

Implementation of Integrated Learning to Enhance Elementary School Students' Creativity

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Abstract

In the field of education, which is constantly changing to innovate, implementing various methods in learning is important to strengthen students' understanding and creativity. Through integrated learning, students can gain direct experience, which enhances their ability to receive, retain, and apply learned concepts. This approach not only fosters a deeper comprehension of academic subjects but also encourages critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Furthermore, integrated learning helps students make meaningful connections between different disciplines, promoting a more holistic educational experience. This research is qualitative in nature, using a literature study approach, with books and literature as the main sources. By analyzing existing studies and theoretical frameworks, this research aims to identify effective strategies for integrating different subjects and activities in the classroom. This study is expected to contribute to the implementation of integrated learning to enhance creativity in elementary school students. Ultimately, the findings of this research could provide valuable insights for educators and policymakers, guiding them in developing curricula that better support student creativity and lifelong learning skills.

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Introduction

In an era of innovative education, it is important to introduce learning methods that not only strengthen students' academic understanding but also stimulate their creativity. Integrated learning provides an interesting solution, providing a rich environment for elementary school students to express themselves creatively while mastering important concepts. Currently, the curriculum policy by the central government through the Ministry of Education and Culture has consequences for changing the learning model in elementary schools. It has shifted from a monotonous teacher-centered approach to an active and creative student-centered learning (Student Active Learning). Through integrated learning, students can gain direct experience, which enhances their ability to receive, retain, and apply learned concepts. The role of teachers in integrated learning is crucial in developing students' creativity so that they can independently discover various concepts comprehensively,



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meaningfully, authentically, and actively. In elementary education, teachers play a role in guiding, directing, facilitating, and motivating children to be creative in learning.

Through integrated learning, students are also encouraged to explore the connections between the topics they learn, linking important points in science, mathematics, language, and more. This allows them to not only understand one concept when studying a subject, but also comprehend other concepts and subjects. Integrated learning enables students to explore their intelligence in various ways and build confidence in their own abilities. By introducing different teaching methods, teachers can stimulate the creativity of students that arises from their individual strengths. Thus, integrated learning in elementary school not only prepares students for academic success, but also equips them with the necessary tools to develop as future innovators.

Method

This article is based on qualitative research. The method used is literature study, which involves reviewing various sources of references to deepen the analysis and strengthen the theories. The literacy study technique is conducted by studying books, articles, journals, websites, and relevant sources related to the research problem in order to obtain the theoretical foundations for the discussion. The purpose of this writing is to sort out the initial plans based on secondary data. Secondary data is not collected directly through observation, but is taken from previous research articles. The researcher conducted a search for journals related to integrated learning in elementary schools that enhance creativity using the Google Scholar database. The data analysis is done by categorizing, directing, examining, critiquing, eliminating unnecessary data, and finally drawing conclusions.

Results and Discussion

The concept of integrated learning

Quoted from Malawi, I., Kadarwati, A., & Dayu, D. P. K. (2019), integrated learning, if translated into English, is called the Integrated curriculum approach or integrated teaching. Integrated learning was initiated by John Dewey, who believed that integrated learning is an effort to integrate the development and knowledge of students. It forms integrated learning through interaction with the surrounding environment or daily life.

The concept created in integrated learning is to combine several appropriate subjects and provide meaningful experiences for children. Integrated learning makes children confident and understand when studying, because it is practice-oriented, so children can create broad thinking because of interconnected learning concepts. With integrated learning, students can have analytical skills such as identifying, collecting, integrating, connecting, evaluating, and sorting meaningful information.

Integrated learning currently uses several themes that are used as learning titles, which means linking several subjects into one integrated theme. In this theme, learning connects various ideas, concepts, attitudes, values, and skills. (Ministry of Education and Culture Regulation No. 57 of 2014) The themes created must be specific but in accordance with the subject matter so that they can teach one or several concepts combined from various information.

According to Hadi Subroto (2000:9), integrated concept learning starts from one main topic and then connects it with other main topics, which are planned, both from one or more subjects and from children's learning experiences or real-life experiences, so it can be said to be meaningful integrated learning.

Creativity of Elementary School Students

Power is the ability to do something or the ability to act, while creativity is creating something new and original, so creative power is a creative power or the ability to create something. In this context, the focus will be on elementary school age, which is closely related to their play world, through play children imagine and stimulate creative thinking (Muqodas, I. 2015).

Being creative is certainly because there is motivation for creative passion itself, by involving oneself in desired activities such as writing, photography, sketching, and even solving problems well, creative efforts involve thinking, feeling, and action (Muqodas, I. 2015).

According to Supriadi (2001), creativity is the ability of someone to produce something new, whether it be ideas or works that are relatively different. Elementary school children definitely have their own favorite subjects or hobbies, so they excel in certain areas according to their interests and talents, thus creativity arises from the works and ideas that they are interested in. The emergence of creativity is difficult to understand apart from interests, talents, environment, gender, economic status, family conditions, support, and intelligence also influence it. However, the emergence of creative power needs to be strengthened by teachers as educators by providing students with concepts of curiosity, challenges, courage, and imagination.

As a teacher, there are many learning methods that encourage children to understand the meaning of creativity and cultivate creativity itself. One way for teachers is to provide models and learning methods that stimulate themselves so that they can continue their creativity. For example, the Brainstorming method, children are grouped during learning and given the opportunity to express their opinions and ideas, thus various ideas are born from each child, which is a passion for creativity so that students do not need to be afraid of being wrong or failing in learning (Muqodas, I. 2015).

