

Using Canva Technology to Improve The Effectiveness of IPAS Learning In Primary Schools: A Systematic Literature Review

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Abstract

This study aims to describe the utilization of Canva application to improve the effectiveness of natural and social sciences learning at elementary schools through a systematic literature review. The method applied is a narrative literature review of 15 relevant journal articles sourced from Google Scholar. Data were qualitatively synthesized to identify Canva's role in learning media, teacher-parent collaboration, learning model implementation, and module development. The findings indicate that Canva enhances students' interest, engagement, creativity, and comprehension of IPAS material. The conclusion confirms Canva as an effective tool supporting interactive and innovative learning at elementary schools. Recommendations are made for teachers to integrate Canva, especially for abstract material in the learning process..

1. Introduction

Learning in the 21st century emphasizes the importance of creativity in teaching and the learning process. This is in line with the view of Ramawati, Farida, and Athojo (2021) who have a constructivist approach, where learning in the 21st century is based on information and communication technology. Therefore, educators must develop engaging and student-focused learning experiences. In this environment, the teacher's task is mainly as a facilitator in the learning process. Rahayu et al. (2022) also emphasized that 21st century learning is a consequence of ongoing social change.

The learning approach is no longer focused on teachers, but rather student-oriented (Rosnaeni, 2021). People who previously interacted conventionally have now transformed into a digital society. Therefore, the role of teachers as innovators is needed, especially in the meaningful use of students (Prayogi & Aesthetics, 2019).

Today's technological advances also have a great influence on the world of education, especially in the use of learning media. According to Ichsan et al. (2018), there has been a significant shift in the form of learning media, from physical media to digital-based media. This change has an impact on teachers' teaching patterns who now more often use digital media in teaching and learning activities.

The presence of learning media is very important in facilitating the learning process. This media makes it easier for teachers to deliver material, thereby increasing students' understanding of the material being taught. The selection of learning media is an important determinant of the success of teaching and learning activities, because it functions as a channel for conveying information to students.

This facilitates a more organized, efficient, and successful learning process, while fostering a supportive learning atmosphere. With the right media support, children show increased interest and motivation in their learning endeavors. Learning media can function as a tool to facilitate an active and meaningful learning process both inside and outside the classroom. This is very important, especially in science learning, considering that there are still many students who find the subject

difficult and boring. that are innovative and interesting to increase students' interest and understanding of the material.

The use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is an important aspect in 21st century learning. One form of implementation is through the use of the Canva application. The application is designed according to today's technological developments As an online-based graphic design platform, Canva offers various features such as poster creation, infographics, presentations, banners, brochures, brochures, headlines, resumes, bookkeeping markers, graphics, etc. (Junaedi, 2021). The app also provides a variety of attractive visual templates to make the design process easier.

In the context of learning, especially IPAS subjects which are often considered difficult to understand because they are abstract, the use of media such as animated videos from Canva can help simplify these concepts.

With features that allow the insertion of images and videos, Canva can be used to create illustrations of everyday life in animated form. Canva is here as a technological innovation that not only supports the education sector, but also various other fields, by providing visual content that makes it easy to convey information and subject matter to students.

Canva is an online-based design application that supports a wide range of visual learning needs. Its existence signifies the influence of technological advancements, where digital instruments are used to streamline human work. In the world of education, the use of Canva encourages students to develop 21st-century skills, including technology mastery, digital literacy, and visual literacy, especially in science learning (Hidayatullah et al., 2023).

Based on this description, the formulation of the problem in this study is: How can the use of the Canva application increase the effectiveness of science science learning in elementary schools? The purpose of this study is to describe the role of Canva as a learning medium and its impact on improving the quality of science learning in elementary schools. This study aims to describe the use of Canva application technology as a learning medium for science science there are various components that affect each other in the implementation of education, including students, teachers, materials, media used, evaluation, environment and classroom conditions. And the use of Canva in science learning is seen as an innovative solution to overcome the challenges of conventional learning that are less interesting and not in line with the needs of the times. Therefore, this study will describe the use of the Canva application as a medium for learning science and its impact on improving the quality of science learning in elementary schools.

