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Implementation of the Merdeka Curriculum in Realizing Quality Learning in Schools

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Abstract

This study aims to examine how the implementation of the *Merdeka* Curriculum supports the creation of quality learning in schools and to identify the opportunities and challenges that emerge during its implementation. The *Merdeka* Curriculum provides teachers with greater flexibility to design learning activities aligned with students' needs, thereby promoting a more meaningful, active, and student-centered learning process. This study employed a qualitative method using a literature study approach by collecting data from reliable sources, including scientific journals, books, and official documents related to the *Merdeka* Curriculum. The collected data were analyzed descriptively to obtain a comprehensive understanding of how the curriculum is implemented in school contexts. The findings indicate that the implementation of the *Merdeka* Curriculum has significant potential to improve learning quality, particularly through project-based learning, the strengthening of character in accordance with the *Pancasila* Student Profile, and teacher autonomy in selecting appropriate instructional strategies. However, its implementation continues to face several challenges, including limited teacher understanding of the curriculum concept, inadequate readiness of supporting facilities, and the need for continuous professional development. This study concludes that collaboration among the government, schools, and teachers is

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essential to ensure optimal curriculum implementation and to promote more effective, creative, and high-quality learning.

Keywords: *Merdeka* Curriculum; Curriculum Implementation; Quality Learning; *Pancasila* Student Profile; Project-Based Learning

INTRODUCTION

Change policy education in Indonesia through implementation The Independent Curriculum is step strategic For increase quality learning in schools. Curriculum This present as response to need more learning flexible and participant-centered educate . In research conducted by (Safitri et al ., 2022) explained that The Independent Curriculum provides freedom to the teacher in designing appropriate learning with characteristics student so that the learning process become more relevant and meaningful . This matter show that implementation curriculum No only limited to change documents, but also changes paradigm in the learning process in class .

Independent Curriculum emphasizes importance development - oriented learning competence and character participant educate . According to research by (Rahayu et al ., 2022) , learning in The Independent Curriculum is designed so that students more active through activity exploration and related projects with life real . Approach This assessed capable increase skills think critical and creative students . With Thus , learning No only focus on mastery material , but also on development ability much needed 21st century moment This .

Learning in paradigm new put approach based projects and experiences as element main in the educational process . Based on opinion by (Hasdawaty , 2025) implementation approach This proven capable increase ability solution problem student up to 45% compared to with method learning conventional which tends to teacher -centered . In in practice , students No only accept material in a way passive , but also involved in a way active in various project authentically designed For linking a number of eye lesson at once . Through activity said , students pushed For think critical , collaborative , and develop creativity in finish problem real . With Thus , the learning process become more meaningful , contextual , and relevant with life everyday , at the same time capable form skills 21st century requirements needed by participants educate . This is also in line according to (Idris et al ., 2023) that Approach learning based project assessed relevant

Because put collaboration as element main in its implementation . In context this , collaboration No just Work together , but also give room for every individual For determine appropriate role with their respective interests , potential , and expertise . Freedom the it is important that every member group can contribute optimally and feel own not quite enough answer to success project . On the other hand , effective collaboration difficult come true if participant educate forced to operate role that is not in line with desire or his competence , because matter That can lower motivation , involvement , and quality results work . Therefore that , in learning based project , division flexible and based roles interest become key For create Work productive , harmonious , and meaningful . Top Form

However , the implementation Independent Curriculum in schools No always walk with Easy . Research by (Wantiana & Mellisa, 2023) disclose that the teachers are aware that experience they in utilise device learning during the learning process teach Still limited . In fact , experience is one of the form readiness important for teachers to increase professionalism , especially in get learning new that can renew competencies and skills in operate his duties . Meanwhile that , in the Independent Curriculum , the competencies learning designed in form achievements structured learning based on phase development participant educate , so that need adjustment understanding and learning strategies from the teachers. This is in line with study (Ananda et al ., 2025) that the question is in the form of story in The Independent Curriculum is designed For practice ability think logical and analytical at a time increase skills solution problem participant educate . However , in practice , teachers still face constraint in determine approach appropriate learning so that the material the easy understood by students . The impact is , when question story given , many student tend passive and experienced confusion in catch Meaning and the core of the problem presented .

