



Implementing Merdeka Curriculum to Improve Teacher Professional Services in Elementary Schools

Rafi Taris Mafazi¹, Madhakomala¹

¹Master of Education Management Study Program, Universitas Negeri Jakarta

Corresponding Author: Rafi Taris Mafazi

Email: Rafitaris100@gmail.com



Article Info

Article history:

Received 20 October 2023

Received in revised form 18

November 2023

Accepted 01 December 2023

Keywords:

Professional Service

Independent Curriculum

Teacher

Abstract

The background of this research is to examine how the implementation of an independent curriculum can improve the professional services of teachers in elementary schools. This research aims to describe and examine the urgency of implementing the independent curriculum for professional teacher services in elementary schools. The method in this research is included in the type of qualitative research with the research method used is literature study with the data sources used are various literature such as journals and relevant books. The results of this research are that from the existence of an independent curriculum starting from the way teachers collaborate learning with technology and differentiated learning into the existing educational process, this will have a good impact, especially on teacher professionalism and how the teaching process is carried out by teachers to students. in schools by using an independent curriculum in the educational process so that this will have the impact that educational orientation is not only oriented towards competency but also how the independent curriculum will have an influence in increasing the professionalism of teachers themselves.

Introduction

According to Law No.20 of 2003 concerning the objectives of National Education, National Education functions to develop the ability and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to educate the nation's life, aims to develop the potential of students to become human beings who are faithful and devoted to God Almighty, noble, healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens. With education, a person can change himself for the better, the quality in question is so that students can have the knowledge, attitudes or skills to be able to develop with the ever-changing globalization of the times.

An educator and education are like two pieces of currency that cannot be separated (Darmadi, 2018). Because both are part of a system unit to carry out functions and achieve the goals of national education in Law No. 20 of 2003. Teachers must be able to design learning according to the times. So that students can understand learning well so that meaningful learning is created. With the latest curriculum in schools, namely the independent curriculum, which can be realized by students with the curriculum subjects.

The independent curriculum is a transformation in the world of education, where the learning process will change from conventional learning to learning that is truly student-centered, oriented towards strengthening competencies and developing characters that are adjusted to the values contained in Pancasila.

(Juditya., 2023) the independent curriculum can be said to aim at developing soft skills and character, adjusting to the times, focusing on essential, relevant, and in-depth material so as to build students' creativity and innovation. This needs to be a concern for teacher professionalism

to implement the independent curriculum correctly so that the hopes and objectives of the independent curriculum can be achieved. There needs to be a better way for teachers to implement the independent curriculum correctly, for example using IT-based methods because it is adapted to the times. Through learning the independent curriculum in elementary schools, students can hone all aspects they have according to the demands of today's development, including cognitive, soft skills and character. Thus, if students in the independent curriculum can master learning in accordance with the expectations of the independent curriculum, it will certainly improve the professional services of teachers (Wiranto & Slameto., 2021).

Service is an effort to help prepare or take care of what others need (Big Indonesian Dictionary). Professionalism is a person's ability and skill in doing work according to their respective fields and levels (Sya'bani., 2018). A teacher is a professional educator who educates, guides, teaches, assesses and evaluates students. Teacher readiness determines the success of curriculum implementation which includes learning that will be carried out in the classroom. If the teacher cannot implement the curriculum in the classroom in the way it should be, then the objectives of the learning will not be achieved. Teachers are professional educators who educate, guide, teach, assess and evaluate students. Teacher readiness determines the success of curriculum implementation which includes learning that will be carried out in the classroom. If the teacher cannot implement the curriculum in the classroom in the way it should be, then the objectives of the learning will not be achieved (Sejnowski, 2020).

