

The Role of Teachers in Implementing Independent Curriculum Based Learning

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Abstract

Education plays a major role in improving the quality of human resources (Human Resources). One of the latest innovations in education in Indonesia is the Independent Curriculum launched in 2022, which emphasizes active student participation in learning to increase creativity and innovation. In its implementation, teachers play a crucial role as the main implementers of the curriculum. This article discusses the role of teachers in implementing the Independent Curriculum, starting from learning planning, adapting teaching methods, to evaluation. This study uses a descriptive qualitative method through a literature review, namely from written sources, both printed and electronic. The results show that the success of implementing the curriculum is highly dependent on the ability of teachers to overcome existing challenges, such as limited facilities, professional readiness, and adjustments to teaching methods. With the right strategy, the role of teachers in implementing the Independent Curriculum can support the progress of education in Indonesia.

Keywords: Independent Curriculum, Education, Role of Teacher

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INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the important aspects or main foundations in improving quality and competitive human resources. Along with the development of civilization over time and the needs of society, the education system in Indonesia has experienced various innovations to increase its effectiveness and relevance. One step in educational reform or change is the implementation of the Independent Curriculum, which is presented to answer today's educational challenges. (Jannati et al., 2023)

The independent curriculum is a new curriculum that will be launched in 2022. The independent curriculum is an idea with the aim of realizing effective learning, where students are required to play an active role in the teaching and learning process so that it can increase student creativity and innovation. In this context, the role of the teacher is very determining (crucial), because a teacher is the main implementer who turns curriculum policies into real learning practices in the classroom.

However, in its implementation, this independent curriculum is still faced with various challenges. Educators (teachers) have to face various obstacles, both in terms of facility support, personal readiness, and paradigm changes in teaching methods. (Marsela Yulianti et al., 2022)(Simon Paulus Olak Wuwur, 2023)(Rusmiati et al., 2023) Therefore, it

is important to explore how teachers can adapt and play an effective role in implementing this curriculum.

This article aims to discuss the role of teachers in implementing the Independent Curriculum, with an emphasis on the challenges faced and strategies that can be used to achieve curriculum goals. By understanding the role of teachers in depth, it is hoped that solutions will be found to increase the effectiveness of implementing this curriculum and contribute to the progress of education in Indonesia.

METHOD

The research method used in this article is a descriptive qualitative method using a literature review approach (*literature review*). Literature review (*literature review*) is research in which the researcher obtains information from scientific reports, books, dissertations or other written sources, whether in electronic or printed form. Therefore, all sources of data or information are used as fully as possible to develop ideas that are in line with the research. (Adlini et al., 2022) The data collection technique in this research is formulating the objectives to be achieved, defining important concepts, specializing the units to be used. analyzed, finding data that is in line with the research. (Mahanum, 2021) The next step is to draw conclusions based on the findings.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Understanding Teachers

In the context of Islamic education, there are many words that refer to the teacher's understanding such as kata *teacher* And *teacher*. These two words have different functional uses. Say *teacher* it comes from the word *Rabba-Yurabbi* which means taking care of, guiding, educating and nurturing. Meanwhile, the word *mu'alim* is a form of *isim do it* from the word *'allama-yu'allimu* which means to teach or teach. (Illahi, 2020)

According to Law no. 14 of 2005, teachers are professional educators whose main duties are teaching, educating, directing, assessing, guiding, training, evaluating or assessing students in early childhood education through formal education, basic education, secondary education. (Fahrudin & Ulfah, 2023) According to Moh. Noor teacher is someone who has a job or profession as a teaching staff and educator, in other words it can be said that the teacher is the control holder who really determines the quality of human resources in a country. (Noor, 2019, p. p. 1) According to Dewi Safitri, a teacher is someone who has devotes himself to teaching knowledge, directing, educating and training his students so they can know and understand what he has taught. (Safitri, 2019, p. p.5)

From the several definitions presented above, the author concludes that a teacher is someone who has a very important role in educating, teaching, guiding and evaluating students, because teachers are the ones in control of determining the quality of human resources produced in a country.

The Teacher's Role in Planning

Teachers play an important role in the field of education, especially in the context of implementing the independent curriculum in Indonesia, considering that they are responsible for implementing the curriculum into effective practice in the classroom. Therefore, learning planning is very necessary. Learning planning is intended as an initial procedure before the teaching and learning process takes place. Thus, this learning plan will be used as a reference for teacher activities in teaching. Apart from that, it will be used as a guide for students in learning activities that have been arranged systematically. The following is a discussion of the teacher's role in lesson planning:

1. Prepare RPP (Learning Implementation Plan)

A teacher is someone who has the responsibility to prepare a RPP (Learning Implementation Plan) whose purpose is to serve as a guideline that has been

systematically designed for implementing learning activities. In this section the teacher must:

