



IMPLEMENTATION OF INNOVATIVE LEARNING STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE CHILDREN'S BASIC SKILLS IN RAUDHATUL ATHFAL KARANG JETAK CISAIT, KRAGILAN DISTRICT, IN SERANG REGENCY

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Abstract

This community service activity aims to implement innovative learning strategies in Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak, Kragilan District, Serang Regency, focusing on improving the basic skills of early childhood. This program has several major components, including teacher training, project-based methods, and educational technology. Teacher training increased their competence in using creative techniques and technology. In contrast, project-based methods and educational technology improved children's fundamental skills such as reading, writing, and arithmetic. The innovative strategies implemented involve the principles of constructivism, multiple intelligence theory, intrinsic motivation, and the use of technology in education. The evaluation findings demonstrate that this method improves kids' learning abilities and engagement pleasantly and efficiently. By following the procedures that have been designed, the quality of the learning process can be continuously enhanced at Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak.

Keywords: Innovative Learning, Basic Children's Skills, Educational Technology, Intrinsic Motivation, Multiple Intelligences

INTRODUCTION

Early childhood education plays a vital role in the foundation of children's cognitive and social development. Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak Cisait, an early childhood education institution (PAUD) in Kragilan District, Serang Regency, is one of the institutions committed to providing quality education to children in the area. However, there are significant challenges in improving the quality of the learning process that effectively stimulates children's basic skills.

According to research by Susanto (2020), innovation in learning strategies can be a solution to improve the quality of education in early childhood. Learning methods that are creative and oriented towards children's needs can significantly improve their basic skills (Susanto, 2020). In this context, innovative learning strategies are necessary to enhance children's basic skills, such as reading, writing, and arithmetic, which are the foundation for further learning.

Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak challenges aligning traditional learning methods with children's increasingly developing learning needs. Various studies show that conventional learning methods often cannot meet children's individual learning needs, especially in creating an environment supporting basic skills (Sukmadinata, 2018). Therefore, it is essential to integrate innovative learning strategies to stimulate children's motivation and abilities more effectively.

Implementation of innovative learning strategies includes various approaches, ranging from the use of multiple learning media and the application of technology to project-based learning methods. As Hidayati and Rahmawati (2021) explain, innovative learning strategies involving technology and creative methods can improve children's basic skills more fun and interestingly (Hidayati & Rahmawati, 2021). This approach makes learning more accessible and increases children's involvement in learning activities.

Apart from that, it is essential to pay attention to aspects of training and competency development of teaching staff. Teachers' experience and skills in implementing innovative learning strategies play a vital role in the effectiveness of the learning process. Research by Firdaus (2019) states that continuous training for teaching staff in innovative learning strategies can improve their ability to manage and deliver learning material effectively (Firdaus, 2019, p. 98).

Previous community service activities focused more on implementing conventional learning methods, which did not fully utilize technology and creative processes. Previous programs often used a lecture approach and manual exercises, deemed incapable of optimally stimulating children's basic skills. As Sari and Wulandari (2021) expressed, traditional approaches to early childhood learning often ignore children's individual needs and involvement in active learning processes (Sari & Wulandari, 2021).

In contrast, this latest service activity adopts an innovative learning strategy by integrating technology and project-based methods. In this case, using educational applications, interactive media, and creative learning methods is the main focus of improving children's basic skills. According to research by Nugroho and Sari (2022), using technology and innovative approaches in early childhood education can significantly increase children's interest and learning skills (Nugroho & Sari, 2022). With this approach, it is hoped that children at Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak can be more involved in learning and develop their basic skills more effectively.

Furthermore, the striking difference lies in the training and development of teacher competence. Previous service activities should have prioritized this aspect, while the latest activities pay special attention to ongoing training for teaching staff. As Aminah (2019) states, intensive teacher training is a critical factor in improving the quality of learning and implementing innovative methods in the classroom (Aminah, 2019). The latest service activities aim to ensure that creative approaches can be implemented effectively by focusing on developing teacher skills.

