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PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION OF STUDENT LEARNING DIFFICULTIES IN THE LEARNING PROCESS AT SCHOOL

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to identify and analyze students' learning difficulties and the efforts teachers can undertake to address these issues in schools. The research employs a library research method with a descriptive qualitative approach, utilizing various literature sources such as scientific journals, books, articles, and academic documents. Data were analyzed using content analysis to identify internal and external factors influencing students' learning difficulties. The findings reveal that students' learning difficulties are caused by internal factors such as mental maturity, intelligence level, motivation, and interest, as well as external factors such as family environment, community, teaching methods, and the availability of teaching aids. These difficulties hinder students' comprehension of learning materials, leading to a decline in academic achievement. Efforts to overcome learning difficulties involve the active role of teachers through identification, diagnosis, action planning, and support provision. Teachers apply approaches such as individual guidance, remedial programs, and the use of varied teaching methods, including relating materials to daily life. Additionally, teachers create a conducive learning environment and provide motivation to students. This study offers valuable insights for teachers and schools in designing learning strategies that support students' academic success.

Keywords: *Learning Difficulties, Problems, School*



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Introduction

Education is one of the main pillars in creating a high quality and competitive generation. Education provides a platform for the next generation, especially students, to learn knowledge and change behavior. Effective education can create individuals who are knowledgeable, skilled, and ready for the future. In order to achieve these goals, learners need to maximize their potential during the learning process. However, in practice, the learning process at school does not always run optimally. Various challenges involving learners, teachers and the learning environment can become obstacles in the teaching and learning process.

Learning is a process that affects changes in behavior and students' understanding of the subject matter. According to Setiawati (2018), learning is a permanent change in behavior resulting from learning activities. In this process, learners interact with their environment through the process of thinking, understanding, seeing, and feeling so as to bring about changes in themselves. However, each learner has a different way of learning. They deserve good learning outcomes, but in reality there are differences in the level of understanding and academic achievement between them.

Learning difficulties are conditions in which students experience obstacles in understanding lessons so that there is a gap between expected and achieved academic achievement . Factors that influence learning difficulties can be divided into two, namely internal and external factors. Internal factors include limited cognitive abilities, low motivation to learn, and emotional problems. Meanwhile, external factors include a lack of support for a conducive learning environment, less varied teaching methods, and a lack of parental involvement in accompanying children to study at home.

Some previous research findings show that dare learning has various significant obstacles. reveals that difficulties in following dare learning are often caused by limited facilities and infrastructure, such as inadequate internet access and inadequate technological devices. In addition, the role of parents in accompanying children during the dare learning process is also a challenge, especially for families with low education or economic levels. These constraints have a direct impact on students' learning motivation, their engagement in learning, as well as the learning outcomes achieved. Therefore, problem solving learning difficulties in the context of dare learning is an important step to understanding the challenges faced by students in learning difficulties.

In the context of education in Indonesia, student learning difficulties are also influenced by the inequality of educational facilities between urban and rural areas,

as well as curriculum changes that often demand rapid adaptation from students and educators. Data shows that most students who experience learning difficulties tend to show decreased motivation, lack of engagement in class, and low learning outcomes. For example, the PISA (*Program for International Student Assessment*) survey results show that Indonesian students' literacy levels are still below the average of OECD countries. This indicates the need for more in-depth identification of the causes of student learning difficulties.

Identifying learning difficulties is an important first step in helping students overcome obstacles in the learning process. Teachers and schools need to have a deep understanding of the various factors that contribute to students' learning difficulties. Thus, more effective, inclusive and needs-based learning strategies can be implemented.

This research aims to identify the problems of student learning difficulties in the learning process at school, analyze the factors that influence them, and provide practical recommendations to help students overcome these obstacles. It is hoped that the results of this research can make a positive contribution to improving the quality of education and creating a more meaningful learning experience for students.

