



Understanding the Three Pillars of Learning: Teachers, Students, and Learning Materials

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Abstrak. Artikel ini membahas peran penting guru, siswa, dan materi pembelajaran sebagai tiga pilar dasar pembelajaran yang efektif. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengatasi ketidakseimbangan yang sering ditemukan dalam praktik pendidikan yang hanya menekankan pada satu atau dua elemen saja, dan mengabaikan pentingnya keterkaitan ketiganya. Dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dan pendekatan tinjauan literatur, penelitian ini menganalisis bagaimana ketiga komponen tersebut berfungsi secara individu dan kolektif dalam lingkungan pendidikan kontemporer. Guru ditelaah sebagai fasilitator dan agen desain pedagogis, siswa sebagai partisipan aktif dan ko-konstruktor pengetahuan, dan materi pembelajaran sebagai alat dinamis yang mendukung pengembangan kognitif dan keterampilan. Temuan penelitian mengungkapkan bahwa pengalaman belajar yang bermakna muncul ketika ada integrasi yang harmonis antara bimbingan guru, keterlibatan siswa, dan konten pembelajaran yang relevan. Kajian ini juga menyoroti bagaimana pengabaian salah satu pilar dapat menghambat proses pembelajaran dan mengurangi efektivitas pendidikan. Sebagai kesimpulan, penelitian ini menekankan perlunya pendekatan yang seimbang dan holistik dalam perencanaan pendidikan dan praktik instruksional, memastikan bahwa guru, siswa, dan materi bekerja secara sinergis untuk meningkatkan hasil pembelajaran.

Kata Kunci: guru, siswa, bahan ajar, pembelajaran efektif, pendekatan holistik, sinergi pendidikan

Abstract. This paper explores the essential roles of teachers, students, and learning materials as the three foundational pillars of effective learning. The objective of this study is to address the imbalance often found in educational practices that emphasize only one or two elements, neglecting the importance of their interconnectedness. Using a qualitative descriptive method and literature review approach, this paper analyzes how these three components function individually and collectively within contemporary educational settings. Teachers are examined as facilitators and agents of pedagogical design, students as active participants and co-constructors of knowledge, and learning materials as dynamic tools that support cognitive and skill development. The findings reveal that meaningful learning experiences emerge when there is a harmonious integration of teacher guidance, student engagement, and relevant instructional content. The study also highlights how the neglect of one pillar can hinder the learning process and reduce educational effectiveness. In conclusion, this paper emphasizes the need for a balanced, holistic approach in educational planning and instructional practice, ensuring that teachers, students, and materials work in synergy to enhance learning outcomes.

Keywords: Teachers, students, learning materials, effective learning, holistic approach, educational synergy.

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A. INTRODUCTION

In the field of education, effective learning is not achieved through a single factor, but rather through the harmonious integration of various essential components. Among these, teachers, students, and learning materials are often recognized as the core pillars that sustain the entire learning process. However, in many educational practices, an imbalance persists—some approaches focus heavily on teacher-centered instruction, while others emphasize student autonomy without sufficient support from qualified teaching or appropriate instructional materials. This imbalance can hinder the overall effectiveness of the learning process and limit the development of meaningful educational outcomes.

The urgency to revisit the role of each pillar stems from the growing demand for more learner-centered, inclusive, and adaptive learning environments. Modern education requires not only the presence of competent educators and engaged learners but also well-designed, relevant instructional materials that bridge the two. Without understanding how these three elements work in concert, education systems may fail to respond to contemporary challenges such as digital transformation, diverse learning needs, and knowledge accessibility.

This article seeks to provide a conceptual analysis that rationalizes the interdependence of teachers, students, and learning materials. By drawing on relevant literature and educational theory, this paper develops a solution framework that encourages balanced educational planning. The objective of this study is to identify the dynamic relationship among the three pillars and propose a model that supports their integration in classroom practice. The hypothesis guiding this analysis is that meaningful and sustainable learning outcomes are best achieved when these three elements are fully aligned and interrelated in practice.

