

Habituation of Independent Learning in School Children in Satengah Village, Sinjai

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ABSTRACT

Various research results show that independent learning provides many benefits for students. On that basis, this community service was carried out to motivate students in Satengah Village, Sinjai Regency to utilize their time outside of school by doing independent learning. Therefore, this community service is important so that students can learn independently after helping their parents. The method used in this community service is in the form of lectures and counseling. The stages of implementation are activity planning, preparation, socialization, and implementation of activities. The results of the community service activity show that this activity received attention from the local government, and the participants of the activity, namely students and their parents, were very enthusiastic about participating in this activity.

INTRODUCTION

Education is the foundation of every nation. The importance of education extends beyond simply learning to read, write, and count. It's more than just a tool for shaping character, developing skills, and fostering critical thinking, enabling individuals to contribute and compete effectively within society. In Indonesia, the importance of education for the nation's future generations cannot be underestimated (Arifin et al., 2024), especially in the context of increasingly fierce global competition. The following is a brief overview of the importance of education for the future generations of the Indonesian nation (Rokhman et al., 2014).

Education plays a crucial role in creating opportunities and opening doors to a better future. When a child receives a good education, they will also have access to knowledge and skills that can help them find decent jobs, build successful careers, and contribute to society. Furthermore, education can also be a tool to address poverty and inequality. By providing equal access to education for everyone, education can help reduce economic and social disparities. This makes education particularly important in a country like Indonesia, where economic and social disparities remain serious problems. These socioeconomic issues further emphasize the importance of education for the nation's future generations.

National education is education based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia, rooted in religious values and Indonesian national culture, and responsive to the demands of changing times (Riswanti & Sowiyah, 2021). The national education system is all interrelated components of education that are integrated to achieve national education goals. Law of the Republic of Indonesia. Regarding the National Education System Number 20 of 2003, Chapter 1, Article 1, states: "Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to possess spiritual and religious strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and the skills needed for themselves, society, the nation, and the state (Rahman et al., 2021)." Based on the aforementioned Law, it is understood that education is crucial for society. The teaching and learning process must be well-established and meaningful.

As schools begin to improve the quality of learning by providing meaningful learning, parental support is also essential. Parents can create a fun and meaningful learning process while assisting their children with their learning at home, helping them become more proficient learners and become lifelong learners. Child psychologist Samanta Elsener, in a webinar hosted by the children's learning platform ZeniusLand, explained that meaningful learning, or mindful learning, is a state where we are mentally aware of what is happening, focused on what is being learned, and accepting what is being taught, including differences of opinion (Elsener, 2023). Parents need to ensure that the triangle of mindfulness—acceptance, awareness, and attention—is present in their child's learning support at home. Acceptance in learning is a situation where children

are able to accept the diverse views and opinions of others. This can be cultivated through open discussion.

Meaningful learning can occur not only at school but also independently at home or within the family environment. The goal is for students to have independence (Jaelani, 2021). Elementary school student independence encompasses a variety of skills, attitudes, and behaviors that enable children at the elementary school level to take responsibility for their learning and daily lives. Developing student independence in elementary schools has several very important goals to support the holistic development of students, namely, encouraging the development of intrinsic motivation which is the drive from within students to learn because of personal interests and desires, not only because of external pressures and Developing students' ability to think critically. Encouraging elementary school students' independence in education requires efforts to improve their abilities in time management, independent learning, and developing spontaneity in the learning process.

Independence and responsibility are not innate traits or character traits, but rather learned and taught. Independence and responsibility are behaviors that determine how we react to everyday situations. Independence is an attitude that children must develop to be able to live life without relying on others. Responsibility also determines whether others can trust us. Important things for children as they enter elementary school include: during this period, children are required to be ready to learn with a significant study load, and they recognize and must be responsible for what they learn and for their school environment.

Most parents assume that a close relationship with their parents will result in children becoming spoiled and lacking independence. However, a harmonious relationship between parents and children will result in the development of independence that will progress appropriately for their age. Children need concrete behavior and examples from their parents. Most children will imitate, imitate, and then imitate what their parents do in their daily lives.