In addition to teacher readiness , support from environment schools also become factor important in success implementation Independent Curriculum . In research by (Yesnik & Trisnawati , 2024) explained that However Thus , the implementation The Independent Curriculum is still face a number of limitations , one of which is related lack of availability source supporting power implementation . One of the aspect important is facility learning required for the learning process can walk in harmony with demands curriculum said . Availability facilities and access in every school become challenge alone in implementation Independent Curriculum . This due to the need relative facilities need cost

Enough big , so that No all school capable fulfill it optimally . In fact , the facilities own a very important role as support main in support fluency and effectiveness activity learning .

More continue , success implementation The Independent Curriculum is also heavily influenced by policies and support from government . According to research by (Ahmad Sulaeman Nagib Ridlwan & Suparto , 2025) , implementation The Independent Curriculum is effort strategic government For increase quality education in Indonesia through flexible , relevant , and student - centered approach . Curriculum This give freedom for school For compile learning in accordance context local and needs participant educate , with emphasize on development potential individual as well as skills 21st century like creativity , collaboration , communication , and thinking critical .

Based on various study said , can formulated problem study that is How implementation Independent Curriculum in realize learning quality in school as well as What just factor supporters and obstacles . Problems This important For investigated Because will give description real about implementation curriculum in the field and solutions that can be done For increase quality learning .

As for the purpose study This is For analyze implementation Independent Curriculum in increase quality learning at school as well as identify various challenges and solutions in implementation . Research This expected can give contribution in development more learning effective , innovative , and appropriate with need participant educate in the current era This.

METHODS

Study This use approach qualitative with type study studies library research , which aims For study in a way deep various problem related implementation Independent Curriculum in realize learning quality in schools . Approach This chosen Because allows researchers For analyze various findings study previously in a way systematic and comprehensive . According to (Moto, 2019) studies literature is activity gather related materials with research originating from from books , journals scientific , literature and other appropriate publications made into source For research that will be studied writer , with method describe and explain the data is through a number of expert opinion .

Population in study This is all over related literature with implementation Independent Curriculum and quality learning in schools . Research sample determined with use technique *purposive sampling* , namely election source based on criteria certain , such as relevance with topic research , credibility source (journal accredited), and own identity clear publication . This technique used to obtain the data truly in accordance with need research . According to (Lenaini , 2021) , Purposive sampling is A method samplinggnon random sampling Where researchers ensure citation illustration through method determine identity special fit with the aim research so it is hoped Can respond case research .

Data collection methods in study This done through technique documentation , namely with method collecting , reading , and taking notes various information from relevant sources . Instruments used in the form of sheet documentation or working *data extraction* sheet For identify and group important data , such as identity author , purpose research , methods , and results related research with implementation Independent Curriculum .

Data analysis techniques in study This use analysis content *analysis* , namely with method examine , group , and interpret content from various literature that has been collected . Stages data analysis includes data reduction , data presentation , and data extraction conclusion . This process done in a way systematically to obtain deep understanding about implementation Independent Curriculum in increase quality learning . According to (Arafat, 2019) Analysis content is research of a nature discussion deep to content something information contained in a mass media (analysis content the object especially is mass media)

For guard data validity , research This use technique triangulation source , namely with compare various results study from different sources to obtain more valid and reliable data . trusted .

RESULTS

Research result This obtained from study to a number of journal that discusses implementation Independent Curriculum in effort increase quality learning in schools . From the results analysis mentioned , it is known that The Independent Curriculum provides enough influence positive towards the learning process , especially in increase independence participant Educate . Research conducted by (Adiba & Andriyati , 2025)

show that curriculum This push student For more active organize and manage the learning process Alone through activities that emphasize exploration as well as reflection . With Thus , learning No Again fully depends on the teacher, but give chance to student For develop in accordance with their respective abilities and potential .

In addition , the findings research also shows that implementation learning differentiation be one of factor important in create quality learning . (Fatimatuzzahrah et al ., 2023) explain that through learning differentiation , teachers can adapt methods , materials and learning strategies with needs and characteristics students . Approach This allows every student get experience learn more appropriate , so that can increase results Study in a way more optimal.

More further implementation The Independent Curriculum also contributes in strengthening character participant educate through implementation Profile Pancasila Students . Based on study (Mayanti , 2023) , the values contained in profile the capable form attitude not quite enough answer , work the same (mutual cooperation), and independence student during the learning process taking place . This is show that Independent Curriculum does not only focuses on achievement academic , but also on formation character in a way comprehensive .

