

Innovation and Adaptation of Social Studies Learning in Curriculum Development

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Abstract

Social Sciences is a subject that studies aspects of the field of science related to humans, the environment and the interaction activities between them. There are several complaints about social studies education, such as getting bored easily, not being able to memorize, the lesson material is not related to daily life, and the learning process is monotonous, namely students spend more time listening and taking notes. Apart from that, the implementation of social studies learning tends to deliver material according to textbooks and the methods used are not varied, namely more lecture methods and not using various learning media. So the students' attitudes during the learning process are like joking around with their classmates, sleeping and doing other activities as a result of which the material presented is not understood. So it is very important to determine innovation and adaptation of social studies learning in the development of the current educational curriculum. The method used is library research or literature review. Library research includes general processes such as systematic identification of theories, literature exploration, and analysis of documents that contain information related to the research topic. Based on the results of the study, the forms of social studies learning innovation in curriculum development are; actualization of social studies learning, project-based learning, student-centered approach, use of technology, field trips, connection with the real world, performance-based evaluation, creativity and expression, collaboration between subjects, continuous process improvement. Meanwhile, the form of adaptation itself is by implementing differentiation learning which consists of; content differentiation, process and product differentiation.

Keywords: Innovation Adaptation Social Studies Learning

BACKGROUND

Social studies subjects are one of the main subjects in the field of education from elementary to high school levels. In this science, it is closely related to the social environment which explores the behavior of each individual as a member of society, so that it will regulate actual social life. According to previous research, it is explained that social studies is a science that focuses on social and humanities disciplines as well as basic human activities that are scientifically regulated which aims to share more complete scientific information and insights with students [1]. Apart from that, other research also explains that Social Sciences is a scientific discipline formed from a combination of various branches of science and a combination of a number of discussions such as geography, politics, law, history, social sciences and anthropology [2]. So from this explanation, social studies is a subject that studies various aspects of the field of science related to humans, the environment and interaction activities between them. These lessons are important because they help students understand the world around them better, building awareness of the various social, political, and economic issues that impact everyday life. So essentially the social

studies material in the education unit combines various social sciences in it, which are aligned with the needs and stage of progress of students.

However, in reality, Social Sciences Education is one of the lessons that often makes students quite burdened, because students' social studies lessons are always filled with various definitions, facts, names of experts, and lengthy expert opinions. Until now, quite a few cases can be found in various schools which show that students tend to just follow the subjects because it is impossible to evade their obligations. One of them can be seen from students' activeness during the teaching and learning process and the lack of enthusiasm of students in taking social studies subjects. There are several complaints about social studies education, such as getting bored easily, not being able to memorize, the lesson material being less relevant to daily life, and the learning process being monotonous, meaning that students spend more time listening and taking notes.

Apart from that, in previous research, the implementation of social studies learning tends to deliver material according to textbooks and the methods used are not varied, namely more lecture methods and not using various learning

media. Situations like this create a monotonous learning atmosphere and are less attractive to students. So that students' attitudes during the learning process are like having fun joking with their classmates, sleeping and doing more other activities as a result of which the material presented is not understood (Rohmahurmuzi, et al., 2024).

The gap between the quality of education amidst developments in empirical reality and ideal demands, curriculum, and developments in practical life and society demands continued innovation in education. Innovation is a need and necessity so that gaps can be controlled. Apart from that, it is important to know that the education system tends to always be left behind by developments in society, because on the one hand society is dynamic while on the other hand education tends to be conservative, especially in developing societies.

In previous research, it was explained that innovation is a strategic effort and must be carried out in responding to educational challenges, in developing the quality of Indonesian people who have competitive abilities [3]. Apart from that, innovation can mean updating an idea, project, or any idea that already exists and then modifying it in a newer direction. So, innovation is creativity or discovery related to humans whose aim is to introduce new things or related to changes towards the better. At the same time, it is explained that learning innovation is an update that is regulated by new ideas, namely the product of learning how to learn can implement syntax in learning, resulting in the development of learning outcomes. The term learning how to learn contains ideas, ideas about techniques, providing students with the ability to produce developments in the learning process and Meanwhile, educational innovation is a new idea or thought aimed at education to make the learning process easier. This innovation is more directed at teachers, because teachers are the ones who will implement the innovations that will be taught to their students.

Social studies education is a subject that is mandatory in the curriculum at both elementary school (SD), junior high school (SMP/MTS), and senior high school (SMA/SMK/MAN) education levels. At the school level, it is closely related to

social science disciplines which are integrated with other knowledge that is scientifically designed for learning purposes which has been arranged in the educational curriculum. Curriculum is a term used in education that refers to a collection of subjects, learning objectives, and activities designed to achieve educational goals. At the same time, it is explained that the curriculum is a plan and arrangement that contains learning materials and methods used as a guide in organizing learning [4]. From this explanation, it can be seen that the curriculum is a plan for a collection of subjects, learning objectives, and settings containing subject matter and methods used as a guide in organizing learning activities to achieve educational goals.

