



STUDENT DEVELOPMENT CHARACTERISTICS

Zakira¹, Bulan²

^{1,2}Elementary School Teacher Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara

Email: ¹ zakirarara502@gmail.com, ² bulanbrueh@gmail.com

Abstract

This study aims to describe the characteristics of students at an educational institution. This study uses a literature review. Data obtained from various references such as books and scientific articles are collected and analyzed related to students. This article tries to elaborate on the ability of teaching staff to understand the characteristics of students by optimizing the achievement of the learning process. At the implementation level, the success of the learning process is certainly related to the ability of teaching staff to understand students' subjects that have differences, both physical and non-physical dimensions. Therefore, it is necessary to study the developmental characteristics of elementary school students. The purpose of this writing is to provide information regarding the development of elementary school students. This article was created with the aim of providing readers with knowledge about the characteristics of students in order to maximize learning, namely by understanding each student's characteristics from various intelligences and learning styles. So that learning can run smoothly, namely by equalizing students' understanding of various characteristics. With smooth learning, the goals of the learning will be easily achieved and will benefit teachers and students. Besides that, student characteristics are related to several important elements such as intellectual, physical, emotional and moral aspects. It is important to note all these aspects that differences in era will determine differences in treatment. Differences in treatment are increasingly demanded along with changes and developments in technological science.

Keywords : Characteristics of Student Development

Introduction

In the national education process, student characteristics are important main elements (subcompetencies) in pedagogical competence. Mastering the characteristics of participants is absolute for educational staff, in fact mastering these characteristics is one of the indicators of professionalism or educational staff. As a competency, student characteristics are not only used as a cognitive variable, but student characteristics are absolutely understood, mastered and implemented in the learning process, both for educational staff at primary, secondary and tertiary education levels. Differences in educational levels only indicate differences in student categories. Understanding the characteristics of students, including those in higher education, cannot be ignored. If ignored, the learning process will not achieve maximum results. During development, the formation of students' character is difficult to achieve. On this basis, according to Janawi, education or teachers need to delve into the world of children, their potential, interests, talents, motivation to learn and other problems related to children. (Janawi, 2019, pp. 1-2). Development can be interpreted as a process of quantitative and qualitative changes in individuals throughout their life span, starting from conception, infancy, childhood, adolescence, to adulthood. Development can also be interpreted as a process of change in terms of an individual or organism, both physically (physically) and psychologically (spiritually) towards a level of maturity or maturity that takes place systematically, progressively and continuously. The development or growth of students is a very important thing to study for

prospective students because many educators do not understand and comprehend the meaning of student development. (Mia, 2022, pp. 351-352). Education is currently facing enormous challenges as a result of globalization, so various efforts need to be made so that students will be able to get a decent life in their own country or abroad. Children's education first comes from the family environment, especially from their parents. Next, children will interact with the environment, which is none other than educational institutions. To support these children's education, various measures are taken so that they receive an excellent education. Its function is to develop abilities and form character and civilization that are useful for making the nation's life more intelligent. The aim is to develop the potential of students to become human beings who are faithful and devout, have noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, independent and become democratic and responsible citizens. To achieve all this, it is necessary to improve the quality of attitudes, knowledge, creativity and skills before entering basic education. (nurhamidah, 2018, pp. 27-29). Students are members of society who try to develop their potential through the learning process available at certain paths, levels and types of education (Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 20, 2023). Apart from that, students can also be defined as people who need knowledge, guidance, and direction, however, there are quite a few people who live life instantly so that they do various things for themselves even though they are not in accordance with applicable norms. Students have different potential, the differences between students lie in their mindset, imagination and work results. As a result, it needs to be selected and designed to provide opportunities and creative freedom on an ongoing basis in order to develop and optimize students' creativity. Students can also be identified as immature people and have a number of basic potentials that still need to be developed. The potential referred to is generally from three categories, namely, cognitive, effective, and psychomotor. Students also have a variety. Needs that need to be fulfilled by educators. The needs of students include intellectual, social, physical, emotional, psychological, moral and homodivinous needs. For this reason, in this case, understanding is needed from the teacher to know the diversity of each student.

