

## THE ROLE OF CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT IN IMPROVING STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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### ABSTRACT

Education has an important role in shaping the nation's civilization , and Curriculum as one of the core components in the education system plays a strategic role in the achievement of national education goals . This research aims to analyze curriculum management in primary schools , which includes planning, implementation, and evaluation, as well as its implications for student learning outcomes . The method used in this research is literature research , by studying literature related to relevant topics . Research results show that mature curriculum planning , well - organized implementation , and effective evaluation can improve the quality of education, which in turn improves student academic performance . In addition , effective curriculum management also affects the development of student character . The implication of this research is the importance of synergy between the relevant parties in education, including teachers, principals , parents , and the community, to create an educational environment that is conducive and supports success. curriculum implementation.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Education has a strategic role in shaping the nation's civilization. This is because education is a process designed to develop students' abilities, character, and values . In Indonesia, the purpose of education has been formulated in Law Number 20 of 2003 on the National Education System. This purpose includes the development of people who have faith, piety, noble character, and have the intelligence and skills needed to build a nation. At the Elementary School (SD) level , education becomes an important foundation in developing students ' basic abilities to continue to higher levels of education .

Curriculum is a core component in the education system that functions as a guide in the learning process. The curriculum in Indonesia has undergone various changes, including the

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implementation of the 2013 Curriculum which aims to improve the quality of education through a competency-based approach. However, the implementation of this curriculum faces various challenges, such as high teacher workload, frequent revision of teaching materials, and lack of adequate resources . To overcome this challenge , effective curriculum management is an urgent need.

Curriculum management is a process that involves planning, organizing, implementing, and systematically evaluating the curriculum to achieve educational goals. Maghfur, DT (2019) explains that curriculum management includes aspects of planning, management, and evaluation that are interrelated. With good management, the curriculum can be optimally implemented to support an effective learning process . Previous research shows that the role of curriculum management is very significant in improving student learning outcomes . For example, research by Paminto et al. (2018) revealed that the integration of the national curriculum with local content and school vision can improve student performance, both in academic and non-academic fields. In addition, research by Atmaja et al. ( 2019 ) showed that mature planning , organized implementation , and comprehensive evaluation can produce better learning outcomes .

In the aspect of basic education , curriculum management does not only focus on administrative aspects , but also on how to support teachers and students in the learning process. Teachers, as the spearhead of curriculum implementation, hold an important role in implementing innovative learning strategies that are relevant to student needs . Therefore , training and professional development for teachers is an integral part of curriculum management. In addition, curriculum evaluation is an important aspect of curriculum management. Evaluation not only serves to evaluate the success of curriculum implementation , but also to identify weaknesses and opportunities for improvement. In this case , the involvement of all stakeholders , including teachers, students, parents , and the school, is very necessary to ensure that the evaluation is done comprehensively and objectively .

Good curriculum management also requires support from various resources, including facilities and infrastructure, technology, and supportive educational policies . In the digital era , the use of information technology is one of the solutions to overcome challenges in curriculum implementation. For example, the use of online learning platforms can help overcome limited resources and expand access to education for students in remote areas . However, challenges in curriculum management cannot be ignored. One of the main challenges is the lack of synergy between the various parties involved in education. Lack of communication and coordination can hinder the implementation of the curriculum and lower the quality of education. Therefore, it is important to develop close cooperation between the government, schools, teachers, parents, and the community in supporting effective curriculum management .

Curriculum management is a key element in improving student learning outcomes. With a systematic and evidence -based approach , curriculum management can help schools achieve national education goals. Through this research, it is hoped that best practices in curriculum management can be found that can be adopted by other schools to improve the quality of education at the primary level .

## 2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research includes a type of library research (library research), which is a research method that focuses on the collection, study, and analysis of data sourced from various available literature, such as books, journals, scientific articles, documents, and other relevant publications. In this research, data was collected through the process of reading in depth, critically reviewing, and analyzing the contents of various literature to obtain a comprehensive and in-depth understanding related to the topic under study. This literature research aims to dig up relevant information, theories, and concepts, as well as to understand the development of previous research as a basis or reference in answering the research problems raised. With this, this research does not require the collection of field data directly, but utilizes available library resources as the main data.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The following is a description related to the planning, implementation, evaluation of the curriculum in primary schools, as well as its implications for student learning outcomes.

### Curriculum Planning in Primary Schools

Curriculum planning is the initial step in curriculum management that involves a series of actions to achieve educational goals. According to Oemar Hamalik (2012), planning aims to create consistent and coordinated operations in order to obtain the desired results. In the Primary School aspect, curriculum planning includes content standards and graduation standards that are adapted to the characteristics of the education unit and the needs of the community. Fauzan (2017) added that planning includes goal setting, identification of teaching materials, and selection of learning strategies. In addition, Permendikbud Number 20 of 2016 emphasized on the competence of graduates in three dimensions: attitude, knowledge, and skills, as a planning guide.

