



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING LEARNING STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVING STUDENT ACADEMICS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

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Abstract

In the teaching and learning process, teachers have the task of choosing appropriate learning strategies/models according to the material presented. On the other hand, the existing problem is that the ongoing learning process in elementary school tends to be limited to textual and monotonous. This strategy is carried out by providing it in stages, starting with providing lecture material and questions and answers. Implementation is the basis or reference so that the process in this community service program runs systematically, structured and directed. The aim of this research is to increase teachers' understanding in managing the classroom by using active learning strategies. This research uses a literature review research method. The content and discussion in this research is related to the implementation of learning strategy activities that have been researched on improving students' academics, in the results and discussion of which there are active learning strategy activities for elementary school teachers so that teachers can increase their insight and experience in carrying out the learning process in the classroom actively and creative.

Keywords : Active learning strategies, elementary school teachers, education

Introduction

Learning is not only about acquiring knowledge and skills, but also about developing attitudes, values, and character. Therefore, a holistic education approach emphasizes the importance of comprehensive education, which includes the development of students' intellectual, social, emotional and moral aspects. In this approach, learning focuses not only on academic achievement, but also on the development of a balanced personality and a good quality of life. Effective learning also involves balanced and continuous evaluation. Formative evaluations are used to periodically monitor student progress, provide constructive feedback, and identify areas for improvement. Summative evaluations, such as final exams or final project assignments, provide an overall picture of student achievement. In addition, peer assessment is also an important part of learning, where students provide feedback to each other and engage in self-reflection to improve their understanding and quality of work (Permata, 2015). The learning process in the classroom has a close relationship between teachers, students, curriculum, facilities and infrastructure. A teacher must be able to choose the right learning strategy according to the material presented in the learning process in order to achieve educational goals. As is the opinion of Sanjaya (2011:102) who states that the concept paradigm of Abdimas Toddopuli: Journal of Community Service Volume. 1, No. 1, December 2019 50 teaching as a process of managing an environment that has the characteristics: (a) student-centered teaching; (b) students as learning subjects; (c) the learning process takes place anywhere; (d) learning is oriented towards achieving goals. Learning that is carried out actively and effectively with appropriate learning strategies is also able to create a conducive atmosphere for the teaching and learning process and design student learning activities for the subjects being taught. Because after all, student learning outcomes cannot be achieved optimally if the conditions and situations of the teaching and learning process carried out do not provide space and movement for students to explore and develop the potential within them. Learning strategies can be grouped into 2 strategies, namely

deductive and inductive strategies according to Sri Anita W et al (2009: 46-48). Deductive strategies are messages or subject matter that are processed starting from the general, generalizing or formulating concepts or formulating rules, continuing to specifically, namely an explanation of the parts using various illustrations.

Meanwhile, inductive learning strategies, messages or subject matter are processed from the specific to the general, namely generalization or formulation of concepts or rules. In selecting learning strategies, a teacher can implement the curriculum in the learning process so that the results are truly for the students in the class. According to Hamzah B. Uno. (2012: 3) Learning strategies are methods that are actively used by teachers to choose learning activities that will be used during the learning process. The learning selection is carried out by considering the situation and conditions, learning resources, needs and characteristics of the students faced in order to achieve certain learning goals. According to Minister of Education and Culture Regulation no. 81A of 2013 concerning Curriculum Implementation, it is explained that to meet future competency needs, the required student abilities are the ability to communicate, think critically and creatively to be able to live in a global society, have a broad interest in life and readiness to work, intelligence in accordance with talent /interests, and care for the environment. The curriculum must be able to answer this challenge so it is necessary to develop these abilities in the learning process. Curriculum changes require teachers to change learning methods so that students are more critical, active, creative and innovative in learning things they need to know in elementary school learning. In conventional learning that is often carried out by teachers, the classroom atmosphere tends to be teacher-centered (centered on the teacher) so that students become passive, bored and bored. However, teachers prefer to apply Abdimas Toddopuli: Journal of Community Service Volume. 1, No. 1, December 2019 51 this approach, because it does not require practical tools and materials, it is enough to explain the concepts in textbooks or other references. This problem is often encountered in Teaching and Learning Process (PBM) activities in the classroom. This provides opportunities and free time for elementary school teachers to develop active student-oriented learning processes.