Research Methodology

The type of research used in this journal is a qualitative research method as a research method. This is based on several reasons, namely first, because qualitative studies aim to tentatively study the background of the problem which is temporary and will develop after the author is in the field. This is in accordance with what the author is doing, namely studying the second, because qualitative studies are assumptions about the symptoms of an object being single and partial. Third, because qualitative studies focus on documents in the form of written records of past events.

Result & Discussion

Understanding student characteristics

According to a teacher, in the learning planning process, it is necessary to understand the characteristics and initial abilities of students. Analysis of students' initial abilities is an activity of identifying students in terms of needs and characteristics to determine specifications and qualifications for behavior changes or to determine specifications and qualifications for changes in behavior or goals and materials. Student characteristics are defined as characteristics of the individual qualities of students which generally include, among others, academic abilities, age and level of maturity, motivation for subjects, experience, skills, psychomotor skills, cooperative abilities, and social abilities. Apart from understanding the general characteristics above, there are also special characteristics which are called non-conventional which include minority groups (tribes), disabilities, and maturity levels. This influences the use of language, awards or recognition, special treatment, and strategic methods in the teaching process.

Learner characteristics

There are two characteristics of students' initial abilities that teachers need to understand, namely:

1. Academic background

a) Number of students

Teachers need to know the number of students they will teach to know whether to teach in small classes or large classes. The teacher's understanding of the number of students will influence the teacher's preparation in determining the material, methods, media, time needed, and evaluation of the learning carried out. To find out the number of students, teachers can coordinate with the academic department.

b) Student background

Teachers' understanding of students' backgrounds such as family background, economics, level of hobbies and so on also influences the process of formulating learning system planning. To obtain data about students' backgrounds, it can be obtained by filling in the students' biodata.

c) Presentation index

The student achievement index is also important for teachers to know, so that the material provided is in accordance with their abilities: (1) Can be adjusted to their level of achievement (2) Even students who have homogeneous levels of achievement can be placed in the same class (3) Teachers can also consider the level of breadth and depth of the material presented and the students' achievements. To find out a student's achievement index, it can be obtained through previous report cards or a selection of students' initial abilities held by the institution.

d) Intelligence level

Understanding students' intelligence levels can also measure and predict: (1) The level of their ability to receive learning material (2) Measuring the depth and breadth of material (3) Even by understanding the level of intelligence of students, teachers can prepare materials, methods, media, as well as the level of difficulty of evaluating students' intelligence level. The level of student intelligence can be obtained through student intelligence tests or academic potential tests.

e) Reading skills

One of the skills that students must have in learning is reading skills. Reading skills relate to students' ability to draw precise and accurate conclusions about the reading material they read. To determine the level of students' reading skills, this can be done through a reading test and summarizing the reading material within a predetermined time period.

f) Test scores

Test scores can also be used as a guide to understand the initial characteristics of students. To obtain students' test scores, it is necessary to determine the students' initial abilities in the subjects taught by the teacher concerned.

g) Study habits/learning styles

Another aspect that teachers need to pay attention to in the learning process is understanding students' learning styles or also known as learning styles. Learning style refers to the way of learning preferred by students. In the learning process, many students take part in studying certain subjects, are taught using the same strategies, but have different levels of understanding.

h) Interest to learn

Interest in learning can also be used as a benchmark in understanding student characteristics. This is done so that teachers can predict or see the level of enthusiasm of students towards the learning being delivered. Therefore, teachers need to conduct interviews or fill out questionnaires, in order to summarize all assessments that reflect students' interest in the subjects to be taught.