Research Methods

This research uses a *library research* method with a descriptive qualitative approach. This approach aims to describe systematically and in depth the identification of problems of student learning difficulties in the learning process at school based on various literature sources. Data collection techniques were conducted through literature studies by reviewing and examining relevant information from scientific journals, reference books, research articles, reports and other academic documents. These sources were analyzed to identify factors that influence students' learning difficulties, such as internal factors (motivation, intellectual ability and emotional condition) and external factors (family environment, teachers' teaching methods and school conditions).

Data analysis was conducted using the *content* analysis method. In this process, data obtained from various literatures were organized, categorized and interpreted to find patterns or main themes related to student learning difficulties. The findings from this analysis are linked to theoretical concepts and previous research to provide a comprehensive picture. With this approach, it is hoped that the research can provide an in-depth understanding of the causes of students'

learning difficulties as well as the strategies that teachers and schools can use to overcome these problems.

Result and Discussion

A. Learning Difficulties

Yuni Agustin. (2023) states that learning difficulties are a learning process in students that does not function properly. Sometimes the learning process goes well but also sometimes goes poorly which makes it difficult to receive the subject matter properly. This learning difficulty is due to the fact that each student has different learning behaviors at school and at home and there are obstacles in the learning process both in understanding the material, memory in learning the material or motor function so that there is a gap between the academic achievement to be achieved and the reality of the academic achievement achieved.

According to Subini (2016) learning difficulties are students who show a disturbance in understanding, listening, speaking, reading, writing and counting. This means that students in the learning process at school or at home will have difficulty understanding, listening to what the teacher explains, difficulty in reading and writing and counting.

B. Factors affecting learning difficulties at school

According to Nuraeni & Syihabuddin (2020), there are two factors that cause learning difficulties, namely internal factors (factors that come from within the individual himself), such as maturity, intelligence, motivation and interest while external factors (factors that come from outside the individual himself) such as, family environment, community environment, teachers and teaching aids used in schools, among others;

a. Internal factors

- ✓ **Maturity** This mental maturity will affect students in the learning process, for example students who are not mentally mature will have difficulty in doing the tasks given by the teacher. Therefore, both physical and spiritual potential needs to be considered so that students are ready to accept the challenges that must be faced;
- ✓ **Intelligence** The success of students in learning various knowledge is also determined by their level of intelligence. For example, when students learn material to learn according to their age but the intelligence of the students concerned is not supportive, the subject matter learned will not be understood by the students.

- ✓ Learner motivation also determines learning success. learners who have high motivation will be eager to do something. This motivation can come from within the individual or from outside such as the role of parents, friends and teachers.
- ✓ Interest in learning from within these students themselves is a very dominant factor in influencing the learning process, because if there is no willingness to learn in individuals, the learning they have received will get futile results.

b. External factors

- ❖ The family environment is a factor that determines the success of learning in students such as economic status, social status, habits, parenting, and the atmosphere of the family environment. For example, a peaceful and peaceful family atmosphere will greatly support the success of children's learning, children's relationships with good parents and also supervision or parenting from good parents will support children's success in the learning process.
- ❖ The community environment also has a role to support the success of learning in students, because the knowledge gained in the social environment in society will be more easily absorbed than in school. When students have a deviant community environment, students are likely to follow it and will make obstacles in the learning process.
- ❖ The role of the teacher in the learning process is very important to support the success of learning because the teacher as a motivator, the teacher as a facilitator of students. It can be seen from how the teacher teaches, when the teacher teaches well it will make it easier for students to understand the lesson otherwise, if the teacher's way of teaching is not good then the students will have difficulty in understanding the lessons delivered by the teacher.
- ❖ Teaching aids used at school Teaching aids used by teachers to support the learning process also affect the learning process, for example teaching aids such as textbooks, stationery and so on. Difficulty getting teaching aids students tend to have difficulty understanding the lessons delivered by the teacher. Conversely, when the teacher delivers with adequate teaching aids, students will easily understand the material presented.