Research Methodology

This research uses a literature review research method. The author looks for data or literature material from journals or articles and also references from books so that it can be used as a strong basis for the content or discussion. In this research, data sources were obtained from the internet, journal articles or books that were relevant to the research theme. The data collection technique used in this research is using observation. Observation is an activity carried out using sight and feeling events based on observations that occur (Ruslan, Fauziah, & Alawiyah, 2016).

Result & Discussion

Education is an absolute need that must be fulfilled throughout life. Without education, humans cannot develop according to their own ideals and life goals. People continue to live a span of life where education is necessary until the end, whether young or old. With the help of education, a person can develop thinking abilities. The success of the world of education is of course also supported by the learning process. Learning is a combination of human elements, materials, facilities, equipment and processes that are interconnected to influence the achievement of learning objectives. One of the problems in the world of education today is the problem of weak learning processes. In the classroom, the teacher acts as the center of learning, while the students are the learning objects, so that learning conditions in the classroom do not show reciprocal interaction between students and teachers, thereby reducing student activity during learning. If students are less active in learning then student learning outcomes will not be optimal. In formal education or in educational institutions there will definitely be periods of waiting for educational goals to be achieved, also with the help of the important role of teachers or professional teachers in their field to be successful in this training. Professional teaching skills are really needed by teachers, so that students can absorb well what the teacher is looking after and of course this is beneficial for students in their daily lives in their devotion to religion and also the community environment. Elementary schools are the first educational schools that act as creators of scientific foundations and support the development of students through teacher-led learning. Elementary students experience development at the level of thinking, which requires stimulation to understand the information received, to be able to think critically when receiving information and solving a problem, because critical thinking allows students to make reasonable decisions or conclude that they believe or believe that they should do it. Critical thinking is an active way of thinking to achieve a goal. Critical thinking develops the ability to solve problems, make decisions or draw conclusions about an issue. 4330 Journal on Education, Volume 06, No. 01, September-December 2023, p. 4328 - 4339 In the learning process in class, the teacher only reads the material to be studied while the students sit and listen during the lesson, because the teacher learns by providing information or telling stories to the students in lectures. Not to mention there are

teachers who just sit and wait for the students to finish the summary, then the students are asked to read the results of the summary, then the teacher asks the students to read the results of the summary they read, then asks the teacher. Students memorize summary material, this makes students bored and bored, then the material taught by the teacher cannot be remembered and understood, and is often forgotten. As is known, teaching strategies are a means of interaction between teachers and students in the learning process. Teachers are required to be able to develop students' skills, for example the ability to ask inductive-deductive questions and develop open and closed questions.

The quality of education is one of the central issues, and those who are often in the spotlight are educators. Although it is known that various components also have an influence, such as: curriculum, students, and learning media. It is undeniable that teachers are both planners and implementers of learning, so that Learning Strategies to Improve the Quality of Student Learning³⁷ teachers are always required to improve performance in order to create an effective learning process in order to achieve national education goals. Teachers are the main role in implementing learning, both as teachers, managers and other roles (Idzhar, 2016). The success of educational programs through the learning process is greatly influenced by many factors, one of which is the availability of adequate educational facilities and infrastructure accompanied by ideal use and management. Educational facilities and infrastructure are one of the important and main resources in supporting the learning process in schools, for this reason it is necessary to improve their utilization and management, so that the expected goals can be achieved. Educational facilities are one of the determining factors for educational success. The completeness and availability of educational facilities in schools greatly influences the effectiveness and smoothness of learning in the classroom. All school facilities or facilities and infrastructure must be managed well so that the existence of these facilities and infrastructure can support the learning process and are used as needed, so that learning in the classroom can run smoothly and educational goals can be realized. In learning activities, facilities and infrastructure are very necessary in order to support the smooth process of activities, so that the management of facilities and infrastructure is very necessary for every agency, especially schools. Educational facilities and infrastructure are one of the important resources in supporting the learning process in schools. The success of educational programs in schools is greatly influenced by the condition of the educational facilities and infrastructure owned by the school and by the optimization of their management and utilization. Educational facilities and infrastructure are also used to facilitate students' understanding of the material presented by using appropriate educational facilities and infrastructure in teaching work programs to make them more effective and efficient.

