



THE INFLUENCE OF CHANGES TO INDEPENDENT CURRICULUM ON STUDENT LEARNING

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Abstract

Curriculum and materials are very important tools for educational success. Curriculum changes are needed to keep up with current developments and improve the quality of education. The purpose of this paper is to determine the effect of changes to the independent curriculum on student learning. The method in this writing uses a literature study method by collecting previous research results with relevant journal sites. The results obtained include a curriculum concept designed by the Minister of Education and Culture which aims to provide more freedom for schools and teachers in designing their curriculum, the curriculum changes are driven by developments over time and the increasingly complex and diverse needs of society. And has a positive impact, namely the curriculum becomes easier and more enjoyable because the focus of learning is on developing student potential and is given the freedom to learn according to their wishes. The conclusion of this study is that changes to the general curriculum in Indonesia have a major impact on the world of education. The challenge in implementing the independent curriculum is to equip students with *soft skills* through school activities and learning. The Independent Curriculum contains a project to strengthen students' Pancasila which can be directly applied in everyday life. Students are accustomed to using the resources around them as effectively as possible.

Keywords: *Influence, Change, Curriculum, Learning*

INTRODUCTION

Given the need for broad changes in curriculum design and implementation strategies, the effectiveness of the curriculum in certain contexts is increasingly being questioned. Once learning resumes, schools will have the freedom to choose their curriculum. As part of efforts to support Indonesia's educational vision and restore learning, the Merdeka Curriculum focuses on essential content and develop students' character and abilities. This curriculum was developed as a more flexible curriculum framework. Systematic curriculum changes are expected to improve and restore classroom learning. The existence of a new curriculum should provide an opportunity to determine what content will be taught in class. The curriculum can also affect the accuracy teaching methods used by teachers to meet students' learning needs.

The Independent Learning Curriculum is a new policy of the Indonesian Minister of

Education and Culture which aims to encourage or encourage students to acquire scientific abilities in the field of education that will help them realize their dreams. In this independent curriculum, it occupies an important place in the world of education, because it is closely related to the process of educational management and the process of determining the qualifications of graduates of educational institutions. The curriculum includes educational plans and activities for schools, classrooms, communities, and countries.

Students are expected to be able to understand how the curriculum system changes. The problem faced by Indonesian students is that many students do not fully understand the curriculum used, but must re-familiarize themselves with the newly introduced curriculum in a relatively short period of time. This means that students only have time to understand changes in the curriculum system without

sufficient opportunity to optimize the potential that can be developed. Basically, the purpose of curriculum change is to be able to answer future challenges in gaining knowledge, attitudes, and skills to adapt to an ever-changing environment.

As part of the independent learning curriculum, teachers must make learning interesting and not boring so that students can answer the challenges of future civilization. The independent learning curriculum has many benefits. This includes improving programs that have been established and implemented routinely, preparing students to face the challenges of future civilization, and changing the way people think and act. Changing the independent learning curriculum in schools is a step that needs to be taken to change the learning atmosphere in madrasas and improve the quality of learning. The independent learning curriculum is a collaborative process to achieve learning goals, with an emphasis on improving the quality of interaction.

Based on the background that has been stated above, this study was conducted to provide an overview of the influence of changes in the independent curriculum on student learning. Given the background above, it is very important to conduct further research on the impact of changes on all those involved in the independent curriculum to produce valid data and results related to the problems studied.

METHOD

In this article, the author uses a literature study method by concluding (material materials) sourced from books, journals, and other sources and using qualitative data. Literature studies are carried out by collecting the results of previous studies and then compiling them into a description that can be generalized and become a conclusion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

Curriculum Concept

The education system designed by the Minister of Education and Culture Nadiem Makarim with the concept of independent learning combines ideas developed by John

Dewey, based on the fact that society needs to move with the times. Therefore, education must also be responsive to changes in the times. This is in accordance with the concept of lifelong education which emphasizes that education must adapt to the conditions of the times (Faiz and Kurniawaty 2020).

