013 curriculum, the government created a new curriculum to answer current educational challenges. The new curriculum created by the government is the independent curriculum. The Minister of Education and Culture initiated the independent or independent learning curriculum with the aim of creating a pleasant learning atmosphere. Happy for teachers, happy for students, happy for parents and happy for everyone. Every curriculum change that is made always gives rise to a new curriculum, regardless of the many advantages of each educational curriculum, of course there are also those in that curriculum. Usually the advantages and disadvantages of each curriculum come from the foundation, components, principles, evaluation and curriculum development models. The independent curriculum is a learning curriculum that is intracurricular in nature. This curriculum is focused on strengthening the achievement of the Pancasila student profile which is developed according to themes determined by the government.

However, the author sees this as a weakness of the independent curriculum, especially in history subjects, even though there are advantages that are also highlighted.(Almarisi, 2023). The advantages and disadvantages of the independent curriculum, if viewed from skill standards, are that there are many skills that must be taught to students, teachers are also more active and creative in creating interactive and fun learning methods, strategies and models. Because the independent curriculum contains practical elements of history, teachers must utilize libraries, museums, inscriptions and also digital tools as media for learning in the independent curriculum. However, if we look and pay attention to the current structure of the independent curriculum, there are still many pros and cons regarding the independent curriculum. Overall, not all schools have implemented an independent curriculum system. There are many things that need to be taken into consideration for schools to implement an independent curriculum, such as the need to plan, implement and re-evaluate the independent curriculum. For schools that want to implement an independent curriculum, it would be better to pay attention to the impact of the curriculum on teachers and the subjects taught, whether it will make it easier for teachers and students in practice or vice versa. If curriculum development does not go well at the learning level in the classroom, especially in terms of students' interest in learning, students will feel that they lack knowledge and ultimately they will not know their talents and interests, otherwise this will automatically have an impact on the major they choose. The Ministry of Education and Culture, Research and Technology explained that there are no specific criteria for implementing an independent curriculum. This independent learning curriculum focuses on character development, student competence and on honing children's interests and talents, thereby reducing learning material aimed at assignments for all students. Merdeka Belajar is an educational institution that is currently being promoted by the Minister of Education and Culture. It is hoped that the principle of freedom of learning can improve processes in Indonesia which have been considered to be fading. In learning, the impact of curriculum changes is that basically every implementation of curriculum policies implemented by the government is largely determined by the teacher's ability to correctly implement a curriculum.(Ramadhani & Widya, 2022).The curriculum is dynamic because it always changes according to developments and challenges of the times. The more advanced a nation's civilization, the more difficult the challenges it faces. Competition in educational sciences is increasingly being carried out internationally so that Indonesia is also required to compete globally in order to increase the dignity of the nation. Therefore, to face the challenges that will befall our world of education, the rigor of the curriculum and its implementation is very influential in improving education which is far behind developed countries in the world.

Therefore, the Minister of Education in Indonesia created a new curriculum that can add insight to the community, especially students and teachers, namely an independent curriculum that presents a variety of intracurricular lessons where the content will be more optimal so that students are capable enough to deepen concepts and strengthen competencies. An independent curriculum is really needed because various national and international studies show that Indonesia has experienced a learning crisis. To overcome the crisis and various challenges, we need an Independent learning curriculum in Indonesia.(Anggraini, Yulianti, & Faizah, 2022). The greatest ability of teachers and students is to be able to vary further in developing the quality of learning. The positive effect of having an independent learning curriculum is that children do not learn the same thing, but this curriculum provides freedom. Not only that, the next independent learning program is related to the driving

organization program, which is expected to encourage the realization of driving schools. Merdeka Belajar is a pioneering policy initiated by the Minister of Education Nadiem Makarim with the aim of restoring institutions. There are quite a lot of changes in this independent learning curriculum compared to the previous curriculum, including school exams which are usually carried out according to national standards or what is often called USBN or UN being replaced with Assessment Exams, RPPs or Learning Implementation Plans being shortened to one page, as well as zoning for the Acceptance of New Students (PPDB) takes into account the inequality of access and quality in various regions. Based on the results of the discussion, it can be concluded that the independent learning curriculum is a habit of forming ways of behaving, processing, thinking, acting creatively in order to develop each individual by determining their own destiny. The implementation of the independent curriculum in increasing learning motivation in vocational subjects is also marked by the implementation of a learning process in which the teacher becomes a facilitator and mediator as well as a motivator for students so that they are enthusiastic about learning.(Amdan & Liosi, 2023). In the independent curriculum there are also several factors that have a positive impact, such as in schools that use the independent curriculum, there are many extracurricular activities that emphasize building character and skills that are used in everyday life and are absorbed by every student so that they have a positive impact on students whose schools use this independent learning curriculum. Also, as time goes by, the educational curriculum in Indonesia has progressed without a doubt, curriculum reform must be implemented and adapted to the requirements and guiding principles of education in Indonesia, for example, such as the independent learning curriculum which must be implemented according to the guidelines set by the government.(Bahtiar & sholeh, 2023). There are strong implications for improving the quality of learning if the curriculum can be designed optimally. This condition is related to the concepts of science and technology development. Curriculum innovation is an important aspect for educational progress. The curriculum also provides an understanding of experiences for students, meaning that from this perspective, learning using the independent learning curriculum becomes a strong basis for driving learning components in an integrated and meaningful way in producing graduates who are superior and globally empowered.(Suryaman, 2020)

