



IMPROVING STUDENTS' CREATIVE THINKING IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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Abstract

Creative thinking is thinking that creates an idea or produces new ideas in understanding something. Creative thinking is an important ability in the world of education, especially for students. Students can use these skills to solve problems through creative approaches and solutions. This article discusses the importance of developing creative thinking in students, the factors that influence its development, and strategies that facilitate this process in an educational environment. Students' creative thinking methods involve the ability to see situations from different points of view, imagine, innovate, and find unique solutions. Factors such as the learning environment, teacher thinking, and curriculum can influence the development of creative thinking skills. A supportive environment, which fosters tolerance for new ideas and encourages the exploration of innovative ideas, can play an important role in strengthening these abilities. Strategies for improving students' creative thinking include a problem-based learning approach, using techniques such as brainstorming, role-playing, and visualization. Developing space to experiment, exchange ideas and develop collaborative skills is also important to foster creative thinking. Teachers can help students develop innovative thinking skills by focusing on influencing factors and using appropriate strategies to overcome future obstacles. Students' creative thinking skills are the ability to process some information that can produce new ideas in the learning process. This research is classroom action research which consists of two cycles, each of which was carried out in two meetings. Each cycle consists of 4 stages, namely (1) action planning, (2) action implementation, (3) observation and (4) reflection. Data collection in this research was by conducting interviews, observing through observation sheets on students' creative thinking skills, teacher activity sheets in carrying out learning using the project based learning model and documentation.

Keywords : Creative Thinking, Primary School

Introduction

Creative thinking is a must, because creative thinking is very important and by thinking creatively students can develop new ideas or creative ideas that they have about something. Creativity is one aspect of human quality which currently plays a very important role in supporting the development of the Indonesian nation and state which is experiencing complex problems, because with creativity humans will have the ability to creative adaptation and imaginative skills, so that humans will be able to find solutions. problems in a new way in following the changes that occur. Everyone who is unable to keep up with the times will drown in the times, therefore everyone is required to have creative ideas and everyone should want to be creative. Creativity makes life more fun, more interesting and can make everyone achieve many things. Teachers are the main benchmark in implementing the learning process in the classroom, which is why teachers are required to have professional competencies that are able to produce creative students. In creative thinking, we are often faced with the need to see a problem or situation from various points of view. This involves the ability to think of solutions that might not have been thought of before. Creative thinking also involves the courage to take risks and try new things, even if it means leaving your

comfort zone. Apart from that, an environment that supports and stimulates creativity can also play an important role in improving a person's creative thinking ability. Openness to new ideas, collaboration with people with different views, and exploration of new concepts can open the door to discovery and innovation. Creative thinking is not just about art or design, but can be applied in many areas of life, including business, science, education, and more. This is an invaluable capability in facing complex and evolving challenges in an ever-changing world. So, let's get ready to explore the world of new ideas and open the doors to creativity. Students' creative thinking skills are the ability to process some information that can produce new ideas in the learning process. The development of science in the 21st century requires students to be competent by developing their skills and knowledge. One of the skills that is considered important for students to develop is higher order thinking skills. Higher order thinking skills are the skills to use new information or previous knowledge and manipulate it to reach possible answers to new situations. Students are skilled at higher level thinking when faced with a problem or question so that in the end students are able to produce ideas to solve the problem. One of the important thinking skills to be developed at the elementary school level is improving students' creative thinking skills. Teachers as facilitators in the learning process should be able to understand this. The formal teaching system in elementary schools must be directed at training students' creative thinking. Creative thinking is a cognitive activity in finding solutions to solve problems and produce complex products.