However, the obstacle faced in the independent curriculum in elementary school classes is that there are still teachers who teach learning not in accordance with the independent curriculum, for example, only relying on textbooks or the lecture method (Pandey & Pandey., 2021). Learners are less actively involved in learning. Most of the students in the class do not do anything to develop themselves and students' curiosity tends to be low about the material being taught due to teachers who are always active in providing material so that they do not provide opportunities for students to develop their own knowledge. Furthermore, there are still teachers who cannot / gaptek in using technology, for example using laptops, as teachers should always improve their quality by learning and trying and keeping up with the times so as not to be left behind today. When teaching, of course, we also as teachers should be able to use technology-based learning so that students can understand learning better. In addition, there are still teachers who have not used differentiated learning, in this differentiated learning, of course, there needs to be more strength and energy to design this learning, for example, the teacher will make or divide everyone into groups. Each group does not get the same questions because they are tailored to their individual needs (Hamilton & Finley., 2019). Therefore, the role of the curriculum used plays an important role in the professional services of teachers. It takes a professional way of teaching in order to make students active to try and construct their own knowledge.

To become a professional teacher, the minimum standards that must be possessed are (Noor, 2019). (1) Having adequate intellectual abilities, (2) Ability to understand the vision and mission of education, (3) Expertise in transferring knowledge or learning methodology, (4) Understanding the concept of child development / developmental psychology, (5) Organizing and problem-solving skills, (6) Creative and have art in educating. It is necessary to pay attention to teachers as professionals to always improve their abilities in order to provide good services for students.

Based on the various backgrounds that have been stated above, the purpose of writing a literature study that will be discussed and reviewed in this article is to see the extent to which the independent curriculum has contributed to the professional services of teachers in elementary schools.

Methods

The research method used is literature review / literature study / literature review. Literature review research is a description or description of the literature relevant to a particular field or topic (Setyosari, 2016). The type of data used is secondary data sourced from books and primary or original scientific reports contained in articles or journals (printed and/or non-printed) regarding learning outcomes. The method used to review this research is a literature study or literature review. The data obtained is reviewed and arranged according to the relevance to the research topic, then rewritten so that it is collected into a research concept. So as to obtain conclusions from previous research to answer how the role of an independent curriculum to improve teacher professional services in elementary schools.

Results and Discussion

The development of the education system in Indonesia will always take place to improve, improve quality and overcome the problems that always exist and based on the needs of students because education will always change following the development and progress of society, culture, knowledge and technology. People in Indonesia need to improve the ability and quality that exists in themselves both knowledge, attitudes and skills in order to compete in this day and age. Therefore, it is necessary to have a good education to improve the quality of existing human resources. Education is an important component that needs to be taught to students to make quality human resources. Quality human resources because students are the golden generation of the nation that will come to replace the previous resources for the better. With education, a person can change himself for the better, the quality in question is so that students can have the knowledge, attitudes or skills to be able to develop with the flow of globalization that always changes with the times.

Today's era is known as the 21st century. The 21st century era is certainly an era that has changes, openness from the previous era. In the 21st century era known as 4C, namely creativity (students can have creative thinking), critical thinking (students can have deep thinking), collaboration (students can collaborate with their friends well), communication (students can communicate with their friends well). The 21st century provides a new breakthrough for the world of education with the election of a new minister of education and culture, namely Mr. Nadiem Makarim as the main driving force in the field of education, who initiated new changes related to the curriculum to be applied in the field of education, namely the independent curriculum. The Merdeka Curriculum aims to develop soft skills and character, adapt to the times, focus on essential, relevant, and in-depth material so that it can build students' creativity and innovation. This needs to be a concern for teacher professionalism to implement the independent curriculum correctly so that the hopes and objectives of the independent curriculum can be achieved. There needs to be a better way for teachers to implement the independent curriculum correctly.

A teacher is a professional educator who educates, guides, teaches, assesses and evaluates students. Teacher readiness determines the success of curriculum implementation which includes learning that will be carried out in the classroom. If the teacher cannot implement the curriculum in the classroom in the way it should be, then the learning objectives will not be achieved. To become a professional teacher, the minimum standards that must be possessed are (1) Having adequate intellectual abilities, (2) Ability to understand the vision and mission of education, (3) Expertise in transferring knowledge or learning methodology, (4) Understanding the concept of child development / developmental psychology, (5) Organizing and problem-solving skills, (6) Creative and have art in educating. It is necessary to pay attention to teachers as professionals to always improve their abilities in order to provide good