Cases of curriculum changes in Indonesia will often occur along with changes in the Minister of Education, so it is also necessary to reorganize the education system. This can make educators confused in implementing learning content. In the 2013 curriculum, the subject presentation is made into one theme, whereas in the Merdeka curriculum, the content of science and social studies is combined into one unit, namely science and science. This resulted in changes to the learning content. For this reason, teachers are required to be more active so that they can provide innovation and be able to adapt to learning, so that the learning process is not rigid, monotonous and easy to understand. Adaptation and innovation can help overcome educational challenges in the digital era by increasing students' access to technology and digital skills and increasing the effectiveness of the learning process through creativity and innovation from teachers and students.

The concept of an independent learning curriculum is an invitation to change the structure of the national education system so that it can keep up with the times and liberate the essence of true education. In independent learning, teachers and students work together as subjects in the learning process, not just teachers as knowledge holders (Apriani, Nur'aini, & Ikhwan, 2023). The importance of learning innovation in the curriculum is one of the challenges for the future. By integrating technology, critical thinking skills and an inclusive approach, learning becomes more relevant to the demands of a developing

world. Students not only gain knowledge, but also develop the skills needed to succeed.

Education is the key to forming a generation that has creative thinking, is responsive to change, and is ready to face global challenges. Therefore, innovation and adaptation of learning in the curriculum are important steps to create a dynamic and relevant educational environment. Learning innovation and adaptation can provide meaningful educational experiences, empowering students to become independent thinkers and future leaders. By giving educators the freedom to try new methods and develop skills, it can strengthen the overall quality of teaching. Innovation gives teachers the opportunity to continue learning and adapting to the latest developments in the world of education. Through an open attitude towards innovation, we create a dynamic learning environment.

Therefore, it is very important to carry out this research to determine innovation and adaptation of social studies learning in the development of the current educational curriculum. This will help reduce the problem of students' lack of interest, motivation and boredom in taking social studies lessons.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses the library research method or literature review. According to [5] defines library research as a method of collecting data by reviewing literature, books and various notes related to the problem you want to solve. At the same time, literature study is a process of collecting data collected by the author. The data that has been collected will later be used by the author to add to his writing. That way, what is written is valid data and can be proven to be true. Library research includes general processes such as systematic identification of theories, literature exploration, and analysis of documents that contain information related to the research topic. This research attempts to collect sources related to innovation and adaptation of social studies learning in curriculum development. So the research carried out was collecting data and analyzing documents in the form of articles produced by previous researchers according to the problem being studied. Not only that, data

collection is carried out using various data collection approaches, including reading books, articles, papers, journals and other written works that are relevant to the research topic. After that, the researcher analyzed these sources and wrote them into new writing, then drew conclusions from the sources that had been analyzed. Apart from that, researchers used an analysis model of previous findings called meta-analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Social Studies Learning Innovations in Curriculum Development

Teachers as facilitators have a very broad role in the process of teaching and learning activities. Through the latest curriculum, namely Merdeka Belajar, a teacher can create a learning atmosphere and manage classroom learning well and creatively which makes it easier for students to understand the material. Innovation is introducing ideas, services, new ways that make human life easier. Meanwhile, adaptation itself means adjusting to changes that occur. The teaching profession is required to have competence in order to carry out its duties professionally. The teacher's ability to manage the class is a demand and necessity in encouraging students to participate in classroom learning, because it will be one of the dominant factors in determining the success of the teaching and learning process. An educator not only acts as a facilitator and mediator, but is also required to act as a motivator who can arouse students' enthusiasm for learning. Teachers' teaching skills are appropriate and support the formation of students' basic competencies that are better in terms of knowledge, skills and attitudes.

In general, the attractiveness of a subject is influenced by the quality of teaching and learning, whether from the material, learning method, or media in the lesson. Likewise, for social studies subjects, lesson models need to be planned that are attractive to students. Discussion of material that does not refer too much to books and learning materials that are appropriate to the context of everyday life will make it easier for students to understand the material. This is in accordance with [6] that several innovative approaches in the teaching and learning process

of Social Sciences to increase student interest are as follows:

1. Actualize learning

Several innovation steps that can be considered in applying an innovation approach to subjects are; (a) Choose material that is appropriate and current to everyday life, whether discussing current events or issues related to social sciences, (b) Use material from various sources such as news, videos and current articles to update lesson material.

2. Project-based learning

In this case teachers can apply innovation, namely; (a) Invite students to participate in projects in groups based on social issues, by freeing students to choose topics of interest and work together in groups, (b) Support these projects with mentors or tutors who can guide students.