i) Students' hopes or desires

Students' hopes or desires for the subjects they will be given can also be used as a benchmark for teachers in understanding the characteristics of students. This can be done by asking students to express their opinions about their hopes for the subjects that will be given, the desired atmosphere, and the goals they want to obtain from the subjects presented.

j) Desired job opportunities

This can be done by filling out a questionnaire. So based on this information a teacher can provide guidance and motivation to students in an effort to achieve their desired goals. (Taufik, 2019)

Another way to find out a child's character is by discussing it in class. Usually, introducing children one by one to introduce themselves in front of the class, if they are still shy, is a teacher's job to provide encouragement and motivational support. The introduction is in the form of the child's identity. You can also group children by changing their sitting chairs, such as making circles/squares. The characteristics of children at elementary school age that teachers need to know, so that they know more about the situation of students, especially at the elementary school level. As a teacher, you must be able to apply teaching methods that suit your students' circumstances, so it is very important for an educator to know the characteristics of their students. Apart from the characteristics, you need to pay attention to the needs of students. The characteristics and needs of students are discussed as follows (Mutia, 2021). Meanwhile, the time required depends on the situation in the class, if the class is conducive then the time required is not that long. Adaptation by children in a new environment is very important. Children will feel that everything is not going smoothly in their educational life. Children will feel like they have failed in their education. They also think that school is not fun. Therefore, children must be able to convince themselves that in the new environment there are no evil teachers, naughty friends, or difficult subjects. This adaptation is an important step for children to take the first step in starting new learning at a higher level in children's education.

Adaptation is also the first step that a child must take who will continue to his new school. Therefore, there are several tips so that children can adapt easily to their new learning environment.(Neviyarni, 2021).

1. Throw away negative thoughts. This is an effective first step for children to set themselves up that nothing bad will happen when the child enters their new environment. They also have to believe that everything will be fine in that environment. The role of parents is also needed in forming beliefs in children's minds. Parents can also invite their children to come to their new school before the new school year starts, so that their children will be given a little idea of what their new school environment is like. Teachers at school can also introduce most of the school descriptions the.
2. Have the courage to start a conversation. Some students think that they are silent until someone asks them to talk. This thought is a big mistake. As social creatures who need other humans, we must be able to create new conversations with new people. Throw away any thoughts that new people are bad. In fact, we must be able to adapt to our new environment. For parents, try to teach your child to start opening a conversation with new friends. If not, just throwing a smile can lighten the atmosphere in a new environment a little. Children can chat about how their new school is, or just ask where their previous school is from.
3. Be an open child. This third method is a way for children to become humble children. Parents should teach this method to their children, such as not being arrogant, being friendly, not discriminating between friends, and not lying to the person they are talking to in their new environment. Usually, children will start to close their circle of friends to just the same friends. They will reject the arrival of new friends outside their circle of friendship. This must be avoided because they must be open to anyone who wants to be friends. However, children still have to be wary of someone who has a bad effect on them in their new environment. Even though they have an open attitude, children must still be able to protect their own privacy.
4. Be an obedient child in class. As a new child at school, you must have the initiative to pay attention to the teacher when giving material, because it is not surprising that the child will be chatted with by his new friends and ultimately what the teacher says will not be heard properly. As a parent, you must advise your child to often pay attention to the teacher when teaching. This will bring positivity to the child about going to a new school.
5. Respond well to children. If the child has adapted, try when the child tries to tell about events at his new school, it is better for parents to open up more and try to be calmer when listening to the child telling about his new school. In this way, children will be calmer about sharing their experiences at school, whether it's saying hello to a new teacher, getting the best grades for the first time at a new school or being elected class president.

