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Utilization of plasticine as a learning medium for students at State Elementary School 014 Munsalo Kopah

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ABSTRACT

The quality of learning is not only seen from the results obtained by students but also from the learning process. Quality learning is innovative learning using various learning media. Good learning media will make it easier for students to receive the material provided by the teacher. Community service at SDN 014 Munsalo Kopah village is carried out to provide innovation and variation in teachers' use of learning media in the learning process. Participants in this activity consist of students and teachers. The stages of implementing this activity consist of material presentations, discussions, demonstrations, and training. The results obtained from this service activity are increased student motivation and creativity in learning through plasticine learning media.

ABSTRAK

Kualitas pembelajaran tidak hanya dilihat dari hasil yang diperoleh oleh peserta didik saja tetapi juga dari proses pembelajaran. Pembelajaran yang berkualitas adalah pembelajaran yang inovatif dengan menggunakan berbagai media pembelajaran. Media pembelajaran yang baik akan mempermudah peserta didik menerima materi yang diberikan guru. Pengabdian kepada masyarakat di SDN 014 desa munsalo kopah dilakukan untuk memberikan inovasi dan variasi penggunaan media pembelajaran oleh guru dalam proses pembelajaran. Peserta kegiatan ini terdiri dari peserta didik dan guru. Tahapan pelaksanaan kegiatan ini terdiri dari presentasi materi, diskusi, demonstrasi dan pelatihan. Hasil yang di dapat pada kegiatan pengabdian tersebut adalah peningkatan motivasi dan kreativitas siswa dalam belajar melalui media pembelajaran plastisin.

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1. Introduction

Early education is a fundamental element that encourages children's development and growth and fosters their creative spirit [1]. For learning to be interesting, teachers need to be creative when teaching and use interactive learning media [2]. Media use in learning can increase interest and motivation in teaching and learning activities [3]. Teachers, as drivers of teaching and learning activities, are expected to be able to utilize the tools provided by the school and develop teaching materials in the form of exciting media.

Learning media refers to the media used for learning, such as teaching materials in class and conveying messages from learning sources to recipients (students) of learning messages [4]. The advantage of using interactive learning media when learning is that it can provide an exciting learning experience to students by allowing them to learn according to individual learning abilities or by conveying learning content more effectively in small groups [5]. In learning activities, teaching media functions as a learning aid and is a component of the learning process that needs to be included, planned, and regulated by the teacher in learning activities [6-7]. Media also acts as a learning resource and intermediary to improve learning processes and outcomes [8-9].

According to Jean Piaget [10], elementary school students are still in the concrete manipulation stage, so they need natural objects as learning objects during learning. Therefore, the use of media in elementary school learning is essential. Factors causing the minimal amount of teaching materials in



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partner schools include teachers' limited knowledge in making simple manipulative teaching aids, limited resources, and the habit of using drill and lecture methods. Greater complexity requires longer learning time. Generally, factory-made teaching materials are hardware and have very high accuracy. Therefore, production costs are relatively high compared to simple teaching aids [11]. For this reason, there is a need for variations in the use of learning media to help students understand the material and increase their creativity. A straightforward material that can be used is plasticine.

According to BB Clay Designs, plasticine is the wax that children play with. Plasticine can be used repeatedly because the material is soft and becomes reshaped. Meanwhile, the BB Clay Designs study group said that the meaning of the word plasticine is clay [12]. Research results on children's creativity through the plasticine playing method among Group B students at Masyithoh Kindergarten 02 Kawungaten Cilacap showed learning completion of 61% in 2012 [12]. The results mean that the research achieved the ideal standard of learning completeness, above 60%, which should be completed. The research results [13] regarding children's creativity using plasticine at the Pembina Purwokerto State Kindergarten in 2012 showed that the level of learning proficiency reached 72.57% and was classified as B (good). Because of this, we will conduct training using plasticine as a learning medium. The hope is that students will understand the material more easily and teachers can innovate.

2. Method

The method used in this service is socialization and demonstration of plasticine as a learning medium for children at State Elementary School 014 Munsalo Kopah. The activities carried out are as follows.

- a. Presentation from the service team. The service team provided material about using plasticine as a learning medium.
- b. Discussion and questions and answers about the material presented by the service team.
- c. Simulation in the use of plasticine as a learning medium for students.
- d. Training on the use of plasticine as a learning medium.

3. Results and Discussion

The training program on plasticine as a learning medium aims to educate elementary school children that simple materials can still be used as teaching aids and educational media. In the initial stage, the service team presented material regarding plasticine and its use as a learning medium. The material presented in front of this class was in the form of:

- a. Introduction to plasticine in general and its uses. Documentation of the material presentation is shown in Figure 1.
- b. Use of plasticine in learning.
- c. The process of making media and props using plasticine.



Figure 1. Presentation of material by the service team.

In this first session, the students looked enthusiastic. The many questions from students show they are very interested in the material presented. One of them is which lessons will often use plasticine, which is students' most frequently asked question. Because they generally experience problems when they have to accept difficult and abstract material. The service team provides answers by asking students to determine difficult materials that are often encountered and together create visual media using plasticine, as in Figure 2.



Figure 2. The service team answers students' questions.

After completing the presentation of the material and questions and answers, a demonstration of the use of plasticine as a learning medium was continued to provide examples to the participants. The time to make one piece of media and props is only around 5 minutes, so the students are excited and enthusiastic to try. It is relevant that media can generate learning motivation. The next stage is training students on using plasticine as a learning medium [4]. Students are given plasticine materials to make several assigned learning media. This process can be seen in Figure 3.



Figure 3. Students make media using plasticine.

From this training activity, especially the practical session on making media and learning props using plasticine, it can be seen that the students were very enthusiastic. Students have begun understanding how to use plasticine to become an exciting and interactive medium. Learning while using designed and created games can become a learning resource to become a learning experience [14]. Learning to use media also increases creativity, influencing thinking, problem-solving ability, and academic achievement [15-16]. Students' creativity can be seen from the teaching aids and media they produce, which are more innovative and creative, as in the example in Figure 4.



Figure 4. Results of students making learning media with plasticine.

The results of the service are relevant to Dick & Carey, who states that the availability of local sources is a factor that must be considered in selecting learning media, meaning that if the media is not available from existing sources, then the learning media is created and developed by yourself [17]. Besides making the material real, plasticine media can also train students' motor skills, concentration, and the concept of cause and effect [18]. The results also support the theory that learning media can improve students' understanding, especially in mathematics material [19].

4. Conclusion

The community service activities ran smoothly and received a positive response from students. Plastic learning media can motivate students and channel creative ideas so they can easily accept the learning or material presented by the teacher. The development of plasticine learning media can be used by making various shapes according to the material taught by the teacher.

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