With the existence of educational facilities and infrastructure, teaching and learning activities will become more meaningful, quality and enjoyable. Educational facilities are supporting facilities for the ongoing teaching and learning process. This is a factor that must be considered by an educational institution because it affects the continuity of the teaching and learning process in schools. Facilities and infrastructure are very necessary to support the teaching and learning process, so that students are more interested and easier to accept explanations from educators (Sinta, 2019). If the facilities and infrastructure provided are lacking, it can affect students' interest in participating in the teaching and learning process. If students have an interest in participating in the teaching and learning process, then this factor can improve student learning achievement (Kartika et al., 2019). Educational facilities are equipment and supplies that are directly used and support the educational process, especially the teaching and learning process. For example: buildings, classrooms, tables, chairs. "Educational facilities are all the facilities needed in the teaching and learning process, both moving and immovable so that the achievement of educational goals can run smoothly, regularly, effectively and efficiently." The characteristics of teacher competence and professionalism possessed by teachers aim to become teachers who have different added value in the view of society, are more appreciated and respected, are more respected and are not taken for granted by some in society, especially their students. Apart from all that, teachers are educators and instructors who are the determining factor for success in improving the quality of education. Apart from that, teachers are also required to be able to generate motivation and enthusiasm for learning in their students so that the planned learning can be realized optimally (Hanafi, 2018).

Conclusion

The role of teachers in educating and developing students is very high, because it is the teacher who will carry out learning for students. Therefore, teachers are required to be creative, innovative and have broad insight. So teachers not only carry out the learning process in the classroom but also bring students to learn outside the classroom by utilizing facilities and infrastructure. Or sometimes teachers also invite learning strategies to improve the quality of student learning through infrastructure. 39 students study in labs, such as computer labs, science labs and language labs. Learning will also go well if the teacher masters the material being taught, therefore the teacher teaches according to his field, such as an English teacher who will teach English. And if the teacher for a particular

subject is unable to attend, there will be a substitute teacher who is as professional as the teacher who is unable to attend. So what the teachers teach is maximized because there are no English teachers teaching Physical Education, therefore there are no free hours and study time is used as best as possible. In order to create a maximum learning process, elementary schools pay great attention to the comfort and needs of their students in learning, one of which is the classroom or study room. The familiar space is created to be comfortable and enjoyable. Because the learning process will run optimally if the classroom used is clean, comfortable and neatly arranged. Here the teacher's role is to encourage students to always maintain the cleanliness and tidiness of the classroom. Like teaching you to throw rubbish in the trash and return things to their original place.

Apart from that, in order to improve the arrangement of classrooms, classroom cleanliness competitions are often held. This inter-class competition will encourage students to create a comfortable, clean and tidy classroom atmosphere. The teacher's style in teaching will also influence the quality of learning, a sympathetic and democratic teacher will more easily create a conducive classroom atmosphere. Because students feel free, respected and are not afraid of making mistakes when answering or asking questions. The use of media and learning methods also determines the quality of learning, such as using audio-visual media when explaining learning will make it easier for students to understand or using different learning methods so that in the teaching and learning process students do not get bored. Another role of teachers is as a role model for students, therefore teachers must have responsibility, authority, independence and discipline. Teachers always maintain their appearance so that they look clean and neat so that students follow their example. Apart from that, teachers also act as mentors, both guiding during the learning process outside the classroom, such as teaching how to swim, play volleyball, basketball, or learning in the classroom, lab and library. Teachers also play a role in guiding students' creativity, emotional and spiritual abilities. The important role of teachers in improving the quality of learning through facilities and infrastructure will not be realized if students are not invited to collaborate in the learning process, therefore teachers also have a role in inviting students to learn with various learning models such as jigsaw, talking stick, or other models. which involves students to be active during the learning process. Apart from that, because the facilities and infrastructure are adequate, teachers also play a role in utilizing them during the learning process. In this way the quality of learning will increase.

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