According to Hernawan, the definition of curriculum is divided into three aspects, namely curriculum as a subject, curriculum as a learning experience, and curriculum as a learning plan. According to Sukumadinata, there are three concepts of curriculum: curriculum as content, formulation of objectives, teaching materials, teaching and learning activities, and documents containing schedules and evaluations. Curriculum as a system includes personnel structures and work processes to develop, implement, evaluate, and refine the curriculum. Curriculum as a subject of curriculum research. Curriculum is a teaching system created under the responsibility of the school to organize educational activities to provide students with potential learning experiences and enable them to think and act according to their living environment. The national curriculum is based on the same foundation: Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. The difference lies in the focus of educational goals and the approach to achieving them (Hartoyo, Melati, and Martono 2023).

Zainal Arifin said that the implementation of curriculum development must go through the following stages: feasibility study and needs analysis stage, curriculum planning stage, operational stage of curriculum development, limited field curriculum trial stage, stating that it needs to be done through the curriculum implementation stage and curriculum. Monitoring and evaluation stage, remediation and adaptation phase (Putri 2019).

Although the curriculum seems like a guide to the topics covered in the lesson plan, it implicitly covers many topics. The curriculum is important in education because it covers concepts such as politics, social justice, moral values, norms, attitudes, cultural and social integration, comprehensive citizenship education, equality, solidarity, and respect. Correct handling of these concepts plays an important role in building the

lives of the new generation and their attitudes towards themselves and the nation (Özmen 2024). The concept of the independent learning curriculum should be introduced uniformly in Indonesian educational institutions today. This concept not only has an impact on student development but also makes it easier for teachers to carry out innovative learning processes. The independent curriculum approach integrates literacy skills, knowledge competencies, skills and attitudes, and mastery of technology.

Curriculum Changes

The changes in the general curriculum in Indonesia have had a major impact on the world of education. The changes in the curriculum were driven by developments over time and the increasingly complex and diverse needs of society. This condition also demands that the curriculum used must be responsive and comprehensive. The Ministry of Education and Culture said that the Independent Curriculum is different from the 2013 Curriculum. The 2013 Curriculum will be prioritized for use by schools that are accredited A. However, the Independent Curriculum does not have special criteria for educational institutions that want to implement this curriculum, this depends on the situation of the school and whether or not the school is able to implement the curriculum. Currently, schools that are recognized as being able to implement this curriculum are selected as driving schools, and for schools that are starting to introduce their own curriculum, we provide an overview of the introduction to the system as well as examples and guidelines. The Independent Curriculum focuses on developing character, student abilities, and developing student interests and talents. This curriculum learning system aims to reduce the amount of material and assignments that students need to memorize. The 2013 Curriculum emphasizes the development and improvement of attitudes, skills, and knowledge abilities. The Merdeka Curriculum was created to produce the next generation of achievers. According to Nugraha, there are several strategies for implementing the independent learning curriculum. Namely, the gradual implementation of the Merdeka Curriculum, providing

assessments and teaching resources, as well as providing independent training and learning resources for teachers, providing resources for the Merdeka curriculum, and encouraging the development of learning communities (Ningrum 2023).

The curriculum change in Indonesia is one of the biggest changes in the world of education. Currently, the original curriculum is only an option in the world of education, and the Ministry of Education and Culture is trying first to socialize the original curriculum into a national curriculum. This unique curriculum does not need to be implemented in all schools. The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology is implementing this curriculum change method to overcome existing problems. This independent learning curriculum emphasizes the development of personality, student abilities, and fostering children's interests and talents. To reduce the amount of learning materials and assignments given to students, the 2013 curriculum only focuses on developing and improving attitudes, skills, and knowledge. The 2013 curriculum focuses on core subjects chosen by students (Rahmadhani, Widya, and Setiawati 2022). The challenge in implementing the independent curriculum is to equip students with *soft skills* through school activities and learning. The Independent Curriculum contains a project to strengthen the Pancasila for students that can be directly applied in everyday life. Students are accustomed to using the resources around them as effectively as possible.

Factors that can trigger curriculum changes according to Soetopo and Soemanto (Putri 2019) include:

1. Liberating a certain region of the world from colonial rule. After independence, these countries realized that they had been educated in an educational system that did not meet the ideals of national independence. For this reason, they began to plan very important changes to the existing curriculum and educational system.
2. The development of science and technology is very rapid. On the one hand, the development of various fields of school science leads to the discovery of ancient

theories. Meanwhile, the development of psychology, communication, and other sciences has led to the discovery of new theories and methods in the teaching and learning process. Both of the above-mentioned developments have facilitated changes in curriculum content and delivery strategies.