Literature Review

A. Canva as a Learning Media

Canva is an online-based graphic design platform that offers a wide range of features for creating visual media such as posters, infographics, presentations, brochures, and animated videos (Junaedi, 2021). Canva's advantage lies in its ease of use and the provision of attractive templates, allowing educators and learners to produce innovative and effective educational materials without the need for special design skills. In learning, Canva helps simplify abstract concepts with interesting and interactive visualizations, especially in Natural and Social Sciences (IPAS) subjects (Indriani, 2024). The use of Canva also contributes to the development of 21st-century skills, such as digital literacy, creativity, visual communication, and collaboration between students (Hidayatullah et al., 2023). Studies show that Canva-based learning media increases students' motivation and interest in learning through the delivery of more varied and easy-to-understand material (Putri & Erita, 2023).

B. Characteristics of Social Science Learning

Science education in Elementary School covers a wide range of natural and social science subjects, covering concepts that are often abstract and complex. Students often have difficulty understanding conceptual information and need innovative pedagogical methods for optimal assimilation (Putri & Erita, 2023). Learning approaches that emphasize active student involvement,

such as Problem- Based Learning (PBL), have been proven to improve students' understanding of concepts, critical thinking skills, and creativity in social studies learning (Ansya et al., 2025; Rahayu et al., 2024). The integration of technology in science learning supports a more interactive learning process and helps students relate theory to everyday practice.

C. Digital Media in Basic Education

The use of digital media in basic education is crucial in the era of the industrial revolution 4.0. Digital media not only enriches learning content, but also increases students' attractiveness and motivation to learn (Ichsan et al., 2018). Learning technologies such as Canva allow teachers to collaborate with parents and students in the learning process, thus creating a more supportive and holistic learning ecosystem (Fajarwati et al., 2024; Handayani et al., 2024). In addition, the development of digital teaching modules such as e-modules and e-comics developed through Canva provides an interactive teaching material alternative that can be accessed at any time by students, thus supporting independent and flexible learning (Shahwa et al., 2024; Novitasari et al., 2024). The implementation of digital media in learning is also in line with the demands of 21st century learning which emphasizes mastering the 4C (Critical thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity) skills that are essential for students' future success (Rahayu et al., 2022; Prayogi & Aesthetics, 2019).

2. Method

This study uses a qualitative approach with a narrative literature review method. The data collection process began with an article search related to the use of the Canva application in science learning in elementary schools through the Google Scholar database. Initially 50 articles were found that were relevant to a specific keyword. Furthermore, selection was carried out based on inclusion and exclusion criteria, including publications in the last five years, articles in Indonesian or English, and a focus on learning at the elementary school level. After the selection and screening process was carried out, a total of 15 articles were selected for further analysis.

The article selection flow follows the PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) scheme, which includes the identification, screening, eligibility, and inclusion stages of articles. Data from the selected articles were then synthesized using a qualitative thematic synthesis approach to group findings based on key themes, namely the use of Canva as a learning medium, teacher-parent collaboration, the implementation of learning models, and the development of Canva-based teaching modules. This approach allows for the integration of various research findings to provide a comprehensive overview of Canva's effectiveness in IPAS learning in Primary School.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Utilizing Canva Apps in Social Science Learning in Elementary Schools

The use of Canva in the learning of Natural and Social Sciences (IPAS) in elementary schools is very helpful for educators in developing interesting and easy-to-understand learning materials, especially for abstract concepts. Indriani (2024) explained that Canva makes it easier for teachers to create various types of media, such as infographics and posters, which simplifies science materials. The app provides a variety of templates that can be used to convey learning messages more effectively.

Putri & Erita (2023) in their research showed that Canva-based e-modules developed for grade IV elementary school have an excellent level of validity, practicality, and effectiveness. This facilitates students' understanding of challenging concepts in scientific disciplines, and increases their interest and engagement in learning.

