

Teachers' strategies in increasing the learning motivation of primary school students through innovative approaches: Qualitative Studies

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Abstract

This study explores innovative strategies used by teachers to increase the learning motivation of elementary school first-graders. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, data was collected through interviews, classroom observations, and documentation at SDN Carat 2. These findings reveal that project-based learning, visual media, outdoor learning, group discussions, and reward systems significantly increase student engagement and motivation. These strategies provide students with a contextual, collaborative, and fun learning experience. However, challenges remain in managing diverse student characteristics and maintaining class focus. The study emphasizes the importance of aligning teaching methods with students' needs and supporting ongoing teacher training and the provision of adequate learning resources to optimize the application of innovative approaches in primary education.

1. Introduction

Learning motivation is an important factor in the success of education, especially at the elementary level. Students who are highly motivated tend to be more active, have high fighting skills, and show better academic achievement (Hanaris, 2023). Teachers as learning facilitators also have a central role in creating a conducive learning environment and increasing student motivation through various innovative strategies and approaches (Maryati et al., 2024).

Innovative learning approaches are becoming an increasingly urgent need in the context of modern education. The use of technology, project-based learning methods, and more contextual and engaging strategies have been shown to increase student motivation and engagement in the learning process (Habbah & Husna, 2024). However, in practice, many teachers still have difficulty implementing this innovative strategy, either due to limited resources, lack of training, or rejection of changes in learning methods (Hanaris, 2023).

Based on these problems, this study seeks to explore teachers' strategies in increasing the learning motivation of elementary school students through innovative approaches. This research will analyze the effectiveness of such strategies and identify challenges and solutions that can be applied in elementary school learning.

This study aims to: 1. Describe innovative strategies used by teachers in increasing student learning motivation in elementary school. 2. Analyze the effectiveness of innovative approaches in increasing student motivation and engagement. 3. Identify the challenges faced by teachers in implementing innovative strategies. 4. Offer recommendations that can help teachers in adopting innovative approaches more effectively in the elementary school environment.

The existence of character education in students can humanize human beings according to the Several studies have shown that effective learning strategies are based on structured classroom arrangements, the use of engaging learning media, and providing positive responses (Habbah & Husna, 2024). Learning is relevant to daily life and using a collaborative approach can increase students' motivation to learn (Hanaris, 2023). However, many studies focus on conventional methods and have not studied in depth the application of innovative technology-based strategies (Maryati et al., 2024).

Therefore, this study aims to bridge these gaps by analyzing how primary school teachers can implement innovative strategies to increase students' motivation to learn. The study also studies the impact of strategies, analyzes challenges in their use, and provides suggestions for wider implementation.

This research was conducted at SDN Carat 2 by involving one classroom teacher and 25 grade 1 students as participants, the duration of this research was carried out for two weeks.

Literature Review

1. Teacher Strategy

Teaching strategies refer to systematic plans and instructional techniques designed to achieve effective learning outcomes. According to Hanaris (2023), the strategies implemented by teachers play an important role in creating a conducive learning environment and stimulating students' enthusiasm for learning. These strategies can include innovative approaches such as project-based learning, the use of visual media, and collaborative methods. Habbah and Husna (2024) emphasize that effective teaching strategies must accommodate diverse student characteristics and allow for dynamic classroom management, making the learning process more interactive and engaging.

Although many studies have explored teacher strategies in the classroom, most of them have focused on general pedagogical effectiveness and ignored the specific challenges faced by elementary school teachers in implementing innovative approaches. Barokah et al. (2024) stated that teachers' creativity in choosing and developing the right strategies can significantly determine the success of student learning. In primary education, contextual and fun strategies are more readily accepted by young learners; Therefore, teachers must integrate instructional content, engaging media, and adaptive classroom techniques. As a result, a deep understanding of innovative teaching strategies is essential to improve the quality of learning in primary schools.

2. Student Learning Motivation

Learning motivation refers to internal and external factors that affect students' interest, attention, and engagement in the learning process. Fauziyah (2021) explained that learning motivation is closely related to academic achievement and student participation in the classroom. Highly motivated students tend to be more active in asking questions, responding to lessons, and completing assignments, while students with low motivation may lose interest and disrupt classes. According to Sari et al. (2023), learning motivation is also influenced by teaching styles, classroom atmosphere, and the relevance of the material to students' daily lives.