According to the factors that cause learning difficulties at school in students are

- Motivation and Interest:

Motivation is the drive that arises from within students to learn and achieve better results. Students with high motivation tend to be more enthusiastic in

learning, while low motivation can cause a lack of focus in completing tasks. Interest also plays an important role in the learning process. If students are interested in a lesson, they will more easily understand the material. Conversely, if students have no interest or are forced to study an area that they are not interested in, they can have difficulty understanding the material and tend to decrease their achievement.

- **Curriculum and Learning Methods:**

A well-designed curriculum will help students understand the material in a structured way. However, if the curriculum used is too complex or does not suit the needs of students, it can become an obstacle in learning. In addition, teaching methods that only focus on lectures without involving props or learning variations can make it difficult for students to understand the concepts taught.

- **Facilities and Infrastructure:**

The availability of teaching materials such as textbooks and adequate learning media is very important in supporting student understanding. The lack of reading materials that support the subject matter can cause students to have difficulty understanding the material taught by the teacher

These factors influence each other and contribute to students' learning difficulties. Therefore, the active role of teachers, parents, and the learning environment is very important to create a supportive learning atmosphere, by providing motivation, providing adequate facilities, and applying learning methods that suit students' needs.

C. Efforts to overcome learning difficulties at school

A teacher has a great responsibility to master the subject area taught to students. With in-depth knowledge, teachers are not only tasked with delivering the material in the curriculum, but also expanding learning with additional insights. This is so that students can understand the material better. According to in his research, to overcome learning obstacles, teachers apply various approaches, such as providing personal guidance, repeating material that students have not understood, and designing remedial programs. This approach is carried out so that students who experience difficulties can achieve learning targets without disrupting the learning process of other students

In addition, teachers apply various teaching methods to create an interesting and effective learning atmosphere. Methods such as lectures, discussions, questions and answers, as well as relating the material to everyday life are often used. Teachers also try to create a comfortable and conducive learning environment to support students' learning process. By providing attention and motivation, students are

expected to be more enthusiastic in learning. All these efforts reflect the importance of the teacher's role in helping students overcome learning obstacles so that learning can take place optimally.

According to there are several efforts that teachers can make to overcome learning difficulties at school. These efforts include four main stages, namely:

a. Identification Stage

Teachers collect data related to student learning difficulties through direct observation, interviews, or analysis of learning outcomes. This data aims to understand the causes of difficulties, both from the internal aspects of students and environmental factors.

b. Diagnosis Stage

At this stage, teachers analyze the causes and symptoms of students' learning difficulties to determine specific problems. This step is important so that teachers can design solutions that suit students' needs.

c. Prognosis Stage

The teacher develops an action plan to help students overcome their difficulties. This plan involves determining the form of action, the time of implementation, and the learning methods to be used. The teacher also creates a comfortable classroom atmosphere so that students feel more motivated.

d. Stage of Providing Assistance

Teachers provide assistance to students through group guidance, individual guidance, or the application of varied learning methods. This assistance aims to support students' understanding optimally. Teachers also conduct evaluations to ensure the effectiveness of the assistance provided and find solutions if obstacles still occur.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the research and discussion, student learning difficulties in the learning process at school are influenced by various internal and external factors. Internal factors include students' maturity, intelligence, motivation and interest which play a significant role in determining their ability to understand learning materials. Meanwhile, external factors include the family environment, society, the role of teachers, and the availability of facilities and infrastructure at school. Learning difficulties can be in the form of disturbances in understanding, listening, reading, writing, and arithmetic which ultimately have an impact on the gap between the expected achievements and the reality achieved by students.

To overcome these learning difficulties, a structured effort is needed, including the stages of identification, diagnosis, prognosis, and provision of assistance. Teachers play an important role in this process, from analyzing the causes of learning difficulties to providing guidance that suits students' needs. Approaches such as remedial work, variations in learning methods and the creation of a conducive learning environment have proven effective in supporting student understanding. Thus, collaboration between teachers, parents and the learning environment is necessary to help students overcome learning barriers and achieve optimal learning outcomes.

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