Steps for Optimizing Integrated Learning

Optimizing integrated learning requires careful planning and implementation so that students can experience maximum benefits. The following are the steps for optimizing integrated learning:

1. Thorough Planning

Identify Objectives : Determine clear and specific learning objectives.

Curriculum Analysis : Examine the curriculum to identify the connections between various subjects.

Choose a Theme or Topic: Choose a relevant and interesting theme that can connect several subjects.

2. Development of Materials and Learning Resources

Integration of Materials: Create integrated learning materials with the chosen theme.

Use of Resources: Utilize various resources such as books, the internet, and other media to support integrated learning.

3. Design of Learning Activities.

Interactive Activities: Design activities that allow active interaction among students.

Collaborative Projects: Create projects that require cooperation among students from various subject backgrounds.

Multidisciplinary Approach: Use an approach that combines various disciplines to enrich learning.

4. Implementation of Learning

Integrated Approach: Implement learning by integrating various disciplines in each session.

Active Mentoring: Teachers play an active role in facilitating and guiding students during the learning process.

5. Evaluation and Reflection

Comprehensive Assessment: Use assessments that cover various aspects of learning, including cognitive, affective, and psychomotor skills.

Feedback: Provide constructive feedback to students to enhance their understanding and performance.

Teacher Reflection: Reflect on the learning process to identify strengths and areas for improvement.

6. Professional Development for Teachers:

Training and Workshops: Attend training and workshops related to integrated learning to enhance competence.

Collaboration with Peers: Discuss and share experiences with other teachers to learn from each other and inspire one another.

7. Provision of Facilities and Infrastructure

Supporting Facilities: Ensure the availability of facilities that support integrated learning, such as laboratories, libraries, and practical tools.

Information Technology: Utilize information technology to enrich learning resources and interaction.

By following these steps, integrated learning can be optimized so that students can benefit from a holistic and interdisciplinary approach.

One of the Integrated Learning Models That Enhances Students' Creativity

Creativity is closely related to talent, effort, knowledge and skills, attitude, and a supportive environment. A student who has artistic talent may not develop their artistic creativity without adequate effort and a supportive environment for its development. (Abdullah, 2015: 16).

Connected learning is a deliberate model of learning that aims to connect one concept with another, one topic with another, one skill with another skill, tasks performed in one day with tasks performed in the following days, and even ideas learned in one semester with ideas that will be learned in the following semester within a subject.

According to Oktamagia (2013), the Connected Model is an interdisciplinary integration model. This model directly connects or integrates one ability, concept, or skill developed in one material with concepts, skills, or abilities in another material or sub-material within one field of study. This connected type of integrated learning model has several advantages and disadvantages like other learning models. Some advantages of the connected learning type include students (a) having a broad understanding through the integration of ideas across fields of study; (b) being able to develop key concepts continuously, leading to internalization; (c) being able to integrate ideas across fields of study, allowing students to examine, conceptualize, improve, and assimilate ideas in problem-solving. The disadvantage of this connected type of integrated learning is that various fields of study still remain separate and appear to have no connection. According to Haidir (2012), the connected integrated learning model is believed to connect the current material with the previous material. This can motivate students to always remember the lessons they have learned before and strengthen their understanding in connecting the concepts they learn with other concepts they understand.

The Connected learning model can enhance children's creativity. This model integrates various disciplines and learning experiences so that students can see the connections between different concepts. Here are ways in which the Connected learning model can enhance children's creativity.

1. **Multidisciplinary Approach:** By connecting various disciplines, students are encouraged to think across boundaries and integrate knowledge from different fields. This can trigger creative ideas that may not arise from a single discipline approach alone.

2. **Complex Problem Solving:** Students are faced with problems or projects that require creative thinking and innovative solutions. They learn to see problems from various perspectives and develop original and effective solutions.
3. **Project-Based Learning:** The Connected model often involves projects that require in-depth exploration and practical application of the concepts learned. These projects provide space for students to explore their personal interests and develop creativity.
4. **Flexible Learning Environment:** Students are given the freedom to explore ideas and develop their own projects, allowing them to explore various ways of thinking and creative approaches.
5. **Use of Technology and Diverse Resources:** Access to various technologies and information resources enriches the learning process and encourages students to discover new ways of completing tasks and projects.
6. **Constructive Feedback:** Teachers provide constructive feedback that encourages students to reflect and improve their work. This reflection process helps students develop critical and creative thinking skills.

Overall, the Connected learning model provides a rich and supportive environment for the development of students' creativity. By encouraging exploration, collaboration, and interdisciplinary thinking, this model helps students develop the critical creative thinking skills that are crucial in facing future challenges.

Conclusion

In the present time, education must continue to innovate to create effective learning. In the concept of integrated learning, several subjects are combined. Integrated learning makes children confident and understand when learning because it is practice-oriented, so children can create broad thinking because the learning concepts are interconnected. To optimize integrated learning, there are steps that must be implemented, namely careful planning, development of materials and learning resources, designing learning activities, implementing learning, evaluating and reflecting on learning, teacher professional development, and provision of facilities and infrastructure. The Connected type of integrated learning model can enhance creativity and motivate students to always remember the lessons they have learned before and strengthen students' understanding in connecting the concepts they have learned with other concepts they understand.

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