Curriculum planning in Primary Schools is an initial step in curriculum management that aims to ensure the achievement of national and local educational goals. This process includes the preparation of annual and semester plans involving principals, teachers, and related parties. The first step in curriculum planning is needs analysis. This analysis is done to identify the needs of students based on their individual, social, and academic characteristics. The results of this analysis become the basis for formulating learning strategies that suit the conditions and needs of students. The next stage is determining the purpose of education. This purpose should be in line with the school's vision and mission as well as the national curriculum. The determination of clear objectives provides direction for the implementation of learning in primary schools. Once the goals are set, the next step is to organize the content and study materials. Learning materials are selected and arranged in such a way as to be relevant to the needs of students as well as the expected competence demands. This arrangement involves teachers and principals as the main stakeholders. In addition, the selection of learning methods and strategies is an important part of curriculum planning. Methods such as thematic or scientific approaches are often used to achieve learning goals effectively. This strategy is adapted to the conditions of the students and their learning environment. Finally, the evaluation plan is prepared to develop evaluation tools that

can measure the achievement of learning objectives. With a structured evaluation, the success of curriculum implementation can be monitored and improved as needed. The involvement of all school components in this process ensures planning which is comprehensive and responsive to educational needs.

### **Curriculum Implementation in Primary Schools**

The implementation of the curriculum is the implementation of the program that has been planned. The 2013 curriculum, as one of the benchmarks, uses an integrative thematic approach, combining various subjects into specific themes to improve critical and collaborative thinking skills. Implementation in several primary schools shows the importance of support from teachers, parents, and facilities. Teachers play a role in creating a conducive learning environment, while the involvement of parents through the parenting program helps increase student motivation .

Curriculum implementation in Primary Schools includes the implementation of plans that have been compiled into daily learning activities. This implementation process involves various parties, including principals, teachers, and students. The school principal plays a role as a leader in ensuring the implementation of the curriculum goes according to plan. He is responsible for supervising and guiding teachers so that learning activities can be carried out effectively and efficient. Teachers have a major role in implementing learning activities in the classroom. Guided by the planned learning implementation plan (RPP), teachers facilitate students to learn actively and creatively. Teachers are also responsible for creating a conducive learning environment for students. In addition to intracurricular activities, curriculum implementation also includes extracurricular activities . Programs such as art, sports, and scouting are designed to support the development of students' skills outside the classroom. This activity provides space for students to develop their interests and talents. Adequate resources, such as teaching materials, technology, and learning media, are very important to support the implementation of the curriculum. The availability of these resources ensures that the learning process can run smoothly . The implementation of the curriculum should be based on the principles of flexibility, relevance, and sustainability to accommodate the individual differences of students.

### **Curriculum Evaluation in Primary Schools**

Curriculum evaluation is a systematic process to evaluate the effectiveness of curriculum implementation. Wina Sanjaya (2015) defines evaluation as giving value to the curriculum plan, while Dinn Wahyudin (2014) emphasizes the importance of data analysis to consider the value and meaning of the curriculum in certain aspects. Evaluation is done through various methods, including formative, summative tests, and direct observation of student involvement in the learning process . The results of this evaluation form the basis for improving planning and implementation in the future .

Curriculum evaluation aims to assess the success of curriculum implementation and provide feedback for improvement . This evaluation process is done systematically to ensure the relevance and effectiveness of the curriculum. One aspect of evaluation is process evaluation. This assessment measures the extent to which learning methods and strategies are

effectively applied by teachers. Thus, weaknesses in the implementation of learning can be identified and improved. In addition, the evaluation of learning outcomes is also the main focus. Various evaluation tools such as tests, portfolios, and observations are used to assess student achievement. The results of this evaluation provide an overview of the students' success in achieving the competencies that have been set. The involvement of various stakeholders, such as students, teachers, parents, and the community, is very important in the evaluation process. Their input helps evaluate the overall effectiveness of the curriculum and provides diverse perspectives for improvement. The results of the evaluation are used to revise the curriculum. Adjustments are made to the content, methods, or learning strategies to ensure that the curriculum remains relevant to the needs of students and the development of the times. Evaluation is done continuously to maintain the quality of learning and the achievement of educational goals.

### **Implications of Curriculum Management on Student Learning Outcomes**

Good curriculum management is proven to improve student learning outcomes, both in terms of academics and character. Case studies in several primary schools show that the integration between curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation can produce students who perform academically and have good social attitudes. The success of this implementation also shows that the support from school principals, teachers, and parents is very influential. A visionary principal can be a facilitator in creating a supportive learning environment.

Effective curriculum management has great implications for student learning outcomes. This impact can be seen from various aspects that reflect the improvement of the quality of education in primary schools. First, the planning and implementation of a structured curriculum helps improve students' academic performance. With mature planning, students can learn with more focus and direction. Second, holistic learning activities support the development of students' life skills. In addition to academic knowledge, students are also equipped with social, emotional, and critical thinking skills needed in life everyday. Third, a curriculum that is relevant to students' needs can increase their learning motivation. When students feel that learning suits their interests and needs, they will be more enthusiastic to learn. Finally, good curriculum management also has an impact on improving the quality of teachers. Through training and supervision, teachers become more competent in implementing the curriculum. Increased teacher competence directly affects the quality of learning in the classroom. Thus, good curriculum management does not only focus on academic results, but also on the development of students' character and skills to face future challenges.

## **4. CONCLUSION**

Curriculum management in Primary Schools has a very important role in improving the quality of education and student learning outcomes. The process that consists of curriculum planning, implementation, and evaluation, if implemented well, can create a more effective learning environment that meets the needs of students. Mature planning ensures that educational goals can be achieved in an organized way, while good implementation, supported by teachers, principals, and parents, allows students to learn actively and creatively. Systematic curriculum evaluation provides useful feedback for future improvement. Overall, effective curriculum management is proven to improve students'

academic performance and develop their character, which ultimately contributes to the development of the nation.

### **Suggestions**

Teachers play a key role in curriculum implementation . Therefore, professional training and development for teachers should be carried out continuously so that they can adapt more innovative learning approaches and strategies and improve the quality of learning.

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