The obligations of parents and teachers at school are the same, namely ensuring that children/students receive a good education. Well-developed cooperation is also needed for the benefit of children/students. Both teachers and parents must respect and appreciate each other. If communication between parents and teachers is not built well, conflicts will arise which can be detrimental to the child/student. If a teacher ever experiences difficulties when dealing with quiet or introverted students, there are several things you can do. (Magdalena, Asfari, Firstariza, & Rafiq, 2020). Important things that need to be considered in understanding the characteristics of students, namely:

1. Building verbal communication
Verbal communication needs to be carried out at every opportunity in the learning process both in the classroom and outside the classroom. Verbal communication is carried out by involving students directly. Student involvement is carried out by asking various interactive questions, but these questions are still within the scope of student participation in the learning process. As an important note, verbal communication can be effective if students are seen as subjects, not objects of learning. Functionally, verbal communication can construct elements of psychological relationships, in addition to developing inner harmony between educators and students. Psychological relationships and inner harmony between educators and students will not be possible through nonverbal communication. On the basis of this relationship, verbal communication can also be used as an approach in the learning process, especially when educators are dealing with students who fall into the "rather naughty" category. Factors that are considered to cause students to become "rather naughty" include; [1] the child's mental state is not yet stable; [2] dominance of environmental factors; [3] the family environment is not conducive; [4] peer influence; and [5] inherited factors. (Imanuddin Hasbi., 2021)
2. Become a figure

A good figure will be a role model for students. He has several criteria such as being optimistic, communicative, having charisma, and caring about the environment around him, including the world of children. Several of these criteria are important elements in understanding student character. Exemplary behavior in behaving, speaking and communicating well can be done by being a loyal listener or being ready to hear students' complaints. A good figure generally understands the characteristics of students in several ways. Besides that, teachers need to prioritize teaching techniques such as; [1] formal but not stiff; [2] joke but not too much; [3] learning outside the classroom (outdoor); [4] Eating and drinking is permitted but must be orderly; and [5] proportional in questions and answers. If these techniques are carried out seriously, the teacher can motivate and at the same time improve students' ability to learn, and even the feeling of being at home (not getting bored easily) in the learning process will increase.(Nurhamidah, 2018)

3. Be careful in inferring student character

Educators need to be careful in drawing conclusions, especially since these conclusions lead to efforts to understand the character of students . Educators present all potential and provide wise responses to optimize comprehensive understanding of character.

4. Recognize the signs of student oddities

The signs referred to here are physical and non-physical signs. Basically there is nothing that is considered strange, but there are unique characteristics. The phenomenon of student attitudes needs to be addressed by paying attention to the personal and group character of children in the learning process.

5. Open in nature

Being open is an important attitude for educators to have. Being open to students means providing broad opportunities to understand the child's character. With an open attitude, students will generally be open to educators. Students need attention from educators both in the classroom and outside the classroom. Children have various characters. This diversity certainly determines the methods and approaches of educators in the process of understanding the nature and character of children. According to Janawi, the most important thing for teachers to understand is how to understand the child's world, the characteristics of the child, and the child's education process. Every child has similarities and differences. Teachers need to understand the periodization of children's growth and development in its totality (Janawi, 2009). The most important thing is that the child is the center of attention. (Janawi, 2019)

Characteristics of Student Development

The developmental characteristics of students are different, the developmental characteristics of students begin at an early age, school age, adolescence and adulthood. (Mareta, 2022)Characteristics of Early Childhood Development. General Characteristics of Early Childhood According to Erickson (Clavin S. Hall and Gardner Lindzey 1993) suggests that childhood is a reflection of humans as humans. Abnormal behavior in adulthood can be detected in childhood. In general, this period has the following characteristics or traits (M. Solehuddin and Ihat Hatimah in M. Ali (Ed.) 2017: 1097-1098).

1. Unique.

This means that the characteristics of children are different from each other. Children have their own characteristics, interests, capabilities and life backgrounds. Even though there are general sequential patterns in children's development that can be predicted, their development and learning patterns still differ from each other.

2. Egocentric

This means that children are more likely to see and understand things from their own perspective and interests. For a child, something will be important as long as it is related to him.

