

CREATIVITY AND PROJECT BASED LEARNING

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Abstract: *In this study, researchers will examine the creativity of children aged 5-6 years through Project Based Learning. This research uses descriptive qualitative research methods with research techniques of observation, interviews, documentation and field notes. The aim of this research is to find out whether Project Based Learning can increase the creativity of children aged 5-6 years. The creativity of children aged 5-6 years has been very well developed, seen from almost all aspects observed by researchers, which often appears and can be seen in every child, this is of course the result of Project Based Learning. Based on these findings, it can be concluded that Project Based Learning is able to increase the creativity of children aged 5-6 years at PAUD Al-Kautsar Cilegon City.*

Keywords: *children's creativity, project based learning, 5-6 years*

INTRODUCTION

In maintaining life in the era of globalization, creativity is of course the main factor in developing children's intelligence, with creativity learning, children are able to develop their intelligence and abilities so they can produce something new (Miranda, 2016). Creativity itself is of course a person's ability to create something new or combine several existing things into a new idea. Creativity is a person's ability to create something new or combine several existing things into a new idea. Creativity is generally tied to imagination. To use imagination, of course a person must be able to have quite high levels of creativity.

Creativity is the thought process, characteristics, and behavior of seeking many answers to one problem. When someone is able to find many answers to one problem, it can be said that that person has been able to develop their creativity. Researchers express the opinion that creativity is a thinking process or a person's ability to create new things or combine new things based on pre-existing elements.

Creativity is a process of divergent thinking and something related to imagination (Prasetyono, 2015). Divergence is the ability to share alternative answers based on the information provided. Apart from that, creativity is generally related to imagination. To use imagination, of course someone must be able to have and develop their creative abilities.

The benefits of creativity include producing new ideas and new discoveries, even new technology. Not only that, creativity is also a manifestation of every individual (Purnama Sari & Zarkasih Putro, 2021). Of course, by being creative through new ideas, humans can quickly actualize themselves, and can also produce new works and discoveries. Some of these things will encourage people to carry out every activity better and more meaningfully.

Creativity has benefits for children, namely being able to provide immense pleasure and personal satisfaction, rewards that have a real influence on their personality development (Budiwaluyo & Muhid, 2021). When a child is satisfied with what he is doing then pleasure will come to him, small things that make the child happy. For example, nothing can give a child a greater sense of satisfaction than creating a work or something with his own hands.

Aspects of creativity include fluency, flexibility, originality, elaboration, and tenacity (Khasanah, Nur, & Ichsan, 2019). From the several aspects above, the meaning of fluency can be explained, namely fluency in giving every answer and expressing an opinion or ideas, flexibility in the form of the ability to put forward alternatives in solving a problem, authenticity in the form of a person's ability to produce ideas or works that originate from the results of his own thoughts. , elaboration in the form of the ability to expand ideas and aspects that other people have not thought of, tenacity and patience in dealing with every situation that occurs.

The next aspect of creativity is the 4P in the cognitive process, namely: 1) Personal, creative children have lots of questions, are interested in the activities they are doing, like to try new things, like to explore the school environment, easily adapt to various changes in situations, are free do various things, have an openness to new things, are able to do different activities with their friends, and have lots of answers. 2) Encouragement, creative children are able to carry out activities according to their own wishes and have enthusiasm in carrying out activities both at school and at home. 3) Process, creative children certainly want to be involved in various kinds of activities at school, both individual and group activities. 4) Products, in this aspect children are able

to create works in the form of models, actions, movements, words, melodies or shapes (Kusumawardani, 2013).

Based on several aspects stated above, the researcher was able to conclude that there are several aspects of creativity which the author calls 4K (fluency, flexibility, originality and tenacity). Fluency, namely children are able and brave to put forward ideas, children are able to express ideas in detail and then turn them into something real, children are able to do things well and maximally in order to get satisfactory results. Flexibility, namely the child is able to provide a solution to a problem being faced, the child is able to solve the problem himself, the child is able to have great curiosity. Authenticity, namely that children are able to create a product in the form of models, movements, actions and shapes, children are able to express their ideas into a work. Tenacity, namely children are able to take opportunities to learn, children are able to adapt to the surrounding environment, children are able to face every situation that occurs, children are able to have an imaginative nature.

Project Based Learning is a learning approach that exposes students to practical problems through learning stimuli (Wajdi, 2017). In this learning approach, of course, the role of the teacher is very important to provide several stimuli so that students are able to carry out learning independently, encourage students to solve problems, so that students are able to find their own understanding and develop their creativity collaboratively.