Table 1. Table Title

Article	Research Methods	Findings	Solution
Indriani (2024)	Literature Review	Canva helps simplify abstract science materials	The use of Canva in science learning media

Canva is an online-based graphic design platform that offers a wide range of features for creating visual media such as posters, infographics, presentations, brochures, and animated videos (Junaedi, 2021). Canva's advantage lies in its ease of use and the availability of attractive templates, allowing educators and learners to produce innovative and efficient educational resources without the need for special design skills. In learning, Canva helps simplify abstract concepts with interesting and interactive visualizations, especially in Natural and Social Sciences (IPAS) subjects (Indriani, 2024). The use of Canva also contributes to the development of 21st-century skills, such as digital literacy, creativity, visual communication, and collaboration between students (Hidayatullah et al., 2023). Research shows that Canva-based learning media increases student motivation and engagement by providing diverse and easy-to-understand content (Putri & Erita, 2023).

3.2. Teacher and Parent Collaboration in Using Canva

Fajarwati et al. (2024) emphasized the importance of collaboration between teachers and parents in maximizing the use of learning technologies such as Canva. This collaboration can support students in accessing learning media optimally. Parents are expected to encourage students to be more active in using the Canva app in learning.

Handayani et al. (2024) also found that the support provided by parents is very important for students to feel motivated in utilizing technology-based media such as Canva to deepen their understanding of the subject matter.

Table 2. Table Title

Article	Research Methods	Findings	Solution
Fajarwati et al. (2024)	Descriptive Qualitative	Teacher-parent collaboration supports the use of Canva	Collaboration between teachers and parents to support learning
Handayani et al. (2024)	Research Development	Parental support increases students' use of Canva	The role of parents in supporting the use of Canva

Using the PBL model combined with the Canva app has been shown to increase student engagement and understanding. Through Canva-assisted PBL, students can work collaboratively and creatively in problem-solving, as well as hone their communication skills through interactive and engaging presentations (Ansya et al., 2025; Rahayu et al., 2024). This method increases student engagement and critical thinking in the learning process.

3.3. The Influence of the PBL Learning Model with Canva

Ansya et al. (2025) show that Problem-Based Learning (PBL) facilitated by the Canva application significantly increases students' engagement and understanding of scientific concepts in the discipline of science. The application of PBL supported by technology allows students to work collaboratively and creatively, as well as improve their communication skills.

Rahayu et al. (2024) also support these findings by showing that the implementation of technology-assisted PBL such as Canva improves student learning outcomes. Using Canva allows students to be more interactive in presentations and explain their findings, which in turn helps them understand the material better

Table 3. Table Title

Article	Research Methods	Findings	Solution
Ansyah et al. (2025)	Case Studies	Canva-assisted PBL improves students' critical skills	Using Canva-assisted PBL for IPAS learning
Rahayu et al. (2024)	Research Development	Canva-assisted PBL improves student engagement and understanding	Use of Canva-assisted PBL for interactive learning

3.4. Canva-Based Teaching Module Development

The creation of Canva-based teaching modules is an effective approach to improving learning in elementary schools, especially in the field of science education. Shahwa et al. (2024) show that Canva-based E-Comics serve as an interesting, dynamic, and easy-to-understand alternative teaching resource for students. The use of Canva-based teaching modules improves students' understanding of complex science subjects.

Novitasari et al. (2024) designed a Canva-based e-module to facilitate independent learning among students. Through the application of the ADDIE approach, they have managed to create modules that are engaging and effective in improving student understanding.

Table 4. Table Title

Article	Research Methods	Findings	Solution
Shahwa et al. (2024)	Research Development	Canva-based e-Comic improves student comprehension	Canva-assisted E-Comic-based teaching material development
Novitasari et al. (2024)	R&D	Canva-based e-modules increase students' learning independence	Canva-based e-module development

Based on research by Hidayatullah et al. (2023), the use of the Canva application by Class V educators at SD Negeri Sambirejo 02 Semarang has run well and on target in accordance with 21st century standards. Teachers use Canva as a worksheet and an assessment sheet. In its implementation, learning in the 21st century will equip students with the 4C (Critical thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Creativity) skills that are essential to face today's challenges. Using Canva in the teaching and learning process has a positive impact, where students become more active, show higher creativity, and increase their confidence.