3. Active and Energetic

Children generally enjoy doing various activities. As long as they are awake from sleep, it is as if the child is never tired, never bored, and never stops doing activities, especially if the child is faced with a new and challenging activity.

4. Strong curiosity and enthusiasm for many things

Children tend to pay a lot of attention, talk about and question various things they see and hear, especially new things.

5. Exploratory and adventurous

Driven by a strong curiosity, children generally enjoy exploring, trying and learning new things. Children enjoy taking apart the toys they just bought. Sometimes he is intensively involved in paying attention and doing something with the objects he has.

6. Spontaneous
The behavior displayed by children is generally relatively genuine and not hidden so that it reflects what is in their feelings and thoughts.
7. Happy and rich with fantasy
Children enjoy imaginative things. Children not only enjoy imaginary stories told by other people, but they themselves also enjoy telling stories to other people.

Conclusion

General characteristics basically describe the condition of students such as age, class, occupation and gender. Student characteristics refer to special characteristics possessed by students, where these characteristics can influence the level of success in achieving learning goals. Student characteristics are special characteristics possessed by each student either as an individual or a group as a consideration in the process of organizing learning. Winkel links student characteristics with the initial state, where the initial state not only includes the reality of each student but also the reality of each teacher. Analysis of students' initial characteristics is one of the efforts made to gain an understanding of; demands, talents, interests, needs and interests of students, related to a particular learning program. This stage is considered very necessary considering many considerations such as; students, social, cultural, economic, scientific and technological developments, as well as the interests of certain educational/learning programs that students will participate in. The current and future challenges are how we can place character education as a national strength. Therefore, the policy and implementation of character-based education in schools is very important and strategic in order to build this nation. Local wisdom can function as a source of noble values. In other words, local wisdom can be a well that never runs dry in the long dry season, wisdom values for the realization of the ideals of a balanced nation, both physically and spiritually. Apart from functioning as a filter for values originating from outside, local wisdom can also be used to reduce internal turmoil. For example, conflicts between communities within the same tribe or between tribes. Efforts to formally promote noble values in a particular culture will create appreciation and a sense of pride in these values. In this way, a strong enthusiasm will arise to apply it in social life.

References

- Imanuddin Hasbi., DC (2021). Student Development. In Dc Imanuddin Hasbi., *Student Development* (p. 108). Bandung: Widina Bhakti Persada Bandung.
- Janawi. (2019). Understanding Learner Characteristics in the Process. *Journal of Islamic Education* , 73.
- Magdalena, I., Asfari, AI, Firstariza, A., & Rafiq, R. (2020). Analysis Of Students' Character And Development. *Journal of Education and Science* , 308-310.
- Mareta, M. (2022). Implications Of Child Development Characteristics. In M. Mareta, *Implications Of Child Development Characteristics* (pp. 4-5). Malang: Inara.
- meriyati. (2015). Understanding Learner Characteristics. In meriyati, *Understanding Learner Characteristics* (pp. 1-3). Lampung: Other Press Facts Raden Intan Lampung.
- Mia. (2022, December). *Characteristics of student development*, 6 , 351-352.
- Mutia. (2021). Characteristics Of Children Age Of Basic Education. *Character, Education, Early Childhood* , 118.
- Neviyarni. (2021). Developmental Characteristics of Elementary School Students: A Study. *Tambusai Educational Journal* , 1811-1812.
- nurhamidah, i. (2018). the mathematical problem of teacher pedagogical competence on student characteristics. *journal of theory and practice of social studies learning*, 3 , 27-29. Retrieved from <http://dx.doi.org/10.17977/um022v3i12018p027>
- Nurhamidah, I. (2018). Problematics Of Teachers' Pedagogical Competencies. *Journal of Social Sciences Learning Theory and Praxis* , 35.
- Taufik, A. (2019). analysis of student characteristics. *el-Ghiroh*, 14 , 1-3.
- Taufik, A. (2019). Analysis Of Student Characteristics. *Analysis of student characteristics* , 3-6.