The benefit of using the project-based learning method in early childhood learning is that it can train children to learn to be responsible, express ideas and complete activities (Amelia & Aisya, 2021). In completing the tasks given, of course children must do them diligently, completely and on time, because this method can train children to collaborate between group friends and teachers are able to provide meaningful learning experiences for children.

Project Based Learning is the right way to provide learning experiences to children by confronting them with everyday problems that need to be solved (Elisa, Rosyidah, & Muftie, 2022). The above are the benefits of Project Based Learning because experience is very difficult to find, especially experience of daily life problems that are solved in groups so that the application of this learning can have a good influence on the cooperative abilities of young children.

There are also several characteristics of project-based learning that you should know, namely: 1) Characteristics of the content aspect include: the problem presented is in the form of a complex problem, students are able to find relationships between ideas; 2) Characteristics of activity aspects include: students are able to carry out investigations, students are faced with several difficulties, and students are able to find solutions to problems; 3) Condition aspect characteristics include: students act as members of society, students are able to manage time, and students carry out professional work simulations; 4) Characteristics of the outcome aspect include: students produce products, students are involved in self-assessment, and students learn to be responsible (Amelia & Aisya, 2021). The discipline described above is the act of violating work discipline, meaning that students are able to find relationships between ideas without complying with the rules in order to get appropriate results and consequences because project learning refers directly to real life.

The role of educators in Project Based Learning is as a facilitator in carrying out learning, as well as the role of students is that students are able to express all forms of abilities they have (Mutawally A, 2021). The role of facilitator arises when seeing students experiencing difficulties in learning, educators need to be a solution for

students. Apart from that, educators are required to create a comfortable classroom and learning atmosphere for each student and students are required to be able to understand whatever has been conveyed and given by the educator.

Project Based Learning certainly has advantages that are clearly visible when we apply it. There are several advantages in Project Based Learning, including: 1) Making students think more critically; 2) Able to develop existing abilities and skills; 3) Able to gain experience and insight from his work; 4) Encourage students to be active; 5) Flexible; 6) Increase cooperative attitudes in groups (Mutawally, 2021). Project-based learning involves student creativity, uses all of the students' abilities and skills, and has a flexible nature, making this learning better to use. Apart from that, the learning attitude of project-based learning is also able to increase the attitude of cooperation, cohesiveness and mutual respect between students when carried out in groups.

After knowing about the advantages of Project Based Learning, of course this learning also has disadvantages, namely 1) This learning method requires a lot of money; 2) This learning method also requires a lot of time; 3) Requires a lot of equipment; 4) The work is done in groups; 5) You cannot only understand one topic (Mutawally, 2021). Based on these shortcomings, it will certainly burden several parties, including students, teachers and also the school. Apart from that, when the work is carried out in groups, of course there will be students who are less or even inactive when the project work is in progress, this of course will hinder the work or cause students to miss out on some learning, apart from this, in project based learning students only master 1 It is feared that even the topic being worked on will result in students lacking the knowledge they should master.

Apart from that, indicators of early childhood creativity can be divided into two, namely creativity from a cognitive perspective (apritude) which consists of originality, flexibility and fluency. Meanwhile, non-cognitive creativity includes motivation, personality and creative attitudes (Muqodas, 2015). These two indicators of creativity are very important potential to be nurtured and developed from an early age so that in the future children will be able to give birth to many new thoughts and ideas.

Based on the results of initial observations conducted by the researcher, the researcher found several things that were the focus of problems in learning at PAUD Al-Kautsar, namely that children's creativity was limited because before Project Based Learning was implemented at PAUD Al-Kautsar, previous learning was center-based which only focused on children. on one medium only. Apart from that, the character that grows in children does not emerge significantly because children are limited in exploring and exploring their potential.

Based on these problems, it can be analyzed that to increase the creativity of young children today, learning is needed that develops creative ideas, explores all the potential that exists in children, gives children space to explore their own potential, improves communication skills with people around them, learns to be responsible, working together, and learning to solve problems, this can be achieved in Project Based Learning. Project Based Learning itself is an approach in the form of a learning model that involves students so that they are able to have a creative, independent and innovative learning spirit. There are benefits from Project Based Learning, namely that children are able to build and develop creativity, motivation, internal interests, communication skills with people around them, responsibility, cooperation, social skills, and problem solving abilities because participants involved in the Project Based Learning method are given several Authentic projects that can help students create concepts that can later be applied in the real world.