The selection of appropriate learning media plays an important role in promoting interest in learning. Students (Triningsih, 2021). The right learning media not only increases the interaction between educators and students, but also supports a more effective learning process. The Canva application is one of the media that can do this. With an attractive visual appearance, Canva is able to reduce students' boredom in participating in learning activities. Canva aligns the tools so that they are more adaptable when digital-based learning media is applied.

According to Ansyah's (2025) research, the integration of the Problem Based Learning approach with the Canva program in fifth grade learning showed a beneficial effect on students' engagement and understanding of the topic. This technique actively engages students and encourages the development of their critical and creative thinking skills. Canva as a presentation medium helps students convey information in an engaging and interactive way, which ultimately increases motivation to learn.

Meanwhile, research conducted by Fajarwati et al. (2024) concluded that the use of Canva can support the development of students' soft skills, such as communication, cooperation, and innovation skills. These skills are essential to help students face global challenges and align with today's educational demands that emphasize the use of technology. Canva also provides a wide selection of media, all of which can be used as a tool but try different formats to support more varied learning.

The results of several studies show that the use of Canva in the learning process is very helpful for students in exploring their abilities. Students become more enthusiastic, less easily bored, and more motivated in following each subject matter, which has an impact on improving academic achievement. In addition, students' abilities in terms of collaboration and communication have also increased. They gain the ability to listen to their peers' perspectives, provide insights, and collaborate on various initiatives. These social competencies are essential for their future, both in the educational environment and in the community.

The research also highlights the development of Canva-based digital teaching modules, such as e-comics and e-modules, that provide interactive and accessible teaching materials. These courses facilitate self-paced learning for students and enhance their understanding of challenging scientific subjects (Shahwa et al., 2024; Novitasari et al., 2024). The use of Canva-based modules is an effective alternative to enrich learning resources in elementary schools.

The results of the study show that the use of the Canva application in social studies learning makes a significant contribution to improving student engagement and understanding. Research by Indriani (2024) and Putri & Erita (2023) confirms that the use of Canva is able to simplify abstract materials through attractive visual media, thereby increasing students' motivation to learn and creativity. This is in line with 21st century skills theory that emphasizes the development of digital literacy and creativity as the main competencies (Hidayatullah et al., 2023).

Studies by Fajarwati et al. (2024) and Handayani et al. (2024) show that collaboration between teachers and parents plays an important role in maximizing the effectiveness of Canva's use. Parental support can increase students' motivation in utilizing digital learning media optimally. However, some studies highlight challenges in parental engagement, such as limited access to technology and understanding of applications, that need to be addressed in implementation in the field.

The use of the Problem-Based Learning (PBL) learning model combined with Canva, as found by Ansya et al. (2025) and Rahayu et al. (2024), showed a positive impact on students' critical thinking and collaboration skills. However, while some studies emphasize the success of technology-assisted PBL in improving conceptual understanding, others underscore the need for adequate teacher training for this model to be applied effectively and consistently.

The development of Canva-based teaching modules has also been proven to provide interesting and interactive learning alternatives (Shahwa et al., 2024; Novitasari et al., 2024). However, there are differences in the effectiveness of the modules developed, which are influenced by the quality of the design, content, and students' ability to access digital media. This indicates that technological integration must be accompanied by the development of human resources and supporting infrastructure.

Critically, while most studies support the benefits of using Canva in IPAS learning, more in-depth and quantitative research is still needed to measure the long-term impact on student learning outcomes. In addition, attention needs to be paid to the gap in access to technology so that the implementation of digital media can be evenly distributed in various regions and school conditions.

3.5. Conclusion

Canva's implementation in basic science education has shown efficacy in increasing students' enthusiasm, engagement, creativity, and understanding of subject matter. Canva facilitates the

creation of educational materials that are engaging and interactive for teachers, especially for abstract concepts. Furthermore, communication between educators and parents, along with the use of new learning methods such as Problem-Based Learning facilitated by Canva, contributes to the efficacy of the educational process. The creation of Canva-based teaching modules offers alternative interactive educational resources and increases student autonomy in learning.

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