Despite the proven benefits of motivational strategies, many of them are not consistently implemented at lower elementary levels due to limitations in teacher preparation and classroom management skills. Research by Wati, Nusantara, and Utama (2024) shows that innovative models such as PjBL-STEM significantly increase students' learning motivation. These models allow students to be directly involved in solving real-life problems, fostering responsibility and a sense of accomplishment. Motivation can also be increased through rewards, positive reinforcement, and collaborative learning. Therefore, understanding the factors that influence students' learning motivation is essential to designing effective and enjoyable classroom activities for young learners.

2. Method

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach. This approach was chosen because it aims to deeply understand teachers' strategies in increasing students' learning motivation through innovative approaches in the elementary school environment. This research is focused on exploring the meaning, experience, and views of teachers on learning strategies applied in the classroom. Data collection techniques through interview, observation, and documentation techniques. Conducted interviews with one grade 1 teacher and 25 students of SDN Carat 2. Observation by observing the ongoing learning process in the classroom using an innovative approach. The data analysis techniques used in this study are data reduction (summarizing or summarizing it), presenting data (describing the results of the research in the form of a brief description) and drawing conclusions.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Results

1. Learning problems

Based on the results of research conducted at SDN Carat 2, there are problems that occur during learning, namely there are some students who lack interest in learning, so that during the teaching and learning process students are less focused and can even disturb other friends. This can cause the learning process to take place less effectively. Based on the results of interviews conducted with teachers at school, students do not pay attention to the learning conveyed by the teacher, students do not have the courage to express opinions and ideas because of the low motivation of students to learn. Teachers also believe that the use of innovative learning models can help increase students' motivation to learn.

2. Identify innovative learning strategies

Based on the results of interviews with SDN Carat 2 teachers, information was obtained that the innovative strategy used in learning to increase students' learning motivation is Project-Based Learning. This strategy was chosen because it provides students with the opportunity to be directly involved in the learning process so that they have a more real and meaningful learning experience for them. The teacher said that the implementation of innovative strategies using PJBL (Project Based Learning) has a positive impact on students' enthusiasm for learning, and more enthusiasm for learning so that it can increase students' motivation to learn. The success of teachers in implementing strategies in increasing student learning motivation can be seen from the achievement of student learning motivation indicators. The results of the study show that almost all students already have the motivation to learn.

Table 1. Research result

Learning Strategies	Implementation examples	Impact
Project-Based Learning	Projects create posters and experimental reports	Increased responsibility and collaboration
Visual media	Science animations and videos for material explanations	Grab attention and accelerate understanding
Outdoor learning	Observation and experimentation of plants in the school yard	Increase student engagement and enthusiasm
Gifts and praise	Star striker and verbal praise	Build confidence and extrinsic motivation
Group discussions	Reflective Q&A and simple debate	Increase critical thinking and confidence

The results of the study show that almost all students already have the motivation to learn. This can be seen from the desire for success, the drive and need to learn, as well as interesting learning activities.

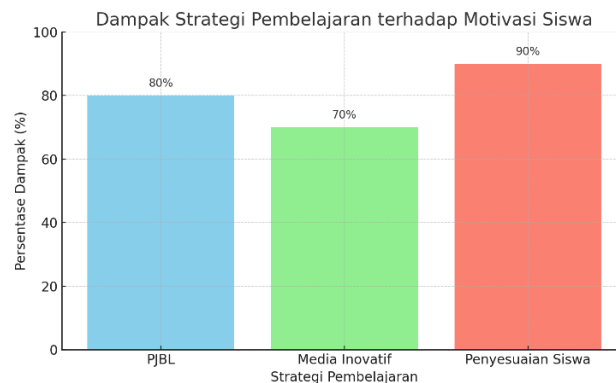


Figure 1. Bar Chart showing the influence of PJBL strategies, Innovative Media, and student Adjustment on increasing the learning motivation of elementary school students.

Teachers have an important role in the world of education, especially in providing encouragement and learning needs to their students. Teachers can be the main facilitators in motivating students to learn and improve their abilities in a particular area. Teachers have a good understanding of students' learning styles and understanding the individual needs of students can help students reach their full potential in learning. Teachers have helped students by providing specific assistance, such as additional explanations or special support, to ensure that students can understand and master the subject matter. The results of the study show that the teachers involved in this study have successfully carried out interesting learning activities. Interesting activities carried out include the use of innovative learning media, group discussions, and simulations.