Furthermore, a harmonious relationship between parents and children will strengthen children's behavior. As children face all the potential challenges and discomforts of entering elementary school, parents will always be there to listen and provide encouragement to help them remain comfortable and resilient. The development of independence and responsibility in children comes entirely from their parents. Parents must provide consistent support.

The current advancement of information technology, which has penetrated rural areas, presents a unique opportunity for children in villages to utilize their time outside of school for independent learning at home. Independent learning is crucial because it is the key to success in facing challenges and acquiring knowledge in this increasingly advanced information age. This skill enables you to learn independently, manage your time and resources, and solve problems effectively. In the digital age, with easy access to the internet and online resources, independent learning can be done anywhere and anytime. This ability opens up tremendous opportunities for you to continue learning and develop professionally and personally. On that basis, we, the community service team from Makassar State University, intend to provide understanding to school

children in Satengah Village, Sinjai Regency regarding the importance of independent learning.

IMPLEMENTATION AND METHODS

This community service activity was held in Bulutellue Village, Bulupoddo District, Sinjai Regency, on May 24-25, 2025. This activity was carried out in collaboration with Bulutellue Village government officials and also involved teachers and parents. This community service activity was conducted using a socialization method consisting of several stages, including:

1. Activity Planning

The initial stage of this community service activity was establishing communication and coordination with the Bulutellue Village Government by submitting a request for a community service permit. The next step was to compile an analysis of the village community's health-related problems and needs. After receiving approval from the Bulutellue Village Government and identifying health-related problems, the community service team prepared a community service proposal to obtain approval from the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Head of the Institute for Research and Community Service (LPPM) at Makassar State University.

2. Preparation

In this stage, the community service team conducted several activities, including: conducting a site survey to prepare the location for the community service activity, coordinating with village government officials to extend invitations to various parties who would be involved in the community service activity, and preparing materials to be disseminated to the community.

3. Socialization

Before carrying out the community service activity, specifically the delivery of community service materials, the community service team, accompanied by a village official, visited community leaders such as hamlet heads, village imams, youth groups, and several heads of households to convey the purpose and objectives of the community service activity. This was crucial to ensure the activity garnered attention and support from the community.

4. Activity Implementation

This stage is the core of the community service activities. The Independent Learning Movement is intended to foster students' awareness of the importance of independent learning outside the school environment. Through this activity, the team conducts educational and outreach activities related to independent learning activities. The education aims to provide students with an understanding of the importance of practicing independent learning by utilizing learning resources, both those available in the surrounding environment and those obtained online as part of technological advancements. The educational program involves a visit to a school in Bulutellue Village. The team engages in dialogue with the students to provide information on the importance of independent learning to improve their capacity as high-achieving students. The second method is outreach. The

outreach program involves inviting several students to the hamlet head's home. This activity involves providing material on the importance of independent learning activities, especially in their free time. The program also includes dialogue with teachers to gather information about the students' learning interests in the village.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Community Service Activity Material

As an effort to provide an understanding of the importance of independent learning at home by students, which of course cannot be separated from parental guidance, in this community service activity several materials related to independent learning are presented, including:

Understanding the Independent Learning Model

Learning is truly an absolute necessity for human beings. Through the learning process, children can reach growth and development stages appropriate to their stage of development as living beings. From a maturational perspective, children can become more independent individuals, possessing the ability to think rationally and critically, enabling them to make choices and solve problems. Through the learning process, it is hoped that children will also be better prepared for life in society, work, and the nation. Unfortunately, the importance of the learning process is not given sufficient importance by children. Many children consider learning a boring activity.

It's done at school, but sometimes it continues at home. Although, some children find learning a fun activity. Indeed, most children find playing more exciting than learning. If the learning process encourages children to be independent, how can children learn independently? The learning process carried out independently by students is called the independent learning model. This learning model is conducted independently without the need for face-to-face interaction. According to (Pradipta et al., 2022), the independent learning model allows students to take the initiative, with or without the assistance of others, to analyze their own learning needs, formulate their own learning goals, identify learning resources, select and implement appropriate learning strategies, and evaluate their own learning achievements. According to Kirkman (Sholeh et al., 2023), the process of independent learning involves students identifying what needs to be learned and taking control of finding and organizing answers. Unlike learning with a teacher, where the provision of materials and management of learning activities are determined, the independent learning process is carried out individually or in groups without the presence of a teacher.