Research Methodology

The approach used in this research is a qualitative approach using the PTK (Classroom Action Research) type of research. Arikunto (2021:1) says that classroom action research is research that describes the causes of a research application being carried out, as well as explaining what will happen when the research is carried out, and the complete process from the beginning of the research treatment until the impact of the treatment. So with that in mind, it can be said that classroom action research or PTK is a kind of study that describes the actions and results that occur in the classroom to improve teaching standards. PTK is carried out cyclically by teachers in the classroom in the learning process. The cyclical process in PTK starts at the stages of design, implementation, observation and reflection in solving problems as well as doing new things so that the quality of learning can improve. This research was conducted at SDN 64/I Muara Bulian, Batanghari Regency, Jambi Province, where this research was carried out. The 2022/2023 academic year was chosen as the time for carrying out this research. This research was conducted to find out how the use of the Project Based Learning model with differentiated learning strategies can improve students' creative thinking skills. The subjects chosen for this research were class IV B students at SDN 64/I Muara Bulian, with a total of 27 members with 13 male students and 14 female students.

Result & Discussion

The results of this research use qualitative data, namely data obtained to describe or describe an event in written form. Qualitative data comes from observations in the learning process regarding explanations of creative thinking abilities with indicators: 1) able to answer and ask questions according to the material; 2) able to convey ideas/opinions that are appropriate to the material; 3) able to produce work with a group or alone; 4) able to use imagination in producing a work; 5) able to present the results of the work in detail. Apart from being obtained from observations, qualitative data was also obtained from students' learning results after implementing the Project Based Learning (PjBL) model. The things obtained are then put into words or descriptions. This technique is an action or method that can be used so that the necessary research data can be collected. Data obtained from the field through research instruments is checked and analyzed again so that the results obtained can be used to answer questions and solve problems in the research. Therefore, this data collection technique is important to carry out. The results of the collected observation data are used to determine all events and activities during the action process, as well as measure the activities of students and educators. Observation includes a method or technique for collecting systematic data on objects studied directly and indirectly. Observations were carried out for this research to determine creative thinking abilities which were assessed based on several indicators. The following are indicators of creative thinking ability: (1) Able to answer and ask questions according to the material (2) Able to convey ideas/opinions that suit the material (3) Able to produce work with a group or alone (4) Able to use imagination to produce work. The process of collecting data through documents is a technique for collecting data through documentation. According to Sugiyono (2015:329), documents obtained can be obtained from pictures, writings, and someone's works. The use of this technique is also appropriate in this research because this technique was obtained from other informants about the subject we are researching.

Creative Thinking

Thinking skills are needed by everyone to succeed in life. John Dewey in 1916, stated that schools should teach students to think. He also defined thinking as mental activity to formulate or solve problems, make decisions, attempt to understand something, look for answers to problems, and look for the meaning of something. All parents and teachers agree that students at school are taught how to think, especially about higher level thinking, because this skill will be very useful in all aspects of life. Thinking skills are always developing and can be learned. Thinking skills are divided into basic thinking skills and complex thinking skills. The basic thinking process is a description of the rational thinking process which contains a collection of mental processes from simple to complex. The thinking activities contained in rational thinking are memorizing, imagining, grouping, generalizing, comparing, evaluating, analyzing, synthesizing, deducing and concluding. In this case the basic thinking process is finding relationships, connecting cause and effect, transforming, classifying, and providing qualifications. Complex thinking processes are known as higher order thinking processes. This complex thinking process (high level thinking) is divided into critical thinking and creative thinking. Critical thinking is an organized process that involves mental activities such as solving problems (problem solving), decision-making (decision making), analysis of assumptions (analyzing assumption), and scientific inquiry (scientific inquiry).

Conclusion

Creative thinking is a must, because creative thinking is very important and by thinking creatively students can develop new ideas or creative ideas that they have about something. Creativity is one aspect of human quality which currently plays a very important role in supporting the development of the Indonesian nation and state which is experiencing complex problems, because with creativity humans will have the ability to creative adaptation and imaginative skills, so that humans will be able to find solutions. problems in a new way in following the changes that occur. Everyone who is unable to keep up with the times will drown in the times, therefore everyone is required to have creative ideas and everyone should want to be creative. Creativity makes life more fun, more interesting and can make everyone achieve many things.

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