One institution that has implemented Project Based Learning is PAUD Al-Kautsar Cilegon City. Al-Kautsar PAUD is a preschool that uses project-based learning or what is usually called Project Based Learning. Learning carried out at Al-Kautsar PAUD uses varied teaching materials, using all natural materials that can be removed, arranged, linked and disassembled again, through these activities children are able to feel all objects and find challenges and solutions in new ways so that all A child's developmental aspects can develop optimally.

Based on the background explanation above, researchers are interested in finding out more about creativity and Project Based Learning developed at PAUD Al-Kautsar, Cilegon City. Therefore, researchers will conduct research entitled "Creativity of Children Aged 5-6 Years Through Project Based Learning".

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses descriptive quantitative research, with the subjects studied being children aged 5-6 years (group B) at Al-Kautsar PAUD Cilegon City. Researchers obtained data through interviews, observation, field notes and documentation methods. The data analysis used by researchers is through data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of data collection obtained by researchers at PAUD Al-Kautsar Cilegon City, it shows that the creativity of children aged 5-6 years at PAUD Al-Kautsar has been very well developed through Project Based Learning, seen from almost all aspects observed by researchers which often appear. and seen in every child, aspects of creativity include 4K (Fluency, flexibility, originality and tenacity). The following indicators exist in the creativity aspect:

Fluency. During the research activities, the researcher saw that the children were able and had the courage to put forward ideas. The children were able to create works as evidenced by the work that the children had made, namely "Trash Factory", using the basic material of blocks and additional materials, namely flowers. , stones, and balls as factory lights, and children are able to do something well and maximally to get satisfactory results as proven by researchers seeing directly when children are carrying out their projects they look very focused and happy doing it so that the project can be completed well and precisely.



Figure 1. The child is expressing an opinion



Figure 2. Children are able to create works

Flexibility, the researcher saw that the child was able to provide a solution to a problem that was being faced, the child was also able to solve the problem himself, and the child was able to have great curiosity, this was proven by the researcher seeing 1 child named Mizan playing in the water and carrying objects heavy and light objects, when the researcher approached him he said, "Teacher, Mizan is experimenting, why is this bottle cap floating, ma'am?" then the researcher answered "because bottle caps have a small density, mizan, it's different with this wood, please try putting it in." Why did the wood sink?" then he answered loudly "because the population is large." It was very clear that with this experiment the child was able to take the initiative to do something, solve problems, enjoy asking and answering questions given, and had great curiosity about anything he didn't know.



Figure 3. Children have great curiosity

Authenticity, children are able to make a product in the form of models, movements, actions and shapes, children are able to express their ideas into a work as proven by children being able to make a "garbage factory" project which lasts for 3 days.

Perseverance, children are able to take opportunities to learn, children are able to adapt to their surrounding environment, children are also able to face every situation that occurs, and children are able to have quite high imaginative traits when learning takes place.

These 4 aspects of creativity will not develop well without Project Based Learning because Project Based Learning is very closely related to creativity. The project activities carried out by the children lasted for 3 days using basic blocks and additional materials, namely flowers, stones and balls as factory lights. Based on the Project Based Learning steps that researchers have observed, researchers can conclude that Project Based Learning at PAUD Al-Kautsar has been implemented

well. The following are the steps for Project Based Learning, including, first, when the learner begins, the teacher asks several essential questions, namely questions that can lead to the tasks that will be given to students in the form of themes and sub-themes of activities, and these activities have been carried out successfully. Good; secondly, in project planning it contains the rules of the game, selecting activities, knowing the tools and materials that can be used to assist in completing the project; third, activities at this schedule preparation stage include, among others, creating a timeline (time allocation) for completing the project, agreeing on a final deadline for project completion, giving students assignments to plan new activity plans, guiding students in selecting a project topic; fourth, in this monitoring activity the teacher facilitates students in each project work process; fifth, at this evaluation stage, students are asked by the teacher to express their feelings and experiences while completing the project. All of these steps have been achieved well, proven by observations of children through the aspects studied according to the steps, interviews with school principals, and interviews with teachers.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research "creativity of children aged 5-6 years through Project Based Learning" it can be concluded that the creativity of children aged 5-6 years develops faster through Project Based Learning as evidenced by all aspects of creativity that researchers observed already existing in children and Project Based Learning. has developed well. When Project Based Learning takes place, children will explore and be given the freedom to do things, this can bring up creative ideas in children.

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