According to (Sudirtha et al., 2021), the focus of the independent learning model is on skills, processes, and systems rather than on content and tests. Through the implementation of independent learning, students are given autonomy in managing their learning activities, which ultimately leads to learning independence. Self-directed learning is defined as the characteristics, attitudes, and abilities possessed by students to undertake learning activities independently or with the assistance of others, based on their own motivation to

master a specific competency, thus enabling them to solve problems encountered in everyday life (Aziz et al., 2023).

Benefits of Independent Study

Learning independence is a major concern in today's education world. The trigger is none other than the COVID-19 pandemic. Face-to-face teaching and learning are temporarily suspended in schools. Therefore, students are expected to practice more independent learning. In general, independent learning can be defined as the ability to plan one's own learning, carry out the learning process, and evaluate one's own learning outcomes (Patandean & Indrajit, 2021). This is certainly not an easy task, and therefore, a child's enthusiasm is crucial for the success of independent learning at home. There are many benefits to be gained from independent learning at home, including:

a. Growing Motivation and Self-Confidence

The success of independent learning depends, in part, on a child's own motivation. Because they are required to manage their own study time and plan their own work, they will feel a sense of relief when they are able to complete it. This habit will gradually grow their motivation and build their self-confidence. Children will experience for themselves that independent learning is truly enjoyable.

b. Becoming more creative and actively seeking out learning resources

To optimize the learning process, children need to seek out materials that will help them learn something or complete an assignment. Many sources of information and knowledge can be obtained independently online. This independent initiative will foster creativity and an active search for learning resources.

c. Getting to Know Yourself

When studying independently at home, children have the opportunity to explore learning styles that are more comfortable for them. They better understand when the best time to study is. This way, they become more aware of their own learning patterns, which ultimately leads to more optimal learning outcomes.

d. Improving Academic Achievement

Learning becomes enjoyable because they know the method that works best for them. The bonus, of course, is improved academic achievement.

e. Becoming a Responsible and Disciplined Individual

f. Unlike the situation and conditions at school, at home, children must be able to manage themselves. They will learn to be more responsible and disciplined in managing their time to achieve optimal learning outcomes. Children who are highly independent in learning are able to control the learning process, utilize a variety of learning resources, have internal motivation and time management skills, and have a positive self-concept compared to those with low independence.

g. Improving understanding of the material

Learning at school often has limited time, so not all students can fully grasp the material in a single session. By increasing independent study time at

home, there's an opportunity to review lessons taught by the teacher and deepen any difficult concepts. Furthermore, independent study allows students to learn at their own pace. They can complete additional exercises, read other resources, or search for instructional videos to deepen their understanding. This way, the learning process becomes more effective and isn't limited solely to what's taught in class.

h. Building Consistent Study Habits

Discipline in studying is a crucial factor in achieving academic success. By increasing independent study hours, good study habits can be established. Students will become accustomed to better managing their time, allocating sufficient time for studying, resting, and other activities. Consistency in studying also helps improve memory and critical thinking skills. With a regular study schedule, students not only avoid procrastination but also become better prepared for exams and other academic assignments.

i. Improves Problem-Solving Skills

Independent study at home allows students to face various academic challenges without directly relying on teachers or tutors. By attempting to solve practice problems on their own, they can develop problem-solving skills that are very useful in various aspects of life. When faced with difficulties, students will be encouraged to find their own solutions, whether by rereading the material, seeking additional references, or discussing the problem with friends. This will foster independence and creativity in problem-solving, which are important skills for the future.