- a. **Analyzing Learning Objectives**
These learning objectives must be designed based on the basic competencies and learning indicators that have been determined by the curriculum. Clear learning objectives will make teaching easier, teachers will have more control over learning materials, so they can determine the right methods and tools/media, the learning process will be more focused, and students will be more interested. (Widyasari, 2018, p. p. 14)
 - b. **Determining Learning Materials and Resources** (Prastowo, 2017, p. p.99)
Selecting materials that are in accordance with competency standards and various learning sources, including digital media and teaching aids. This is done so that students obtain updated and complete information.
 - c. **Developing Learning Methods**
Teachers must plan what learning methods should be used during learning, of course they must be innovative, such as using active methods, using technology or project-based learning. This method is able to encourage student involvement and is able to facilitate better understanding
2. **Adapting Learning to Student Needs**
Adapting learning to student needs is very important in an independent curriculum. Which teachers should: (Muhammad Afriansyah Novianto & Munirul Abidin, 2023)
 - a. Identifying students' needs, which means teachers are able to understand individual differences in learning styles, cultural backgrounds, and also students' abilities. This identification makes it possible if a teacher has to organize learning in a more personalized way.
 - b. adapting learning strategies, it is designed to ensure that the learning strategies applied to students are effective.
 3. **Integrating Character and Competency Aspects**
The Merdeka Curriculum emphasizes character development and 21st century competencies. At the planning stage, teachers must incorporate character values. Namely include values such as responsibility and cooperation in learning activities. This forms students' positive attitudes towards learning and everyday life. Apart from that, teachers must build 21st century competencies, namely designing activities that develop skills such as critical thinking, creativity and collaboration. (Vhalery et al., 2022)
 4. **Develop Evaluation and Assessment Tools**
Evaluation and assessment are the most important parts of learning planning. For this reason, teachers need to develop assessment instruments. At this stage, teachers must design assessment tools that are accurate and consistent, which are in accordance with learning objectives. These tools include various types such as tests, quizzes, and performance assessments. In addition, teachers must implement authentic assessment using assessment methods that reflect the real application of the competencies learned, such as through projects and portfolios.
 5. **Involves collaboration and Reflection**
In the learning planning process, collaboration with fellow teachers or colleagues is very necessary. This means exchanging ideas with colleagues to improve the quality of planning. This collaboration enriches learning perspectives and practices. Evaluation and reflection are routinely carried out to evaluate the effectiveness of learning to support continuous improvement.

The Role of Teachers in Implementing Independent Curriculum Based Learning

Along with the birth of the independent curriculum, the role of teachers is very important, including: (Daga, 2022)

1. The teacher as a facilitator is tasked with guiding students in exploring and understanding the material according to the students' interests and needs.
2. Teachers as Innovators, meaning teachers must implement creative and adaptive learning methods. (Siswanto et al., 2024)
3. Teachers as class managers, meaning that teachers must be able to organize the learning environment so that it is conducive and effective
4. The teacher is a strategist, meaning that the teacher must be able to formulate the learning strategies that will be used in accordance with the curriculum objectives and also the needs of students.

The role of teachers in implementing the Independent Curriculum is very important, but they still face various challenges, both in understanding curriculum philosophy, mastering technology, and developing authentic assessments. (Budi Teguh Harianto, 2023)(Hartawati, 2022) More intensive support in terms of training, infrastructure, and school policies are needed to ensure the success of this curriculum in the field. (Dwi et al., 2023)

The Role of Teachers in Evaluation of Independent Curriculum Based Learning

In evaluating independent curriculum-based learning, the teacher's role includes: (Darwin et al., 2023)

1. Evaluation design, ie develop evaluation tools appropriate to curriculum goals and student needs, such as tests, projects, or performance assessments.
2. Implementation of evaluation, namely carry out evaluations fairly and objectively to measure student competency achievement and development.
3. Analyze the results, ie analyze evaluation results to identify student strengths and weaknesses as well as the effectiveness of teaching methods.
4. Feedback, that is Provide constructive feedback to students to help them understand areas that need improvement. This feedback is important to support student development and motivate them to continue learning.
5. Plearning adjustments, namely use evaluation results to adjust learning strategies and improve learning experiences according to student needs.

CONCLUSION

Teachers have a very important role in education, especially in the context of the Independent Curriculum. In planning, teachers are responsible for compiling a Learning Implementation Plan (RPP), determining learning materials and resources, developing learning methods, and adapting learning to student needs. They must also integrate aspects of 21st century character and competency, develop effective evaluation tools, and engage in collaboration and reflection to improve the quality of learning. In implementing learning, teachers act as facilitators, innovators, class managers, and strategists. They must guide students effectively, apply creative methods, organize the learning environment, and develop learning strategies that suit curriculum goals and student needs. In learning evaluation, teachers must design evaluation tools, carry out evaluations objectively, analyze evaluation results, provide constructive feedback, and adjust learning strategies based on evaluation results. All of these roles show that teachers are key in determining the quality of education and developing human resources through the implementation of the Independent Curriculum. For teachers, the author suggests that teachers are expected to continue to develop their pedagogical and professional competencies through training and innovation, so that they are able to implement the Independent Curriculum effectively. Apart from that, teachers need to be facilitators who are able to motivate students to participate actively, creatively and independently in the

learning process. Thus, collaboration between teachers and students can create a dynamic learning environment and support the achievement of the goals of the Independent Curriculum.

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