



GETTING TO KNOW DEMOCRACY IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

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Abstract

Education is a need for everyone. From time to time, education always experiences developments in a better direction, such as the implementation of educational democracy in learning which carries the concept of giving students freedom to express opinions, express objections, and also have equal opportunities without any distinction in terms of ethnicity, race and class. This research aims to determine the application of educational democracy in the student learning process in elementary schools. This research uses a literature study method where information is obtained from journals, articles, and sites available on the web and analyzed using a qualitative approach using information analysis techniques through four stages, namely searching for information, reducing information, presenting information, and drawing conclusions. The research results show that students are currently not only used as learning objects but also as subjects who are involved in discussions during the learning process. Therefore, it is hoped that masters will be able to create a democratic learning environment for students. Educational democracy is realized in democratic school learning, namely by involving all parties such as teachers, students and other parties involved in education (Zahrawati B, 2018).

Keywords : Democracy, School Environment

Introduction

Starting from the mid-5th century BC the term democracy has been widely used to denote the political system that existed in several Greek states and cities, especially in Athens. Democracy itself is a system of government from the people, for the people, and by the people, where everyone can take part in decisions that will affect their lives in the state. Indonesia has implemented a democratic system as stated in the 1945 Constitution, article 1 paragraph 1 which reads "Sovereignty is in the hands of the people and is implemented according to the Constitution". Democracy is a system of government that allows and gives rights and freedom to its citizens to express opinions and participate in decision making in government. Democracy is carried out so that the needs of the general public can be met. Policy making in a democratic country depends on the wishes and aspirations of the people in general. By determining policies in accordance with the wishes of the people, in a democratic country people's satisfaction will be created. A country itself is said to have implemented a democratic system, if it meets the characteristics of (1) Having People's Representatives (2) Decisions are Based on the Aspirations and Interests of Citizens (3) Implementing Constitutional Characteristics (4) Holding General Elections (5) There is a Party System. Schools as the second educational institution after family education are a place in the process of cultivating a democratic culture for the nation's future generations. Schools have an important role in fostering a culture of democracy among students. Therefore, schools must display a democratic culture in managing their education. Here students will learn how democratic culture can be realized and implemented well.

Research Methodology

This article reviews developments in the implementation of environmental education for elementary school students in Indonesia in general. Studies that have been carried out by previous educational practitioners mostly

made observations specifically for certain school objects so that the scope of the study was considered less broad. This research uses a qualitative method with a descriptive analytical approach.

Result & Discussion

Democracy in the educational environment is recognition of individual students, in accordance with the dignity of the students themselves, because democracy is basically natural and humane. This means that research parties involved in the educational process must recognize and respect the abilities and characteristics of individual students. There is no element of coercion or producing students who are not in line with their dignity. Thus, democracy means mutual respect, mutual respect, tolerance towards other parties, including self-control and unselfishness. In the education process, all parties involved are aware of the nature or atmosphere of mutual respect, namely between teachers and teachers, between teachers and students and between teachers and members of the community, including parents and others. The basic implication of democratic culture is that the presence and existence of students as a component of the school will only be accepted if the person concerned is willing, able and willing to make various types of adjustments in their actions and behavior to reflect acceptance of democratic culture in accordance with the objectives of school programs. According to Handoko (2007:16). In the independent curriculum, a project to strengthen the profile of Pancasila students (P5) was designed, one of the themes of which was the Voice of Democracy. In this P5 activity, students are invited to implement democracy, namely the election of chairman, including the election of class president, student council president and deputy. Several things that must be considered to build a democratic climate in the world of education are (1) the classroom becomes a field for developing basic critical thinking skills considering), (2) the classroom becomes a space for encounters between various groups (religion, ethnicity, social class), and (3) the classroom becomes a field for dialogue.

Goals, Benefits and Characteristics of Implementing Democracy in the School Environment

The goal of democracy itself means that people are free to express and hold opinions. So that a country that implements this system of government means giving freedom to all its people to voice their voices, opinions, until their aspirations are achieved, while the aim of implementing democratic education in schools is to educate children and lead them to the maturity phase, so that they are independent both psychologically and social with emphasis on developing intellectual skills, personal and social skills. The application of democracy can be carried out in various domains. Educational institutions are no exception. Here are some of the benefits of democracy in schools:

1. Resolve Disputes
One of the benefits of democracy in the field of education is that it can resolve disputes that occur between certain parties. Both problems between teachers and students. Because democracy teaches the value of being peaceful.
2. Respect each other
Mutual respect for all school members regardless of position is an important role in achieving democracy.
3. Security is maintained
The implementation of democracy can eliminate feelings of hatred and revenge against others. So that order and security can be maintained.
4. Freedom of Opinion
Basically, in a democratic system, prioritizing freedom of opinion for all students. This makes teaching and learning activities run smoothly without obstacles.