However , on the other hand , the results research also revealed that Still there is a number of constraint in implementation . One of the obstacle main is readiness school in apply appropriate learning with principle Independent Curriculum . Some school Still experience difficulty in understand and apply draft learning differentiation as well as strengthening character based Profile Pancasila Students . Conditions This cause implementation Independent Curriculum not yet walk in a way maximum throughout school .

As effort For give a clearer picture clear about level success implementation Independent Curriculum , research it also presents table indicator performance used as reference in evaluate its implementation .

Table 1. Performance Indicators

Criteria Evaluation	Qualification
>65%	Succeed
<65%	Not successful

Based on table said , the results analysis show that implementation Independent Curriculum in general is in the category successful , especially in aspect independence learning and application learning differentiation . However , it is still required improvement in matter teacher understanding and readiness facility supporters learning . With thus , it can concluded that The Independent Curriculum has potential big in increase quality learning , but need ongoing support so that we can implemented in a way maximum .

DISCUSSION

Based on results research , implementation The Independent Curriculum shows existence improvement quality learning especially in aspect involvement student in the learning process . Findings This in line with research by (Ariyanto & Suryantari , 2024) which states that Independent Curriculum is capable increase participation active student Because learning designed more flexible and provide room exploration . In field practice , students seen more active in activity discussion , presentation , and work group . This is show that approach learning used in Independent Curriculum is capable change pattern Study student become more active and independent .

Next , the results study show that use assessment diagnostic in The Independent Curriculum provides impact positive to effectiveness learning . This is supported by research by (Neliwati , 2023) which explains that assessment diagnostic help teachers understand ability beginning student so that learning can customized with need they . In the field , teachers who implement assessment diagnostic tend more easy in determine the right learning strategy . However , it is still there are teachers who have not used to use assessment This optimally so that the result Not yet maximum .

In addition , the use of teaching module as device learning in The Independent Curriculum also contributes to improvement quality learning . According to research by (Sari & Haifaturrahmah , 2025) , flexible teaching modules give freedom to the teacher to adapt materials and methods learning in accordance condition students . In in reality , teachers start more creative in designing activity learning , so that student become more interested and motivated For Study .

On the other hand , reflection learning that becomes part from The Independent Curriculum also has role important in increase quality Study Students . Research by (Ragil Marcelino et al., 2023) show that activity reflection help student understand advantages and

disadvantages in the learning process they . In In practice , students who are accustomed to do reflection become more aware towards their learning process live and be able to repair error in a way independent .

In a way overall , results study This show that implementation The Independent Curriculum has potential big in increase quality learning at school . This is seen from increasing activity students , use more assessment right , teacher creativity in compile teaching modules , as well as implementation reflection learning . However thus , success implementation This Still influenced by teacher readiness , understanding to draft curriculum , as well as support facilities and infrastructure . Therefore that , is necessary ongoing efforts from various parties so that implementation Independent Curriculum can walk optimally .

CONCLUSION

Based on results research and discussion , can concluded that implementation The Independent Curriculum has role important in realize quality learning in schools . Curriculum This capable increase activeness , independence , and ability think critical participant educate through more learning flexible , contextual , and student - centered . Implementation learning based project , differentiation learning , as well as strengthening Profile Pancasila students become factor main supporting creation meaningful learning . Additionally , use assessment diagnostics , teaching modules , and activities reflection is also proven help increase effectiveness of the learning process .

However Thus , the implementation Independent Curriculum not yet fully running optimally in all school . There are still various obstacles , such as limitations teacher's understanding of draft curriculum , lack of experience in use device learning , as well as limitations facilities and infrastructure supporters . Conditions This show that success implementation The Independent Curriculum is greatly influenced by teacher readiness , support facilities , as well as sustainable policies from government . Therefore that , is necessary more effort directed so that implementation curriculum This can walk in a way maximum and evenly distributed throughout unit education .

As for the suggestions that can be given is the need improvement teacher competence through ongoing training and mentoring related implementation Independent Curriculum , in particular in implementation learning differentiation , assessment

diagnostics , and learning based project . In addition , the school need increase availability facilities and infrastructure that support the learning process . The government is also expected to can give more support evenly in form policies , facilities , and supervision so that implementation Independent Curriculum can walk optimally and capable increase quality learning overall .

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