

**The Role of Teachers in Improving the Learning Independence of Students at State Elementary School 067243**

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**Abstract**

This study examines the role of teachers in enhancing students' learning independence at State Elementary School 067243. Teachers play a crucial role in shaping students' learning motivation, discipline, and personal development. The research employs a qualitative approach through observations, interviews, and documentation. The findings highlight that teachers act as facilitators, instructors, learning resources, and mentors in guiding students toward independent learning. Effective strategies include a student-centered approach, collaboration with parents, and the integration of technology to support interactive and engaging learning. The study also reveals that a close teacher-student relationship significantly influences students' willingness to take responsibility for their own learning. Additionally, personalized guidance based on students' individual challenges, such as family background and emotional needs, is essential in fostering their independence. The results suggest that teachers' multifaceted roles contribute significantly to improving students' self-directed learning and overall academic development. Further research is recommended to explore the long-term impact of these teaching strategies on students' independence and academic success.

**Keywords**

Teachers' Role; Learning Independence; Elementary Education; Student Motivation; Educational Strategies

**Introduction**

Teachers have an important role in the world of education because teachers hold the key to education and learning. Teachers are the parties most in contact with students in the implementation of daily education, teachers are the parties who play the greatest role in determining students' success in achieving educational goals. Education is the process of changing the attitudes and behavior of a person or group of people in an effort to mature humans through teaching and research efforts, the importance of education in efforts to eradicate ignorance and reduce poverty along with increasing human intelligence (Prayuda, 2023).

Education that supports the learning process requires accurate classes and class organization, elementary school education has an important role in determining the development of children and having readiness to enter further education. Development in children takes place continuously so that all aspects influence each other because the results of the previous stage which are a requirement for the development of many parents and teachers have understood the importance of the golden age of development in children. Lack of understanding of children about learning can be caused by many things, one of which is the lack of children's learning ability. Especially in elementary school children. The role of teachers in elementary schools is still very much needed because children in elementary schools are still unable to understand what they see and what they hear, so during the Covid-19 Pandemic which has had an impact from 2020 until now, many education institutions have generally experienced disruptions in the learning process. So that the role of teachers is very influential in supporting students in carrying out learning. Teachers as educators must play a role in shaping children's attitudes, personalities, and mentalities, so that the role of a teacher is not only to provide learning materials to students but teachers can apply habituation steps such as habituation, enforcement, discipline and guidance for students to form their disciplined attitudes in the learning process. (Indah Winarsieh)

Elementary school children are in the range of 7-13 years and are experiencing a unique growth and development process. Elementary school children will experience rapid growth and development from the age of 7 to the age of 13. Children have certain characteristics that are not the same as adults, a child's curiosity is very enthusiastic, dynamic and always active in what is seen, heard and felt, they will explore and learn in their daily lives, one of the tasks of child development to achieve this stage is to grow independence or often called standing on one's own two feet is a person's ability not to depend on others and be responsible for what is done. Independence is a child's ability to control and regulate their own thoughts, feelings, and actions freely and try to overcome feelings of shame and doubt in a student's life. Elementary school children are the right time to do education because at this time children are experiencing an extraordinary growth and development process because children do not have many negative influences from outside or from their surroundings so that parents and teachers will find it easier to direct and guide their children, especially in instilling an independent character in children. Damayanti (2021)

Children's learning independence is an important factor that can be applied to face-to-face learning and online learning because children's learning independence is related to independent learning, which does not mean that students learn alone, but students may ask and discuss with parents, teachers or other people in improving the learning process in order to achieve abilities and improve learning (Prayuda et al., 2024). A student's independence can be seen from the habits they do, such as planning learning activities. Learning independence is a conclusion from individuals who are willing and able to learn on their own initiative without help from other parties in terms of determining learning goals, learning methods and evaluating learning outcomes. Aritionang, E. (2022)

There are factors that influence the level of children's independence, namely:

1. Emotional factors. That can be shown by the ability to control emotions and not being disturbed by the emotional needs of parents.