3. With the rapid growth of the world's population, the number of people in need of education is also increasing. This means that the methods and approaches traditionally used in education need to be reviewed and, if necessary, modified to meet the growing educational needs.

DISCUSSION

Independent Curriculum

Independent Curriculum is a new approach in the Indonesian education system that aims to provide more freedom for schools and teachers in designing their curriculum. Independent curriculum is designed for a simpler curriculum and focuses on sensitive content and student character development. The nature and purpose of this independent curriculum is to support healing in learning. This curriculum features: project-based learning activities to develop soft skills and attributes based on pancasila learning profiles; Focus on what is important and ensure students have enough time to learn, especially mathematics and reading; Make learning more flexible, allowing teachers to carry out different learning activities according to student abilities and adjust to local contexts and content (Rahmatul Adla and Tiara Maulia 2023) .

The implementation of this curriculum will make a major contribution to securing teacher class time and teacher allowances. In addition to support for guaranteed working hours and professional allowances, teachers are also supported by an independent teaching platform in implementing the independent curriculum. The independent education platform helps teachers easily find inspiration, references, reading comprehension, and understanding to implement the independent curriculum. The independent education platform is the driving force for teachers in educating Pancasila students. The

independent education platform has three functions. That is, teaching the independent curriculum more effectively, learning new concepts, and trying to create works and products (Almarisi, 2023) .

This independent curriculum affects student learning, including student motivation. When there is a change in the curriculum, students will be able to understand the new curriculum that is introduced. For example, in the current independent curriculum, students learn more independently, and this independent learning plan also makes the learning process in the classroom more independent, making students more active (Hidayati et al. 2022) .

Impact of Curriculum Changes

The independent learning curriculum is a new policy of the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia which aims to encourage or encourage students to acquire academic skills in the field of education that will help them realize their dreams. This independent curriculum occupies an important place in the world of education, because it is closely related to the process of educational management and the process of determining the qualifications of graduates of educational institutions. The curriculum includes educational plans and activities for schools, classrooms, communities, and countries.

This new curriculum is based on ensuring that the independent curriculum has an impact on all students who use it. The positive impact is that each student can explore themselves and find what they like and what they want to develop, create or design according to their talents. The impact of the change in the independent curriculum is that teachers will feel very helped if they are able to follow the structure that has been made when distributing materials and assessing students (Hartoyo et al. 2023) .

Curriculum changes can have positive and negative impacts on the quality of education. The positive impact is that students are able to learn according to their increasingly advanced level of development, with the support of school leaders, teachers, staff, students, and even the educational institution itself. The principal must have a good

relationship with his superiors and subordinates, but teachers must also have good qualities, namely that their students learn well, study hard, and are creative students in solving all problems and are critical in every lesson. The negative impact is the decline in the quality of education and the rapid changes in the curriculum give rise to new problems such as the inability of students to adapt to the new curriculum learning system, resulting in low student achievement (Ningrum 2023) . The positive impact is that the curriculum becomes easier and more enjoyable because the focus of learning is on developing students' potential and they are given the freedom to learn according to their wishes.

The Independent Curriculum has a positive and beneficial impact on teachers. This curriculum requires greater creativity and innovation and provides opportunities for professional development, but also presents challenges in terms of adapting and mastering the material. The Independent Curriculum has a positive impact on students' learning experiences by creating a more positive and rewarding learning environment, improving critical thinking skills, and enabling personalized learning experiences (Dwi Adventyana et al. 2024) .

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

As the world of education changes, conditions continue to improve for both teachers and students, so curriculum changes are absolutely necessary to keep up with the times. For independent curriculum, curriculum implementation guidelines include a combination of learning and assessment, a combination of school-based curriculum development, a combination of project development, comprehensive implementation, and individual and consultative teaching. Independent curriculum also explores students' abilities to find what they like and what they want to develop, create or design according to their talents. Optimizing teacher skills in the learning process and introducing their own curriculum can have a significant impact on the concept of *self-directed learning* .

As the young generation of the successors of this country, who have a natural desire to

advance our country and state, we ask that you continue to try as hard as possible to realize this. Teachers are the designers of the future of students, and as professional designers, teachers must try harder to develop the character of students and be willing to actively participate in realizing their future lives.

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