j. Adapting to Different Learning Styles

Every student has a different learning style. Some learn better by listening to explanations, others prefer reading, and still others learn more effectively through hands-on practice. By increasing independent study time at home, students can adapt learning methods to suit their learning styles. For example, more visual students can use diagrams, mind maps, or interactive videos to understand concepts. Meanwhile, more kinesthetic students can try simple experiments or rewrite the material to help them remember better. This flexibility makes the learning process more comfortable and effective.

k. Preparing for exams and academic challenges

Exams are often a defining moment in a student's academic journey. By increasing their self-study time, they can better prepare for exams. Students can summarize the material, work on practice questions, and take exam simulations to become more familiar with the format and types of questions that may arise. Furthermore, with proper preparation, students will feel more confident when facing exams. They will not only understand the material better but also develop appropriate strategies for answering questions within the limited time. This will help them achieve optimal results.

The advantages of independent learning at home

Independent learning is a type of learning method that allows students to fully control the subject matter and the duration of their learning (Qolbiyah et al.,

2022). The concept of independent learning does not require students to study with a teacher. Here are some of the advantages of independent learning.

a. Freedom to Manage the Learning Process

This differs from learning activities conducted with a teacher, where students are structured and directed accordingly. For example, the lesson material must align with the Independent Learning Lesson Plan (RPP Merdeka Belajar) prepared by the teacher. During independent study, you can determine the material you want to study. You are also free to choose whether to take quizzes, review specific material in a summary, or find answers to questions you have in mind. This freedom, gained during independent study, makes you more enthusiastic.

b. Flexible Time and Space

Independent learning can be done at any time that suits you. Furthermore, you can study independently anywhere, not just at school. It can be done at home, in the library, or in open spaces like city parks. This flexibility in learning makes you feel more relaxed and makes learning more enjoyable.

c. Making the Most of Your Free Time

As students, isn't it natural to spend a lot of time studying? Of course, there's also time to relax and play. Well, this free time is usually spent more than studying together in class. The remaining time at home can be utilized optimally by studying independently. This way, you can understand the material better, sharpen your brain, and keep you engaged in positive activities.

d. Developing Social Skills

Regular independent study will certainly hone your independence. This good habit will help you become a disciplined person, less dependent on your parents, and realize the importance of achieving certain goals in life. These positive things will certainly be needed to support your social skills.

Description of the Community Service Activity Process

The community service activity on independent learning among students in Satengah Village, Bulupoddo District, Sinjai Regency, generally went smoothly. The Village Head prepared the venue and coordinated the training participants. Participants in the community service activity consisted of students and their parents. The venue used for the activity was a resident's house in the village.

Before the activity, the community service team introduced themselves and then sought to elicit the participants' basic knowledge about independent learning. The presenter asked several questions about the students' activities after school, during holidays, and in the evenings. Based on student and parent accounts, it was discovered that outside of school, the students mostly helped their parents in the rice fields and gardens. Study time was only spent in the evenings. After eliciting basic knowledge, the presenter began presenting material on independent learning. Throughout the community service activity, the participants appeared enthusiastic and attentive.

The presentation lasted approximately 45 minutes, and at the end of the session, the presenter gave participants the opportunity to ask questions related to the material presented. Three questions were received from the training participants regarding the content. After answering the questions, the presenter evaluated the presentation by asking questions and allowing participants to answer them.

The community service activity on independent learning in Satengah Village, Bulupoddo District, Sinjai Regency, was carried out well. The participants showed enthusiasm and hoped that the community service activity would continue with the provision of other materials, particularly related to education, to further enhance their enthusiasm for learning.



Gambar 1. Logo Belajar Mandiri



Gambar 2. Para peserta kegiatan pengabdian

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The community service activity, which focused on counseling and mentoring independent learning in Satengah Village, Bulupoddo District, Sinjai Regency, was successfully implemented.
2. This community service activity received an enthusiastic response from the local government and participants, consisting of students and parents.

3. Participants received three questions regarding the training material, and both the local government and parents expressed their hope for further training related to the educational process for their children.
4. Community service activities like this can be conducted routinely, either in the same location or in different locations, targeting communities who truly need training and support in independent learning.

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