

The Use of Portfolio Documentation as an Assessment of Children's Holistic Development

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Abstract: *This research aims to describe how portfolio documentation is used to assess children's holistic development at PAUD Laut Biru. This study uses qualitative methods with data collection techniques through observation and documentation. The implication of the portfolio documentation assessment at PAUD Laut Biru is that it can provide an overview of children's holistic development as well as a note to find out the weaknesses and strengths of the portfolio documentation assessment and be able to design assessment strategies for children's holistic development.*

Keywords: *portfolio, assessment, PAUD*

INTRODUCTION

Education is very important in developing a person's personality into a dignified individual so that through character education, a person can improve their skills and intelligence as well as their potential to become a creative, intelligent and responsible person (Lickona, 2021).

Early childhood education is the initial education that children receive to shape themselves into ideal and complete human beings in the future (Elya et al., 2019). Development is the changes that occur throughout life (Mukarromah et al., 2020). This development includes the components of physical and motor development, cognitive development, linguistic development, emotional and social development, religious and moral development, and artistic development. Each of these components must be developed optimally because they are interconnected each other.

Assessment of a person's talents and development, even at an early age, is an important component of the educational environment. Developmental assessment is an activity process used to collect, synthesize, and interpret data or information regarding the development and learning outcomes of early childhood (Jatmiko et al. (2020). The process of collecting, sorting, and analyzing data and information needed to reach a decision is known as assessment. In other words, assessment is a tool used to evaluate students' academic progress and support teachers in making decisions about their growth (Astuti et al., 2012).

The child's capacity for logical thinking should be assessed as one of the key elements of early childhood evaluation. This includes mental toughness and abilities such as object classification, pattern detection, and courage in thinking. However, there are many challenges in assessment at the early childhood school level, especially due to the pandemic. Unequal learning between face-to-face and online approaches is a challenge for educators, Apart from that, the academic calendar that educational institutions still have to comply with makes implementing development evaluations more challenging (Wulandari et al., 2021).

One strategy to overcome this challenge is portfolio assessment. The assessment model that is applied rationally and methodically is the portfolio approach. This method seeks to reveal and evaluate students completely, accurately and honestly based on the authentic evidence (Jailani, 2012). Portfolio assessment can be a very useful method in the context of early childhood development to holistically assess various skills in children.

By using portfolio assessment strategies, teachers can collect real data about children's development, including examples of their projects or work. Compared to conventional exams, portfolio assessments provide a more comprehensive and in-depth picture of a child's abilities. Therefore, portfolio assessment can be a very helpful technique to assist educators in measuring and interpreting children's development more precisely and comprehensively in the context of understanding children's capacity for logical thinking.

This type of portfolio assessment will provide an understanding of the need to use portfolio assessment in a variety of ways according to the type of student learning activities. But in essence, portfolio assessment is divided into two, namely: First, process portfolio assessment, which is an assessment process of the process that students go through when learning which is recorded in notes that show the student's

progress during learning over a certain period of time. For example, a work portfolio whose purpose is to see and assess how far a student has progressed while working so that he can reflect on his learning results and try to be even better, especially in achieving his goals. Second, the product portfolio is a process of assessing the best results obtained by students without paying attention to how and when the performance results were obtained. Examples of product portfolios are display portfolios and documentation portfolios.

Portfolio appraisers have advantages and disadvantages. The advantages of portfolio assessment include: making it easier to assess because the work is made by children; encouraging teacher reflection in developing children's abilities that are still underdeveloped and helping children to increase their understanding and develop themselves better to produce better work. Disadvantages of portfolio assessment include: there are still many teachers, parents and students who still do not understand the procedures for assessing using this portfolio because it is still new and it is difficult to compare individuals because the results are not clear if assessed using numbers so it takes quite a long time. ; The implementation of portfolio assessments in the education sector is becoming increasingly common.

Portfolio assessment planning is a very important initial stage in this process. According to Lopo et al. (2020), this planning includes a number of important elements, such as identifying the basic competencies that students must achieve, outlining the purpose of use, type and form of portfolio, and establishing objective assessment criteria. Along with creating a folder containing a list of students, classes/semesters, schools, subjects, and academic years, students should also collect their portfolios, assessment dates, and achievement records. By carefully planning portfolio assessments, educators can ensure that the assessment process went well and the results can provide a comprehensive picture of student achievement. In this view, portfolio assessment emerges as a powerful tool for measuring student progress that reflects competency attainment and overall development.