The latest service activities offer significant improvements compared to previous approaches by applying innovative methods, modern technology, and more intensive teacher training. By overcoming the limitations in previous activities, improvements in the learning process at Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak can be achieved, and children can develop their basic skills better and sustainably.

This community service activity aims to implement and evaluate innovative learning strategies at Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak, focusing on improving children's basic skills. Through teacher

training, creative learning materials development, and regular evaluations, the learning process can be improved so that children at Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak can develop their basic skills better.



Figure 1 Painting learning activities

Constructivist Learning

As Jean Piaget and Lev Vygotsky proposed, constructivists state that learning occurs when students build knowledge through experience and interaction with their environment. Piaget (1973) explained that Children develop their understanding of the world through active exploration and discovery (Piaget, 1973). Innovative learning strategies involving project-based methods and interactive media support this principle by providing opportunities for children to learn through hands-on experience and creative exploration.

Multiple Intelligences

Howard Gardner developed a theory of multiple intelligences that identified various types of intelligence, including linguistic, logical-mathematical, musical, kinesthetic, spatial, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and naturalistic intelligence. Gardner (1983) argues that effective education must consider various types of intelligence and enable each individual to develop their potential to the maximum (Gardner, 1983). Implementing innovative learning strategies, such as educational applications and diverse activities, can help meet the needs of different types of children's intelligence, thereby improving their basic skills overall.

Motivation and Engagement

Motivation, as proposed by Deci and Ryan in Self-Determination Theory, states that intrinsic motivation plays a vital role in learning. Deci and Ryan (2000) noted that intrinsic motivation, which arises from the need to feel competent and connected, can increase engagement and learning outcomes (Deci & Ryan, 2000, p. 232). Innovative learning strategies that include elements of play,

technology, and interactive projects can increase children's intrinsic motivation by creating a fun and engaging learning environment.

Technology in Education

Technology in education explains how technology can improve learning and outcomes. According to Saettler (2004), Educational technology can revolutionize how we teach and learn by providing tools and resources that support more effective learning (Saettler, 2004, p. 67). Using technology in innovative learning strategies, such as educational apps and digital media, can help children acquire basic skills in a more interactive and results-oriented way.

With this theoretical basis, community service activities aim to implement innovative learning strategies to improve children's basic skills at Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY PROCEDURES

Implementation Activity Procedure: Implementation of Innovative Learning Strategies to Improve Children's Basic Skills in Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak Cisait, Kragilan District, Serang Regency.

1. Preparation and Planning

- Identify Needs

The first step is to conduct a needs analysis to determine areas that require improvement in the learning process at Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak. Involves discussions with principals, teachers, and parents to understand the challenges faced and their expectations. A comprehensive needs analysis is the key to designing effective and relevant learning programs (Hidayati & Rahmawati, 2021).

- Program Planning

Based on the needs analysis results, plan an innovative learning strategy that includes technological media, project-based methods, and interactive activities. This plan also consists of a training schedule for teachers and the development of learning materials.

2. Program Implementation

- Teacher Training

Organize training for teaching staff regarding innovative learning strategies, including educational applications and creative methods. This training aims to increase teacher competence in managing and implementing new procedures. Good training for teachers will increase their effectiveness in implementing innovative learning strategies (Firdaus, 2019).

- Implementation in Class

Apply innovative learning strategies in daily classroom activities. Includes using technology, interactive media, and project-based methods to engage children in more active and engaging

learning. According to Nugroho and Sari (2022), implementing innovative strategies in the classroom can stimulate children's basic skills in a fun and effective way.

3. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Observation and Assessment

Carry out regular observations and assessments of the implementation of innovative learning strategies to assess their effectiveness and impact on children's basic skills. Use various assessment methods to understand your child's progress comprehensively. Continuous evaluation helps identify improvement areas and assess program implementation's success (Sari & Wulandari, 2021).

- Feedback and Adjustments

Gather feedback from teachers, parents, and children to evaluate program effectiveness and make necessary adjustments. This process ensures that the program remains relevant and effective in meeting children's learning needs.

3. Reporting and Documentation

- Results Documentation

Document the results of activities, including data on improvements in children's basic skills, participant feedback, and evaluation reports. This documentation will become material for activity reports and references for future enhancements.

