

CURRICULUM INNOVATION IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AT SMP NEGERI 1 SABANG

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to describe and analyze how curriculum innovation is an effort to improve the quality of education at SMP Negeri 1 Sabang. A relevant and innovative curriculum is the key to improving the quality of graduates who are able to compete in the era of globalization. In the framework of curriculum innovation, SMP Negeri 1 Sabang has a Bilingual Class program which is one of the superior class programs. Learning in this class uses 2 languages (Indonesian and English) as an introduction to learning, especially for 3 subjects, namely Science, Mathematics, and English. In addition, there are routine daily, weekly, monthly, semester, and annual programs, enrichment programs for Science, Mathematics, English, reading and writing the Quran and the Masailal Muhtadi book and the habit of daily communication in schools must use English. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach. Data collection techniques are carried out by observation, interviews, and documentation studies. Data analysis techniques used include data condensation, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The results of the study to implement innovation at SMP Negeri 1 Sabang, were carried out through stages, namely planning, implementation, and evaluation. There are advantages and opportunities that SMP Negeri 1 Sabang has that become enthusiasm and motivation but there are also limitations that must be found solutions to run the Biligual Class program. The Biligual Class program has been running well in order to improve the quality of education at SMP Negeri 1 Sabang. This can be seen from the school's achievements, the graduation rate of Biligual Class program students at Favorite High Schools in Banda Aceh and SMA Negeri 1 Sabang, and the improvement of character and English language skills.

Keywords: *Curriculum, Innovation, Quality of education*

INTRODUCTION

Rogers defines innovation as an idea, practice, or object that is considered new by someone. New in the sense of being relative because someone just found out or just accepted it. Based on this definition, innovation arises because there is something that must be overcome, efforts are made through innovation. Innovation must

be in the form of original, creative, and unconventional thoughts. In the sense that innovation is an alternative solution to problems. This problem identification is what drives research, development or evaluation of curricula designed to create innovation.[1]. Hills, Gerald that innovation is defined as an idea, practice, or object that is considered new by an individual or other user unit. [2]. Then innovation is also interpreted as the ability to apply creativity in order to solve problems and opportunities to improve and enrich life (Fatimah et al. 2021: 17). [3]. Rasyidi stated that curriculum innovation cannot be separated from the success of the world of education (Julaeha et al. 2021: 1)

The development of technology, globalization, and increasingly complex job market demands require adjustments in the education system, including the curriculum. According to Ralph Tyler (1949) the curriculum is defined as all learning activities of students that have been planned and directed by the school to achieve their educational goals. In line with DK whecker (1967) the curriculum is defined as an experience that is planned and given to students with school guidance. According to Ghony the curriculum is defined as a learning opportunity, something planned that is offered to students by educational institutions (Wati et al. 2022: 361). Meanwhile, according to Law Number 20 of 2003, the definition of curriculum is a set of plans and arrangements regarding the objectives, content, and learning materials and how to use them as guidelines for organizing learning activities to achieve national education goals. Based on the definition above, the curriculum is essentially a program that is planned and implemented to achieve educational goals.

Curriculum innovation refers to changes or developments in the curriculum that aim to improve the quality of the learning process and learning outcomes. According to the Regulation of the Minister of Education and Culture No. 22 of 2016 concerning Education Process Standards, the curriculum must provide space for students to innovate, think critically, and develop 21st century skills such as communication, collaboration, creativity, and problem solving.

In the 2022/2023 Academic Year, SMP Negeri 1 Sabang has implemented the Independent Curriculum for grade VII. The implementation of this curriculum has also not been able to meet the expectations of all communities for graduates. As a favorite Junior High School in Sabang City, SMP Negeri 1 Sabang is expected to produce graduates who can compete to continue their education to favorite high schools in Banda Aceh City such as SMA Modal Bangsa, SMA Fajar Harapan, SMA Fatih Billigual School, and MAN 1 Banda Aceh.

The results of initial observations of alumni data from 2012 to 2017 and the results of interviews with the previous Bilingual Class program coordinator, all students who took part in the Bilingual Class program were accepted at SMA Negeri 1 Sabang without a test and many students of SMP Negeri 1 Sabang continued to their favorite Senior High Schools in Aceh Province. After that, they can continue to state universities with favorite faculties such as medicine, and be successful in work and society. In the 2022/2023 Academic Year, SMP Negeri 1 Sabang will re-implement the Bilingual Class program for class VII and class VIII students. Because of the above, I want to describe and analyze how curriculum innovation is an effort to improve the quality of education at SMP Negeri 1 Sabang.

METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach, where all explanations in the research results are presented in the form of descriptive text. Data collection techniques are carried out by observation, interviews, and documentation studies. Data analysis techniques used include data condensation, data presentation, and drawing conclusions.

This research began with observation and interviews with the management team of the Biligual Class program at SMP Negeri 1 Sabang. This observation aims to determine the process and results of the Biligual Class program at SMP Negeri 1 Sabang. This research was conducted at SMP Negeri 1 Sabang, located at Jalan Yos Sudarso Gampong Cot Ba'U, Sukajaya District, Sabang City.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Curriculum Innovation Planning

The outline of the curriculum innovation plan at SMP Negeri 1 Sabang is depicted in the following program:

1. Daily activities in the form of "English Hours" where students who take the Biligual Class program are required to use English at all times to communicate in the school environment.
2. Weekly activities in the form of English vocabulary reinforcement. The English teacher in charge of the class prepares vocabulary every week to be memorized by students and submitted when they have free time.
3. Monthly activities in the form of displays in English. This display can be in the form of poetry, short stories, posters, story telling. For poetry, short stories, and posters can be attached to the bulletin board, while story telling can be displayed on Friday after the yasin recitation.
4. Semester activities in the form of "Meet and Greet with Native Speaker". This activity meets and speaks directly with native English speakers. After completing the semester exam, students are taken to a place where there are many English speakers, for example in Sabang City below to Pantai Iboih.
5. Annual activities in the form of "Biligual Student Show". This activity is carried out in conjunction with the Student Creativity Week (PKM) at the end of the school year. Students in the Biligual Class Program display all their creativity in English.
6. Enrichment activities in the form of deepening the material of Science, Mathematics, and English subjects are carried out 3 (three) days a week, reading and writing the Quran and the Masailal Muhtadi Book are carried out 1 (one) day a week, and drill questions for Science, Mathematics, and English 2 (two) times in one semester. All of these activities are carried out in the afternoon every Monday to Thursday from 14.45 to 16.45 WIB.
7. Digital Program, in addition to taking Informatics subjects, students are also allowed to bring laptops or cellphones at certain times for classroom learning and learning the Pancasila Student Profile Strengthening Project (P5)

Innovation Implementation

The implementation of the Biligual Class program has been carried out according to the plan prepared and agreed upon by all parties involved. From the confession of the parents of students "very happy to implement the BC program, because students feel very comfortable in the

cool BC program class, all students have the motivation and enthusiasm to learn, and the ability to speak English, read the Quran and the book of Masailal Muhtadi students increased" and also the confession of students "there is a difference in the learning atmosphere in the Biligual Class program class, interesting and fun learning and there is a sporty competition in learning activities".

Intercurricular learning in the Biligual Class program class runs well, starting from 07.30 to 14.45 WIB for every Monday to Thursday. On Friday at 07.30 to 11.55 WIB, then continuing again at 14.30 to 15.10 WIB, then extracurricular activities for all students according to their choices based on their respective talents and interests until 16.30 WIB. Enrichment learning for the Biligual Class program, starts at 14.45 to 16.45 every Monday to Thursday. The teachers who teach in this program are the best teachers at SMP Negeri 1 Sabang. In addition, there are also external teachers recruited by the school from the selection results.

During the Monday ceremony and classroom learning, every instructor and teacher never gets tired of conveying that manners are higher than knowledge, meaning that good morals are more important in school than intelligence. During recess, after eating and drinking, students perform the Dhuha prayer, the Dhuhur prayer in congregation, and the Asr prayer in congregation. This activity is guided by the teachers on duty and the PAI teacher. From the description above, it appears that the management of curriculum innovation at SMP Negeri 1

Sabang has received serious attention from the principal and his staff and has received sympathy from the surrounding community so that until now it is still a favorite school in Sabang City.