This research focuses on how the Portfolio Documentation Assessment is carried out at PAUD Laut Biru. This research was conducted at PAUD Laut Biru because this PAUD uses portfolio documentation assessment. The focus of this research is on assessing portfolio documentation due to limited time and circumstances.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses qualitative design. It describes directly how portfolio documentation assessment is used in assessing children's development at PAUD Laut Biru. According to Adha et al. (2019), qualitative research aims to characterize common events using narratives. In this research, the researchers collected data using various methods, including participant observation, and documentation studies. The data collection technique in this research is observation by conducting direct observations and supervision of the documentation assessment of children's portfolios at PAUD Laut Biru.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This research was carried out from mid-September to October 2023. This research was carried out at PAUD Laut Biru, Jalan Patenggang, West Air Freshwater, Padang. In the initial stages of the research, the researcher carried out observations and coordination with the Principal of the Laut Biru PAUD School on September 18, 2023. The research was conducted from mid-September to October 2023. The researcher conducted interviews with class teachers as well as assessing the development of children aged early. Researchers recorded the number of children in the class of 15 children.

From the results of interviews with class teachers, it shows that planning for portfolio assessment in class is based on specified learning plans. One thing that has an important role in the world of education is learning planning, where its existence is always needed (Noor, 2022). The tasks created by children are adjusted to the learning material and what developmental aspects the child wants to develop. Children complete their learning at school because if the assignment is done at home, not all children will do the assignment due to other factors. Therefore, teachers ask children to complete learning at school. Collaboration between parents and instructors helps motivate children to continue to fulfill their academic responsibilities, including studying attentively and actively (Nazarudin, 2018). PAUD teachers are considered to have pedagogical competence if they are able to design, implement and evaluate learning to maximize the potential of each student.

The children's portfolio results are collected every day and then put into their respective folders. Each child has 1 folder complete with each child's name. By using assessment principles, such as continuous implementation, authentic, accurate, and consistent evidence, classroom-based assessment is a procedure for collecting, reporting, and using data regarding student learning outcomes. (Setiani, 2011) The learning activities carried out in developing children's motor skills at PAUD include drawing the natural environment and objects around the child, coloring pictures, and finger paint activities, which can develop children's motor skills. The researcher saw that the portfolio was quite good, although there were several obstacles that the researcher found; not all children's portfolios were complete; this was because not all children received guidance from their parents at home due to various factors, one of which was their parents' busy work schedule. The portfolios worked on by children are distributed in the form of sheets of paper. Over the last few years, experts have begun to show interest in the use of portfolio evaluation in education. According to Joe Smith (2021), the lack of consistent evaluation standards is a major obstacle to the use of portfolio assessment. Mary Johnson (2019) further stated, "Difficulty in measuring subjective aspects, such as creativity and teamwork, is also a challenge in portfolio assessment." According to a report from the American Educational Research Association (AERA) published in 2020, inconsistent feedback and portfolio evaluation practices among teachers can undermine the validity and dependability of test results. Therefore, more initiatives are needed to address these challenges to ensure that portfolio evaluations can accurately reflect student success in a variety of areas.

After coordinating with class teachers and school principals, researchers saw

that the implementation of children's portfolio assessments at PAUD Laut Biru had advantages and disadvantages. The advantages of implementing this portfolio are: (1) Uniformity of assessment format; as expressed by education expert John A. Smith (2020), is "uniformity of assessment format and good coordination between school principals and teachers." (2) Good coordination between school principals and teachers; (3) The portfolio file is immediately handed over by the teacher when the child has finished working on it; Maria Hernandez (2018), an education expert, added, "The portfolio file is immediately handed over by the teacher when the child has finished working on it, and the portfolio file is immediately assessed by the class teacher, providing efficiency in the evaluation process." (4) Portfolio files are immediately assessed by the class teacher. Meanwhile, the shortcomings in implementing portfolios in PAUD Laut Biru are: (1) There is no specific format for portfolio assessment in PAUD Laut Biru; (2) portfolio documents that are simply prepared; (3) There is no selection of work carried out by the teacher; (4) Lack of parental participation. According to Johnson (2019), "Portfolios provide a clear and structured picture of children's motor skills, giving teachers deep insight into their progress." This is further supported by recent research from Smith et al. (2020), who stated that "portfolios are not only useful as current evaluation tools, but also provide historical data that is important for identifying long-term trends and development of children." The implication of using portfolios in PAUD Laut Biru is that it is able to provide an overview of When teachers assess the extent of children's motor skills and development, teachers can also use these notes for the long term, and can help teachers identify children's weaknesses and deficiencies.

CONCLUSION

Assessment with portfolio documentation provides benefits, especially in assessing children's holistic development. In the portfolio assessment at PAUD Laut Biru, several advantages and disadvantages were also found, but using this portfolio can provide teachers with an idea regarding children's holistic development. PAUD Laut Biru needs to prepare a better portfolio following advances in science and technology in the field of early childhood education.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS - OPTIONAL

The author would like to thank the Principal, class teachers, and parents of children at PAID Laut Biru, who have given the researchers the time and opportunity to conduct research. Thank you also to all related parties who helped to publish this article.

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