3. Obstacles in the implementation of innovative learning strategies

Based on the results of the study, it was also stated that teachers take advantage of existing facilities in schools, namely existing technology such as LCD Projectors in the learning process. According to teachers at schools, technology is considered very helpful in creating a learning atmosphere to be more interesting and interactive, so that it can increase students' motivation to learn. However, teachers also experience various obstacles during learning, one of which is to condition the classroom to remain conducive during learning. Students are considered to be less attentive and less focused. For this reason, there is a suggestion that other teachers emphasize the importance of recognizing the characteristics and abilities of each student before implementing learning strategies. Teachers can group students according to their learning styles so that innovative approaches can be applied effectively.

3.2. Discussion

The results of the study showed that teachers applied many innovative strategies adapted to the characteristics of elementary school students who were generally active, visual and fun. These strategies can motivate both intrinsic and extrinsic learning.

First, the use of visual media such as LCD and learning videos is very effective in attracting students' attention. According to (S. Amalia & M.A. Hardiansyah, 2023) teachers broadcast animated videos or experimentally through video science to illustrate abstract concepts more specifically. This strategy is in line with the principles of mindfulness of the ARCS model, highlighting how important it is to keep students interested in the learning process. Second, outdoor learning (outdoor learning)

such as observing plants and conducting simple experiments in the school garden, creates a learning atmosphere that is related to the context.

These activities not only increase active participation, but also provide a learning experience that is relevant to real life (relevance). These findings are in line with one of the innovative methods that teachers can apply to increase children's enthusiasm for learning at the elementary school level, which is to use contextual teaching strategies. This approach connects the content of the lessons with the real situations that students face in their daily lives, so that the learning experience becomes more significant and relevant. When students realize that the lessons they learn have immediate meaning, they tend to be more motivated to be actively involved in the learning process. This strategy includes teaching materials related to concrete experiences, such as teaching the concept of fractions through cooking activities or explaining science concepts by observing the surrounding environment. In addition, learning activities are designed to be interactive and collaborative, where students engage in discussions, work together in groups, and conduct simple experiments (Aura Yolanda et al., 2024)

Third, teachers have a crucial role to play by using the right methods, providing encouragement, and creating a fun learning environment. Students tend to be more excited if they feel valued and supported, especially if it aligns with their dreams or goals. This approach shows that innovation from teachers is not only in the form of methods, but also in creating interactions that encourage motivation from external students (Febrilla, 2024).

Fourth, the project-based learning model can prove that students promote responsibility, teamwork, and personal satisfaction with the results of their work. This strategy supports the autonomy of self-determination theory and creates detailed learning participation (Pratama et al., 2023).

Fifth, group discussion activities and reflective question and answer sessions encourage students to think critically, express their opinions and respect the perspectives of their peers. This creates an integrated and supportive classroom, satisfying the trust and satisfaction aspects of the Arch model (Widyaningrum et al., 2023)

Based on the findings, innovative visual, emotional, and collaborative approaches clearly increase student motivation. According to research conducted by (Mufatikhah et al., 2023) shows that learning methods such as expository, contextual, cooperative, and inquiry can effectively increase students' motivation to learn in elementary school, especially in less-in-demand subjects such as PPKn. This method not only assists students in understanding the material, but also creates a more dynamic, fun, and supportive classroom atmosphere. The use of motivation in the form of numbers or grades, praise, rewards, and feedback on learning outcomes has also been shown to be able to turn students who were previously inactive into more enthusiastic in the learning process. This confirms that the strategic and psychological approach of teachers is very influential in fostering the spirit of learning at the elementary level.

Therefore, the implementation of this strategy should be supported by school guidelines that encourage continuous teacher training, provision of appropriate learning media, and differentiated learning, various innovative strategies have been found to increase students' motivation to learn, including persuasive communication, the use of animated videos, blended learning methods, and creative teaching practices. The literature emphasizes that no matter how strong the external motivator is, motivation will not be realized without an inner desire to learn. Therefore, increasing learning motivation requires a combination of external stimuli and the development of students' internal motivations (Muawanah & Muhid, 2021).

3.3. Conclusion

The use of innovative strategies such as CHB, visual media, outdoor learning, and group discussions can significantly increase learning motivation for elementary school students. This approach reinforces the learning that students have already learned and increases endogenous and extrinsic motivation. For optimal results, schools must provide support in the form of regular teacher training, provision of learning facilities, and guidelines that support differentiation and innovation in technology-based learning.

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