- 2. While intellectual factors are considered with the child's ability to overcome various problems that can be faced.
- 3. Meanwhile, external factors are factors that come from outside the child himself. These factors include the environment, characteristics, social, stimulation, loving and affectionate parenting patterns, the quality of information for children and parents, parental education and the employment status of parents.

Based on several studies that have been described, there are gaps in several aspects of the problem. The studies above have discussed how the role of teachers in improving student independence. However, these studies have not discussed efforts that can be made related to improving student learning independence which is directly influenced by the role of teachers as mentors. This study aims to answer the existing gaps. This study will be conducted with the title THE ROLE OF TEACHERS IN IMPROVING STUDENT LEARNING INDEPENDENCE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SD NEGRIG 067243. By conducting this study, it will be clearer how the role of teachers in teaching and guiding students can directly influence student learning motivation, therefore the role of teachers as mentors for students is very important in efforts to improve student learning motivation, the role of teachers must be able to apply effective strategies to encourage students to be more enthusiastic in learning.

Methods

The research method used is a qualitative research method because it is a method that uses descriptive data in the form of writing or oral from people and actors whose impacts are observed, the form of research that we do is a form of qualitative research interview research which is a discussion that has a purpose and is preceded by several informal questions. Research interviews are more than just conversations ranging from informal to formal although all conversations have certain transition rules or control by one or other participants because research tends to direct interviews to the discovery of feelings, perceptions, and thoughts of participants. In this study there are forms of observation, interviews and documentation, the sample of the interview research on one teacher of class VI of SD NEGRI 067243 which has a total of 20 students, 8 male students and 12 female students. The location of this study is located on Jl. Bunga Sedap Malam XI. Medan Selayang District. The data collection techniques used are observation, interviews and documentation, the sample in this study amounted to 3 teachers based on the results of observation interviews and documents in this study are there are several roles of teachers as faciliators, the role of teachers as educators, the role of teachers as mentors, the role of teachers as students and the role of teachers as motivators, the role of teachers as substitute parents in the school environment.

Discussion

Based on the results of research conducted at SD NEGRI 067243 The issue of the role of teachers in supporting learning activities in grade VI by conducting interviews, observations and documentation, the study will present a general description of the role of teachers in supporting activities in the learning process in elementary schools

- a. Teachers as Facilitators



Teachers as facilitators are the role of teachers as someone who facilitates or facilitates the student learning process. In this role, teachers not only act as conveyors of information, but also as someone who helps students understand and apply the knowledge and skills they learn. Teachers must be able to create an environment that supports active and collaborative learning. They encourage students to think critically, solve problems, and take initiative in the learning process. Teachers also play a role in designing and structuring relevant and interesting learning experiences in this role, teachers function as supporters and directors of teachers helping students identify their learning goals, develop effective learning strategies, and evaluate their progress. teachers can also use various methods, tools, and resources to facilitate learning, such as group discussions, collaborative projects, educational technology, and so on. Aini M. (2022).

b. Teachers as Instructors

Teachers are tasked with fostering the development of knowledge that is influenced by many different factors ranging from motivation, student-teacher relationships, the degree of freedom of students, verbal abilities of students, communication skills of students with teachers and feelings of security in students. If these factors are met, teaching and learning activities can be carried out successfully. Teachers must also be able to make students understand everything and even be able to solve various problems,

c. Teachers as Learning Resources

The role of teachers as learning resources will be closely related to the teacher's ability to master the existing subject matter. So that when students ask something, the teacher can quickly and responsively answer students' questions using language that is easier for students to understand.

d. Teachers as Guides

Teachers can be said to be travel guides, which are based on their knowledge and experience and have a sense of responsibility in helping students who experience learning difficulties, personal, social, developing student potential through creative activities in various fields of science, arts, culture and sports. From the results of our interview observations, one of the teachers who teaches in class VI of State Elementary School 067243. According to Mrs. Panjaitan, the role of teachers in improving student learning independence in elementary schools. A teacher must be able to play alternate roles, it could be that the teacher can play the role of a teacher, it is an obligation, the teacher must also be able to play the role of a friend, and play the role of a parent.