- Submission of Reports

Prepare a final report regarding the implementation and results of this community service activity and submit it to all stakeholders, including the school, donors, and the community. Submitting clear and detailed reports is vital for transparency and accountability in community service activities (Aminah, 2019).

By following this procedure, innovative learning strategies can be effectively implemented, improving children's basic skills and positively impacting the quality of education at Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak.



Figure 2. Preparation of activities to increase togetherness

RESULTS OF ACTIVITIES AND DISCUSSION

Results of Activities and Discussions in Implementing Innovative Learning Strategies to Improve Children's Basic Skills in Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak Cisait, Kragilan District, Serang Regency

Activity Results

Community service activities implementing innovative learning strategies at Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak have significantly improved children's basic skills. This program covers several important aspects, such as teacher training, the application of project-based learning methods, and educational technology. The following are the results of each activity component:

1. Teacher Training

The training conducted for teaching staff succeeded in increasing their understanding of innovative learning strategies. Teachers show improved skills in using technology and creative methods in learning. Firdaus (2019) stated, "Good training for teachers will increase their effectiveness in implementing innovative learning strategies" (Firdaus, 2019, p. 98). After the training, Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak teachers could apply the new methods more confidently and effectively.

2. Application of Project-Based Learning Methods

The project-based method applied in this activity stimulated children's involvement and improved their basic skills. Children enjoy learning activities involving projects, group discussions, and practical experiments. The evaluation results showed that the children experienced improvements in their reading, writing, and arithmetic abilities. Implementing

innovative strategies in the classroom can stimulate children's basic skills in a fun and effective way" (Nugroho & Sari, 2022).

3. Use of Educational Technology

Using educational applications and interactive media also positively impacts the learning process. When using technological tools, children understand the material more quickly and are more motivated to learn. Observations show that technology facilitates learning that is more dynamic and responsive to children's needs. Educational technology can revolutionize teaching and learning by providing tools and resources that support more effective learning" (Saettler, 2004).

Discussion of Activities

Implementing innovative learning strategies at Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak has confirmed several relevant learning theories. First, Jean Piaget and Lev Vygotsky's constructivist theories support that children learn better through direct experience and interaction with their environment. The project-based activities implemented in this program allow children to build their understanding through active exploration and collaboration (Piaget, 1973). This method is based on the principles of constructivism, which emphasizes the importance of direct experience in the learning process.

Second, Howard Gardner's application of multiple intelligences theory shows that approaches that accommodate various types of children's intelligence, such as using educational applications and creative activities, can improve learning outcomes. The strategies applied in this activity enable children with various intelligences to show their potential optimally (Gardner, 1983).

Third, the intrinsic motivation described by Deci and Ryan in Self-Determination Theory is also visible in this activity. Using fun methods and interactive technology has increased children's motivation to learn. Children who engage in activities they enjoy are more motivated to develop their basic skills (Deci & Ryan, 2000).

The results of this activity show that implementing innovative learning strategies can effectively improve children's basic skills at Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak. This activity not only meets children's learning needs but also positively impacts teacher competence and the use of technology in education. This program is a good model for implementing innovative strategies in the context of early childhood education.



Figure 3 Learning Activities for an Attitude of Gratitude

CONCLUSION

Community service activities implemented at Raudhatul Athfal Karang Jetak show a significant increase in children's basic skills by implementing innovative learning strategies. This program has created a more effective and enjoyable learning environment by integrating project-based learning methods, educational technology, and intensive training for teaching staff. Intensive teacher training has positively impacted their ability to apply new techniques, thereby improving the quality of the learning process.

The use of varied learning media and interactive technology has been proven to increase children's engagement and motivation, enabling them to understand the material better. The innovative learning strategies improve basic skills such as reading, writing, and arithmetic, stimulating a more active and creative learning experience. With this approach, children become more motivated and involved in learning.

This activity shows that implementing innovative learning strategies can address challenges in early childhood education and provide a strong foundation for developing fundamental skills. This program offers a practical example of how new learning methods can be integrated to achieve better results in the context of early childhood education.

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