Examples of implementing freedom of opinion in the school environment are respecting other people's opinions during discussions and actively expressing opinions during learning.



Pucture 1 . Students raise their hands to express their opinions

5. Creating a Fair Environment

By upholding democratic values, we will be able to overcome the problem of discrimination and encourage the creation of a fair environment for individuals. Because all members are given the right to be respected, heard and speak.

Characteristics of Democracy in the School Environment: There are a number of characteristics of whether a government is based on a democratic system or not. Following are the characteristics: (a) Popular sovereignty is represented by people who have been elected by the people themselves to govern their country (b) There are general elections (elections) which are held to choose parties in government (c) Political parties become media or a means to be part of implementing a democratic system. Meanwhile, the characteristics of democracy in the school environment are as follows: (1) Demonstrates concern for the welfare of others. (2) Provide freedom for students to choose and express themselves his opinion in deliberations (3) Openness of ideas and thoughts, so that all students can accept them information as optimal as possible (4) Prevent disputes between students. The next question that arises is how to realize democratic education in formal education, especially in schools, both at class and school levels? Instilling democratic values at the classroom level requires a classroom climate that is transparent and tolerant of all differences, both attitudes and opinions of students. An open and relaxed classroom climate is very conducive to socializing democratic values, because in such a climate the atmosphere will be democratic so that the learning process will be dynamic.

School environment

The school environment is the sum of all animate and inanimate objects as well as all conditions that exist within formal educational institutions that systematically implement educational programs and help students develop their potential. The function of the school environment is (1) To continue, maintain and develop the culture of a society through learning activities to shape the personality of students so that they become mature and independent human beings in accordance with the culture and society around them (2) Basically it also provides services to students so that they are able to acquire knowledge or academic abilities needed in life. There are various types of school environments that influence student learning (1) The physical environment of the school such as learning facilities and infrastructure, learning resources and learning media (2) The social environment concerns students' relationships with their friends, teachers and school staff. others (3) The academic environment, namely the school atmosphere and the implementation of teaching and learning activities, various curricular activities and so on.

As quoted by Rosyada (2004: 16), the conditions that really need to be developed in an effort to build a democratic school are as follows: (a) Open channels of ideas and concepts, so that everyone can receive information as optimally as possible. (b) Providing trust in individuals and groups with the capacity they have to solve various school problems. (c) Delivering criticism as a result of analysis in the process of delivering evaluations of ideas, problems and various policies issued by the school. (d) Showing concern for welfare other people and public issues. (e) There is concern for self-esteem, individual rights and minority rights. (f) Understanding that the democracy that has been developed does not yet reflect the ideal democracy, so democracy must continue to be developed and can guide the whole human life. (g) There is an institution that can continue to promote and develop democratic ways of life. Classroom learning activities need to be modified in such a way that the nuances of democracy are more embedded and conducive. So, teachers must be creative in using student-centered learning strategies or models, raising controversial topics or issues to provoke students' critical thinking and providing more opportunities for students to participate in expressing their opinions and accommodating all differences during learning. tolerant and egalitarian. The democratic nuance in learning activities can be realized by developing and using learning models such as cooperative learning models, problem-based learning models (PBM).

Conclusion

Mulyoto (2002) put forward three urgent reasons for democratic learning to be implemented in the classroom. (1) the fact that teachers are no longer the only source of learning. It cannot be denied that in the era of globalization of information technology, access to information has become very widespread: television, radio, books, newspapers, magazines and the web. When in class, students already have a set of experiences, knowledge and information. All of this can be in accordance with the lesson material or it can be contradictory. Democratic learning allows for a discourse process that leads to the achievement of set learning objectives. Without democracy

in the classroom, the teacher will become the sole and inviolable ruler. Students are constrained, and ultimately their creative potential does not develop well. (2) the complexity of life that students will face after graduating. They have the ability to adapt in the future. The relevant learning principle is learning how to learn. This means that in class the learning target is not just mastery of the material, but students must also learn how to learn (independently) for other things. This can happen if in learning activities students are accustomed to thinking independently, dare to express opinions, and dare to experiment. (3) Community democratic education context. As members of society, students should be accustomed from an early age to being democratic, free of opinion but still within the rules of the game. This can start in the classroom in the form of learning activities that emphasize democracy. Implementing democratic education not only has an impact on classroom and school life which is more conducive to the implementation of meaningful learning, but is also a vehicle for students to practice democratic life. This experience is very important for students to use in the life of society, nation and state (Zamroni, 2011: 27).

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