B. RESEARCH METHODE

The method used in this study is a literature review. A literature review is a type of research focused on the collection of data from existing literature, or research in which the object of study is explored through various library sources (Nirwana, H., 2022). Thus, a literature review is a scientific approach that emphasizes the analysis of relevant written sources without involving direct field data collection.

This approach was chosen because it provides a broad opportunity to examine theories, previous research findings, and expert opinions relevant to the topic. The aim of this study is to gain a deeper understanding of the relationships and strategic roles of each pillar in the process of effective learning. To achieve this goal, the researcher reviewed various scholarly publications, including books, journals, and academic articles published within the last five years. In addition, this method allows the researcher to systematically analyze and synthesize the collected data to draw conclusions that support the objectives of the study.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In modern education, the role of teachers is not only limited to providing knowledge or lecturing in front of the class. As facilitators, teachers have the task of helping students develop their potential to the fullest by creating a conducive and supportive learning environment. This role requires teachers to focus more on guiding and empowering students, rather than simply transferring knowledge. The role of the teacher as a facilitator, who can provide advice, motivator as a provider of inspiration and encouragement, guide in the development of attitudes and behavior and values, a person who masters the material being taught. The role as a facilitator, the teacher in this case will provide facilities or facilities in the teaching and learning process, for example by creating an atmosphere of learning activities in such a way, in harmony with student development, so that teaching and learning interactions will take place effectively.

A facilitator is someone who helps students to learn and has the skills needed to achieve learning goals. (Warsono and Hariyanto 2013) states that

as a facilitator, the teacher prepares pedagogical, psychological and cognitive development facilities for students. Pedagogical facilities according to Suyono and Hariyanto (2017) are the science or art of teaching which refers to the learning strategy or teaching style of the teacher, in this case concerned with the delivery of material to students. Teacher psychological facilities, which can be interpreted as a branch that studies individual behavior in the context of education, namely teachers must be able to make students calm in their behavior at school, especially during the learning process, and teachers must be able to make students comfortable with the words, actions of teachers in the learning process. Finally, namely facilities in student cognitive development, namely the teacher must be able to make learning in the classroom able to be understood by students easily, students are able to think about the learning provided by the teacher to students.

The Role of Students as Active Learners

The role of students as active learners is crucial in the modern education process. They do not only function as recipients of information, but also as participants who actively contribute to learning. One of the important roles of students is to be active listeners. By listening carefully, taking notes, and asking questions, students can understand the material more deeply and critically. This is in line with the opinion of Pratomo (2024) who emphasizes the importance of students' roles in the learning process, including as active listeners. In addition, students are also expected to be independent learners who are able to manage their time and learn independently. They need to have motivation and self-discipline in learning, as well as taking the initiative to find additional sources of information and do assignments on time. This role helps students develop independence and responsibility in their learning process.

Active participation in class discussions is also an important role for students. By expressing opinions, asking questions, or arguing about the topic under discussion, students can build a deeper understanding and improve their critical thinking skills. Pratomo (2024) highlighted that participation in discussions helps students develop communication and collaboration skills. In addition, students are expected to be effective problem

solvers. They need to analyse problems, identify appropriate solutions, and take necessary actions. This ability is crucial in real life, where they will be faced with various challenges that require solving. This role also helps students develop critical and analytical thinking skills.

Collaboration with classmates is also an important aspect of students' role as active learners. By working together in teams, students can share ideas, listen to and respect the opinions of others, and establish good working relationships. This collaboration helps students solve problems and achieve common goals. Pratomo (2024) emphasizes the importance of students' role as collaborators in the learning process. Finally, students can demonstrate their role in the learning process by presenting learning outcomes creatively. For example, they can create posters, presentations or videos as a form of presenting the subject matter. This creative presentation expands students' understanding and makes the learning process more enjoyable. Pratomo (2024) states that creative presentation helps students develop presentation skills and creativity.