3. Student-centered approach

Forms of innovation that can be carried out are; (a) Teachers give more control to students in the learning process, so that students can develop questions, conduct research, and prepare presentations, (b) Provide space for discussion, debate, and exchange of ideas in class.

4. Technological approach

This is important for innovation in technological development, namely; (a) Utilize technology, such as interactive learning software, simulations, and online platforms, to increase student engagement, (b) Create online forums or social media specifically for the class, which students can use to share creative thoughts or ideas.

5. Field trip

One thing that can be done is to plan field trips to places related to the subject, so that it will help students experience directly the concepts being studied.

6. Connection with the real world

Forms of innovation that can be carried out are; (a) Invite guest speakers who are experienced in the field of social studies to speak in class or via online conferences, (b) Invite students to be involved in social projects or community service that are relevant to the social studies subject.

7. Performance-based evaluation

Forms of innovation that can be carried out are; (a) Switching written exams to performance-based evaluations, such as preparing projects, presentations and portfolios, (b) Providing constructive feedback to students to determine student progress.

8. Creativity and expression

Things that can be done are; (a) Encourage students to express their understanding through art, music, or other media, (b) Provide assignments that allow students to express their perspectives on social issues.

9. Collaboration between subjects

One way of innovation that can be done is by integrating or combining social studies subjects with other subjects, such as art, science or mathematics, thereby making the lessons more meaningful and holistic.

10. Improve continuous processes

In this case always to update and improve your teaching methods based on student feedback and evaluation results.

By implementing this innovative approach teachers can create a more interesting, relevant and resilient learning environment, which will help increase students' interest in social studies learning. The most effective approach to enhancing learning innovation may vary depending on student needs and preferences.

Adaptation of Social Studies Learning in Curriculum Development

Meanwhile, several forms of adaptation in the field of social studies learning to the implementation of the latest curriculum are the application of differentiated learning. This implementation can create an interesting learning atmosphere for students, so that the material presented can be easily understood. Based on research conducted by [7] that the implementation of differentiated learning is based on the condition of students who lack focus and there is a decline in learning outcomes. Apart from that, students are taught that social studies education is a subject that has a lot of memorizations and is boring. Meanwhile, according to Tamlison (2001), the explanation of

differentiated learning is learning that accommodates, serves, and recognizes the diversity of students in learning according to students' learning needs and preferences (Sulistiyosari, Karwun, & Sultan, 2022). Apart from that, differentiation can be a solution in solving problems related to each student's abilities when learning, namely with a pleasant learning atmosphere, speaking practice, collaborative learning, and selecting materials and learning processes [8].

According to previous research, differentiated learning can include content differentiation, process differentiation and product differentiation [9].

1. Content Differentiation

This is related to learning readiness, student interests, and student learning profiles. Teachers have an important role in exploring students' interests, in order to achieve meaningful learning. In this case the teacher will know the desire and enthusiasm for learning from the students.

Teachers need to develop a mapping of learning needs based on learning profile indicators which provides opportunities for students to convey the desired methods for learning. In this mapping, educators create a questionnaire regarding the desired learning style choices. In accordance with research conducted by (Sulistiyosari, Karwun, & Sultan, 2022) that there are several learning styles that can be applied, namely; (a) Auditory is a learning style that processes information by listening, (b) Visual learning style, students receive information through picture illustrations, diagrams, videos, posters, animations, colors, symbols and graphics, and (c) Kinesthetic learning style, namely a learning process that receives information through direct practice.

2. Process Differentiation

In this differentiation process, the teacher has a role in analyzing learning carried out independently or in groups. According to research conducted by [10] that process differentiation includes; (a) Students need to develop the same understanding regarding the material being studied, but still be open to differences, (b) Provide guiding questions to

encourage students to explore the material, (c) Create an individual agenda for students, such as making notes on a list of assignments. covering students' work according to their needs, (d) Providing time for students to complete assignments, namely paying attention to students who need to be given additional time according to their abilities, (e) Developing visual, kinesthetic and auditory learning styles, (f) Classifying groups that suit the abilities and interests of students.

3. Product Differentiation

At the differentiation stage, this product is a form of students' understanding of the material that is shown to the teacher. Learning products can be used as assessment material for teachers regarding students' abilities, as a determinant for subsequent learning.

The types of products produced vary greatly, they can be in the form of written observations, presentations, videos, recordings, and so on. The aim of making this product is to determine students' broad understanding regarding the material studied both individually and in groups (Sulistiyosari, Karwun, & Sultan, 2022).

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Based on the results of studies that have been carried out, the forms of innovation in social studies learning in curriculum development are; actualization of social studies learning, project-based learning, student-centered approach, use of technology, field trips, connection with the real world, performance-based evaluation, creativity and expression, collaboration between subjects, continuous process improvement. Meanwhile, the form of adaptation itself is by implementing differentiation learning which consists of; content differentiation, process and product differentiation.

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