services for students. In the independent curriculum, students are invited to explore more related elements of the material being studied and are invited to active learning during the learning process and not just stay silent. Teachers are required to be able to design learning that makes the class alive / students can actively do or do something according to the learning material being taught. If the class is alive then the objectives of the independent curriculum are achieved. When teaching, of course, we also as teachers should be able to use technology-based learning so that students can understand learning better. Changing conditions in the digitalization era have also caused changes in education. Change in the sense of an innovation in the institutional unit and its program. One of the demands of the 21st century is the use of technology as a learning medium to improve learning skills (Rahayu, 2022). In the independent curriculum we are familiar with differentiated learning. Differentiated learning is learning that differs from one student to another based on the needs of the learners. In this differentiated learning, of course, there needs to be more strength and energy to design this learning, for example, the teacher will make or divide everyone into groups. Each group does not get the same questions because they are tailored to their individual needs.

If it is related to the independent curriculum at the elementary school level, this is a provision for students to go further in the future. If you have implemented the independent curriculum well, of course students will become superior human resources in the future. Superior in knowledge or attitude in solving existing problems. Teacher professionals need to be developed in order to achieve the goals that are expected according to the needs of students in elementary schools. To become a professional teacher, teachers must have minimum standards that must be owned. The curriculum is now known as the independent curriculum, teachers are expected to adjust the development of the curriculum according to what the curriculum wants and is relevant according to the times. If teachers do not have a sense of wanting to improve themselves then of course they will not be able to keep up with the development of the applicable curriculum. The importance of awareness from teachers to always be alert to various changes, because teachers play an important role in schools.

Conclusion

The independent curriculum is a transformation in the world of education, where the learning process will change from conventional learning to learning that is truly student-centered, oriented towards strengthening competencies and developing characters that are adjusted to the values contained in Pancasila. The Merdeka Curriculum aims to develop soft skills and character, adapt to the times, focus on essential, relevant, and in-depth material so that it can build students' creativity and innovation. This needs to be a concern for teacher professionalism to implement the independent curriculum correctly so that the hopes and objectives of the independent curriculum can be achieved. If it is related to the independent curriculum at the elementary school level, this is a provision for students to go further in the future. If you have implemented the independent curriculum well, of course students will become superior human resources in the future. If the teacher has implemented the independent curriculum well, of course, he will become a teacher who has good professional services.

Acknowledgments

The researchers would like to thank the State University of Jakarta for providing assistance and completing this research. And thanks to all those who have provided assistance in any form during the author's completion of this article.

References

Darmadi. (2018). *Guru Abad 21 (Perilaku dan Pesona Pribadi)*. Guepedia.

- Hamilton, A. B., & Finley, E. P. (2019). Qualitative methods in implementation research: An introduction. *Psychiatry research*, 280, 112516.
- Juditya, S., (2023). *Pendidikan Jasmani di Era Kurikulum Merdeka (Konsep dan Implementasi dari Sisi Model Pembelajaran Pendidikan Jasmani di Era Kurikulum Merdeka (Konsep dan Implementasi dari Sisi Model Pembelajaran)*. Pena Persada Kerta Utama
- Noor. M., (2019). *Guru Profesional dan Berkualitas*. Alprin.
- Pandey, P., & Pandey, M. M. (2021). *Research methodology tools and techniques*. Bridge Center.
- Rahayu, R., (2022). Inovasi Pembelajaran Abad 21 dan penerapannya di Indonesia. *Jurnal Basicedu* 6, 2.
- Sejnowski, T. J. (2020). The unreasonable effectiveness of deep learning in artificial intelligence. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 117(48), 30033-30038.
- Setyosari, P. (2016). *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan & Pengembangan*. Prenadamedia Group.
- Sya'Bani, Mohamad A. Y., (2018). *Profesi Keguruan Menjadi Guru yang Religius dan Bermartabat*. Caremedia Communication
- Wiranto, R., & Slameto, S. (2021). Alumni satisfaction in terms of classroom infrastructure, lecturer professionalism, and curriculum. *Heliyon*, 7(6).