By performing these roles, students can maximize their learning potential and achieve the desired results. They are not only the recipients of information, but also the main actors in an active and dynamic learning process. This is in line with the view that students should be the protagonists in their own learning process, have a strong desire to learn, and a passion for exploring various sciences.

Relevant and Quality Learning Materials

In education, learning materials play an important role in determining the effectiveness of the teaching and learning process. Relevant and quality materials will help students understand concepts better, improve skills, and foster interest in learning. Therefore, the preparation and selection of learning materials must consider the relevance to the curriculum, the needs of students, and the development of science and technology.

a. Characteristics of Quality Learning Materials

Quality learning materials have several main characteristics, including:

1. Relevant to the Curriculum The material must be in accordance with the applicable curriculum so that it supports the achievement of basic competencies and learning indicators that have been determined.
2. Oriented to the Needs of Learners The material must be adjusted to the level of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor development of learners so that it is easier to understand and apply.
3. Using Reliable Sources Materials must be based on valid and up-to-date sources so that they are not outdated and support information literacy-based learning.
4. Interactive and Engaging The use of interactive learning media, such as videos, simulations and educational games, will increase students' learning motivation.
5. Encourage Critical Thinking and Creativity Materials should be designed to stimulate learners to think critically, solve problems and develop creative ideas.

b. Strategies for Developing Relevant Learning Materials

To ensure that learning materials are relevant and of high quality, the following strategies can be applied: a. Needs Analysis: Conduct a survey or assessment of learners' needs so that the materials presented can meet their expectations. b. Technology Utilization: Using digital technology in developing learning materials, such as e-learning and online-based learning applications. c. Periodic Evaluation and Revision: Evaluating the effectiveness of the materials used, then revising them according to the latest developments. d. Collaboration with Experts and Practitioners: Involving experts in the field of education and practitioners to produce more applicable materials. Relevant and quality learning materials greatly influence the success of the educational process. By paying attention to the relevance of the curriculum, the needs of students, and the application of technology in its preparation, it is expected that learning materials can provide a more effective and enjoyable learning experience.

Interaction of the Three Pillars

Teachers are very instrumental in assisting the development of students to realize their life goals optimally. In this case, teachers are required to skilfully choose or even combine convincing approaches to handle classroom management cases that are appropriate to the problem at hand (Zamili, 2020). Therefore, a teacher is required to have a comprehensive ability to understand the needs of students and find the right strategies to support their development. However, in practice, it is not uncommon for teachers to be faced with various challenges, such as differences in learner characters, lack of discipline in the classroom, and the emergence of various problems that can hinder the teaching and learning process. By choosing the right approach, teachers can overcome various problems that arise, create an interactive learning atmosphere, and encourage students to be more active in exploring and developing their potential.

Teachers not only act as deliverers of subject matter, but also as learning facilitators who understand the diverse learning styles of students and are able to create interesting and relevant teaching methods (Pratiwi, A., 2023, et al). For learning to take place effectively, students must act as active learners who have the motivation to explore, understand and develop their insights independently or in groups. In addition to methods and interactions in learning, the quality and relevance of the materials taught are also a determining factor in the success of education. Learning materials must be designed to fit the needs of the times, technological developments, and the demands of the world of work and life. These three pillars must run in balance and support each other so that learning objectives can be achieved optimally. Effective interaction between teachers, students and learning materials will create an inspiring learning atmosphere, encourage the birth of critical thinkers, and form students who are ready to face future challenges.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In modern education, the role of the teacher is not limited to imparting knowledge or lecturing to the class. As facilitators, teachers are tasked with helping students develop their full potential by creating a conducive and

supportive learning environment. This role requires teachers to focus more on guiding and empowering students rather than simply imparting knowledge. In addition, the role of students as active learners is crucial in the modern educational process. They function not only as recipients of information, but also as participants who actively contribute to learning. On the other hand, learning materials play an important role in determining the effectiveness of the teaching and learning process. Relevant and high-quality materials help learners to better understand concepts, improve skills and stimulate interest in learning. Thus, the interconnection of the three pillars is very important to create good learning.

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