The concept of an independent learning curriculum is the formation of freedom in thinking. Freedom of thought is determined by the teacher, meaning that the teacher is the main pillar in supporting success in education. In the current era of digitalization, technological developments affect the quality of education. The concept of an independent learning curriculum should be applied evenly in educational institutions in Indonesia at this time, apart from influencing the development of students, this concept will also make it easier for teachers to implement innovative learning processes. The independent learning curriculum is applied to all levels of educational units. Universities also implement an independent curriculum which can be called an independent campus. The freedom applied in the independent learning curriculum requires students to be independent in obtaining good knowledge in formal and non-formal education. To become an intelligent generation, we must implement an independent curriculum.(Manalu & Sitohang, 2022). Basically, education uses an independent learning curriculum which is in line with what education in Indonesia aspires to by taking into account the balance of creativity, taste and initiative, not only the process of transferring knowledge but also the transfer of values. Adjust the readiness of educational units so that education managers are not worried about the policies created by the independent learning curriculum. The independent learning curriculum encourages educators to be creative in designing student-centered learning strategies, supports education staff to develop their careers and gets used to radflags in implementing educational programs.(Ramadina, 2021). Teachers have a very important role both in curriculum development and in its implementation. Likewise, teachers play a very important role in the independent learning policy. Teachers can contribute collaboratively and effectively. Working within the school curriculum to organize and structure material, teacher involvement in the curriculum development process is important to align curriculum content with the needs of students in class. As a teacher, you can understand student psychology and the strategies used in learning. Freedom to learn initiated by the government includes 4 policies, namely, international standard school exams, simplification of lesson plans, zoning system, and student character survey. The main spirit of independent learning is freedom of learning and learning for students and teachers. This spirit of independent learning can only be found and implemented in the learning process if both teachers and students understand the meaning of independent learning, and especially teachers understand their role in independent learning. the process and discovery of the meaning and value of independent learning can influence the implementation of independent learning.(Daga, 2021).

Conclusion

The curriculum is a collection of subjects given by teachers and studied by students. The educational curriculum helps develop knowledge about the curriculum and system. Curriculum is one of the independent curriculum planning systems in education that provides flexibility to education as a summary or structure of the education system in Indonesia. The independent curriculum is a development and policy issued by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, Technology and Higher Education to improve and even restore learning from the crisis experienced so far. This policy is a step to build quality Human Resources based on the Pancasila profile. The curriculum contains various appropriate models and methods that are adapted to the needs of students so that they can achieve the expected competencies and goals, namely independent learning. The distinctive characteristic of the independent curriculum is that in the independent curriculum the implementation stage of the Independent Curriculum is implemented by the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture through the Director General of Teachers and Education Personnel (Dirjen GTK), Dr. Iwan Syahril, Ph.D said that regarding the choice of implementing an independent curriculum, to help realize an independent curriculum in every educational unit, the Ministry of Education and Culture has provided three paths to take. The implementation of these three routes is adjusted to the preparedness of the conditions and situation of each school, the three routes in question are: (a) Independent Learning. In the independent learning section, schools will be given flexibility when implementing the independent curriculum. This means that schools are free to study independently and adapt learning according to the needs of students applied at the level of each educational unit (b) Independent Change. In the second stage, education managers in their respective units are given the opportunity to implement the independent curriculum by utilizing the teaching tools that are already available (c) Independent Sharing. Lastly, schools have the authority to develop and manage teaching tools freely in implementing the independent curriculum in each educational unit. Curriculum development cannot be successful if seen only from one side. Not only developers, but actors also determine whether a curriculum is implemented successfully or not.

The Ministry of Education and Culture provides opportunities for schools to help create higher quality education by providing opportunities to change the curriculum and develop it according to needs. The three stages above are good opportunities for schools and all those involved in developing and accepting new changes to support varied learning. Benefits of Implementing the Independent Curriculum The benefits of implementing the curriculum from various groups can be felt. There are various kinds of benefits that can be felt starting from school principals, teachers, parents, and local and regional governments who can collaborate in finding good and efficient solutions to quickly solve problems in dealing with the conditions and challenges faced by each educational unit in the region. the. This aims and is useful for improving the quality of the student learning process. Apart from collaboration, school principals, teachers, parents and local or regional governments have direct responsibility for the management of school education in their respective regions. Without exception for students, the independent curriculum can be used as a forum for cultivating various potentials according to their interests and talents through school education units. The implementation of the independent curriculum brings a million benefits for Indonesian education to advance, change, develop and compete globally by utilizing local wisdom and developing the Pancasila student profile as the basis. The development of an independent curriculum also involves various parties including the Ministry of Education and Culture, schools, parents, teachers and students. Independent curriculum.

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