Talking about the role, all roles must be carried out by the teacher in addition to the approach to students, the openness of students to the teacher must also be done because in class VI of elementary school, the approach must be carried out maximally because children who are 12 years old are subject to what is called adolescence, so the class VI teacher must be used as an approach as a friend or even a friend to confide in, so we as teachers must guard students so that they do not go in the wrong direction, don't let students be afraid to speak and open up to the teacher because the teacher elevates their ego.

A teacher must also be able to plan how to encourage students to be able to learn independently or individually. According to Mrs. Panjaitan, the strategy that needs to be done by a teacher is an approach strategy, for example, a face-to-face approach because students and

teachers continue to collaborate with parents, which will definitely be implemented at school. An approach like a triangle, namely teachers with students, then students with parents and parents with students, so the approach between the three is brought closer, then all strategies will run well. In addition, a teacher must also be able to provide and think about forms of guidance on how students can be independent in the learning process. According to Mrs. Panjaitan, the guidance that must be given to students must be in accordance with the problems being experienced by the students, according to what is needed, for example, in grade VI of elementary school, the guidance needed in grade VI named Budi requires the guidance of a mother's love because Budi's family is a broken home family. So, the guidance that must be given by the teacher is guidance as a parent and guidance as a teacher. So that students named Budi do not go astray because Budi is in a free family because the father of the student's child is rarely at home, as is Budi's mother. So, the form of guidance that Budi currently needs is the guidance of parental affection, so the form of guidance from the teacher to the student depends on the form of the problem that the child is experiencing. As a teacher, you must be able to help or understand all students who are experiencing difficulties when carrying out individual learning, teachers must also be able to cooperate with parents in guiding the growth and development of students because when students are in the school environment, teachers replace parents, and vice versa if students are outside school or at home, the students' parents themselves help students in guiding students to be better. So, between parents of students and teachers must often collaborate on the development of the child, especially at this time is an era of developing technology, the term technology in the past and the era of sophisticated technology is now different, so teachers find it easier to communicate with parents through WhatsApp, Instagram, TikTok and other media tools.

In addition, teachers must also be able to teach students to follow current developments, they must be able to use technological tools (aids) to support student learning independence so that the teaching and learning process is not boring or monotonous. Teachers must also be able to determine when the subject requires the use of technological tools. For example, teachers bring science subjects in theme book 9 with subject matter elements on the planet from there the teacher asks for cooperation from parents of students to be allowed to bring social media cellphones so that they can study together in the classroom, by asking students to open Google, Chrome or other appropriate sites regarding the lesson on the sequence of the solar system, which is still under the supervision of the teacher and then together see and understand the elements contained in the planet. For example, more students do not bring mobile phones than those who do, the teacher must use an infocus method, all students are busy studying the sequences of the solar system, but coincidentally the infocus available at SD Negeri 067243 is limited and divided into 6 classes while there are only 2 infocuses because talking about the teaching method, the current model teachers must use a lot of social media, so teachers must prepare or use an infocus tool to facilitate the teaching process to students.

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## Conclusion

Thus, we can conclude that teachers have an important role in the world of education because teachers hold the key in education and learning that the role of teachers in improving student learning independence in elementary school SD Negri 067243. Teachers must be able to act as Facilitators, As Teachers, as learning resources, as mentors, All roles must be carried out by teachers in addition to the approach to students, student openness to teachers must also be done so that teachers can plan how strategies to encourage students to be able to learn

independently or individually. teachers must also be able to cooperate with parents in guiding student growth and development.

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