Innovation Evaluation

In the evaluation conducted by the principal through meetings, meetings and examination of school documents, the management of curriculum innovation at SMP Negeri 1 Sabang did not experience significant obstacles. Learning activities and administrative services ran well and smoothly. From the results of the meeting on August 13, 2024 with the principal, school supervisor, vice principal, teachers, school committee, and parent representatives regarding various learning programs and school climate at SMP Negeri 1 Sabang, the following information was obtained:

- a. There are 28 (twenty-eight) class IX.5 students in the 2023/2024 Academic Year who participated in the Bilingual Class program, 6 (six) of whom took part in the selection at their favorite Senior High Schools in Banda Aceh, all of whom passed, with details of 3 (three) students at SMA Modal Bangsa, 2 (two) students at SMA Fajar Harapan, and 1 (one) student at SMA Lab School. The remaining 22 (twentytwo) students were accepted at SMA Negeri 1 Sabang without a test (delivered by the vice principal for curriculum based on alumni data/school document data)
- b. There was an increase in English language proficiency of students in the Bilingual Class program at the end of the even semester of the 2023/2024 Academic Year, for the written test for class IX from an average class score of 86 increased to 98 and for class VIII from an average class score of 88 to 97. Meanwhile, for daily communication from the results of observations, 95% of students can already speak English (delivered by one of the English teachers/school document data)
- c. For reading and writing activities of the Al-Quran and the Masaila Muntadi book, 100% of students are able. This activity has also increased the faith and character of students (delivered by the BTQ program Coordinator teacher)
- d. It is very comfortable to carry out learning in classes VII.5 and VIII.5, besides the students are smart, they are also very polite (delivered by one of the external teachers who teaches in the Billingual Class program class)

- e. Extracurricular activities and school achievements at the Sabang City level are good. The details of the school's achievements are as follows: 1) General champion of talent and interests at the Sabang City Junior High School level in 2024, 2) Champion I of the Sabang Merine Parade in 2024, 3) Champion I of the Ta'aruf Parade 1 Muharram 1444 H in 2024 at the Sabang City Junior

High School level in 2024 (delivered by the vice principal for student affairs based on school achievement data/school document data).

- f. Learning activities, BC programs, completeness of teacher administration are good (delivered by the school supervisor)
- g. The cleanliness of the school environment is good, plastic waste has been managed to be made into ecobricks but the cleanliness, beauty and completeness of the class administration are still lacking, there are tables and chairs that have been scribbled on and the male student bathroom is still not clean even though the water runs for 24 hours (delivered by the head of the Adiwiyata team)
- h. Tolerance between school residents is good, but there is still bullying among fellow students who still need attention from the school (delivered by the parents of students) Transparent management of the use of funds for the Biligual Class program is good and on target, although as the program progresses there is a use of funds that shifts from the RAB (delivered by the school committee)

In terms of curriculum innovation planning at SMP Negeri 1 Sabang, it is planned quite well. A description of the current condition of the school, the development priorities carried out are planned through coordination and communicated by the principal with various parties, namely school supervisors, teachers, education personnel, school committees and parents. One of the curriculum innovations at SMP Negeri 1

Sabang is the Bilingual Class program as a superior class program.

From the evaluation aspect, the Principal conducts various meetings, gatherings and examinations of school documents. Meetings with vice principals are routinely held once a month, with the board of teachers and education personnel 3 times in one semester. Meanwhile, with the school committee and parents are held after receiving the report cards. However, if there are obstacles in the implementation of the school program, the principal will immediately hold a meeting with the relevant parties to find the best solution.

CONCLUSION

Curriculum innovation in educational units is one of the important efforts in improving the quality of education. With an adaptive and innovative curriculum, students can be better prepared to face global challenges and prepare themselves for a better life. The implementation of a competency-based curriculum, project-based learning, and the use of technology in education are things that need to be optimized. However, existing challenges, such as limited infrastructure and teacher readiness, require comprehensive and sustainable solutions so that the goal of improving the quality of education can be achieved optimally.

In implementing curriculum innovation in schools, good planning is needed and involves various related parties. In implementing curriculum innovation, strong commitment, collaboration, and good communication are needed so that the program can be implemented well and successfully. Furthermore, each program implemented needs to be continuously evaluated both against the program plan and its implementation so that its weaknesses can be identified and the improvement process can be easily carried out in order to improve the quality of education in schools.

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