

Educational Interaction in Early Childhood Classroom Management

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Abstract: The purpose of this study was to describe a classroom management in an early childhood education program. The teaching and learning process requires interaction between teachers and students and between students and students. A good classroom management will be based on teaching principles by taking account of appropriate, systematic, practical and flexible teaching strategies. This study attempted to describe educational interaction procedures in early childhood program at the Community Learning Center (PKBM) of Sukamulya, Cinambo, Bandung. To this end, a qualitative descriptive study was carried out. The research instruments included participant observation, in-depth interview and document analysis. The participants were 17 learner's parents, 1 program administrator, and 1 tutor. It is expected that classroom management could be implemented as a conscious effort to organize teaching and learning activities systematically. This includes preparing instructional materials, preparing learning facilities and properties, preparing classroom, time management, setting up seating arrangement to ensure a good process of teaching and learning. The seating arrangement is changed periodically to keep students from feeling boredom in learning. The early childhood classroom requirements at the Sukamulya PKBM has been set up to facilitate early childhood needs and development.

1 INTRODUCTION

Instruction refers to teaching-learning activities to achieve desired objectives. Educational interaction is aimed at educating and facilitating early childhood development. Teaching is a conscious effort with a systematic purpose to facilitate the learners' development. One of the teacher's main responsibilities is to organize an effective, efficient, dynamic, and positive teaching and learning process, which is characterized by active involvement of the teacher and learners. Teaching is a systematic and systemic activity consisting of many components. These components do not work severally, but are interdependent and inter-complementary. Thus, a good teaching management becomes a necessity. A good teaching management should be developed in accordance with teaching principles by taking account of appropriate, systematic, conceptual but practical, realistic and flexible teaching strategies.

In the teaching and learning process, a positive interaction between the teacher and the learners is required in order for the instructional objectives to be achieved. This paper will discuss the definition and

nature of teaching management and teaching approaches.

There are many components associated with teaching and learning activities such as curriculum, teachers, and learners. In non-formal education setting, the role of teacher is as a facilitator that is demanded to encourage the students to participate in the teaching and learning activities.

The students play a role both as a subject and object. The teacher should at the very beginning prepare the students to socialize with their environment by implementing different types of teaching models to facilitate students' development. The students' involvement in a teaching and learning process is called participative teaching and learning.

2 RESEARCH METHODS

This research was designed using a phenomenological qualitative approach (Moleong, 2000). Specifically, this research used a descriptive analysis method. This research took place during a semester of teaching and learning process, so the researchers were able to observe the interaction

process. The objects of intervention were 1 program administrator, 1 tutor, and 17 learners' parents at the Sukamulya PKBM. The research data were collected through participant observation, in-depth interview and document analysis.

3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The Implementation of Classroom Management Procedures in Early Childhood Program at the Community Learning Center (PKBM) of Sukamulya, Cinambo, Bandung

The classroom management in early childhood program at the Sukamulya PKBM was implemented by ensuring a safety and comfortable learning in order for the students to be able to explore and interact with their environment in accordance with the early childhood developmental stage. According to Thompson (Mikarsa et al., 2002), education is the influence of environment on an individual in establishing new behaviors, thinking, and attitudes. Similarly, Crow and Crow (Mikarsa et al., 2002) put forward: The main function of education is to guide an individual to meet his needs and desire in accordance with his potential so that he is satisfied with his personal and social life.

This goes to say that education is not merely a process of knowledge transfer and skill development, but also an effort to realize an individual's desires and needs to achieve satisfactory persona and social life. In this respect, education is not only deemed as a vehicle to prepare an individual future life, but also for his present life.

According Undang-Undang Sistem Pendidikan Nasional No. 20 (2003) on National Education System Article 1 Paragraph 1, education is a conscious and well-planned effort to create an atmosphere and process of learning so that learners actively develop their spiritual power, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, as well as personal and social skills.

A well-planned classroom management is generally aimed at improving effectiveness and efficiency in achieving instructional objectives. Among these instructional objectives are physical activities and socio-emotional management. Based on the result of a study (Peijian et al., 2015), a teacher should not discriminate students based on their gender and learning ability in order for the teaching

and learning process to elicit students' awareness and meet their needs.

Although maintenance of learning facilities is a technical work, but it is part of a professional autonomy under the supervision of a classroom teacher in providing services to the students.

The learning environment organization at the Sukamulya PKBM can be seen in terms of services they provide, number of students, number of grades, and service time. In terms of service, it offers an early childhood program that combines indoor and outdoor education.

In terms of number of students, both program administrator and teachers do not restrict the number of students in a class (Parer, 1989). Moving class is the solution they offer.

In terms of students age, students are set up into different grades. The earlier the age of students are, the bigger the classroom is and the more the number of teachers are. This is to facilitate students' development. In terms of service time, classes are scheduled based on students' age. Classes are arranged in accordance with the vision and mission of the Sukamulya PKBM. Based on classroom observation, it was revealed that the seating is arranged in group pod. In each group, students sit face to face with each other. Such arrangement makes potential interference from one student to another quite big. To solve this problem, the class is provided with two teachers.

Classroom management is an effort to realize an effective, fun, and motivating learning environment. Thus, classroom management is a conscious effort to organize the process of teaching and learning systematically. This includes preparing instructional materials, preparing learning facilities and properties, preparing classroom, time management, setting up seating arrangement to ensure a good process of teaching and learning and the achievement of curricular objectives.

The main purpose of arranging the classroom physical environment is to facilitate the learning activities and avoid unwanted activities from students that may be harmful to the classroom facilities and properties.

Seating arrangement is a teacher's effort to manage a classroom. An effective classroom management will determine the learning outcomes. With a good seating arrangement, it is expected that learning condition becomes conducive and fun for the students.

In early childhood classrooms at the Sukamulya PKBM, the seating arrangement is periodically changed. The early childhood classroom

requirements at the Sukamulya PKBM has been set up in accordance with the needs of the students. Seating arrangement in early childhood classroom is very important. This is due to the fact that early childhood is the golden age where children experience a very rapid development that should be supported by suitable stimulation. Students' optimal growth and development demand a good classroom setting that meets the learning requirements.

A classroom setting suitable for the needs of students is to ensure comfortable learning environment. The attachment of colorful pictures on the wall is done to bring up the cheerful nuances so that the children will feel that they are learning in their world. The early childhood classroom at the Sukamulya PKBM is set up in such a way that students' access to the playground is made easy.

The classroom is also set up by considering the number of students. Classroom setting is monthly changed to avoid students from feeling bored in learning. Furthermore, in early childhood education, the classroom should be set up in accordance with the development and interests of the students.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The classroom management in early childhood program at the Sukamulya PKBM was implemented by ensuring a safety and comfortable learning in order for the students to be able to explore and interact with their environment in accordance with the early childhood developmental stage (Armico, 1994).

The learning environment organization at the Sukamulya PKBM can be seen in terms of services they provide, number of students, number of grades, and service time. In terms of service, it offers an early childhood program that combines indoor and outdoor education.

The seating is arranged in group pod. In each group, students sit face to face with each other. The seating arrangement is periodically changed to keep students from feeling bored in learning. The early childhood classroom is set up to facilitate early childhood needs and development. Seating arrangement in early childhood classroom is very important because early childhood is the golden age where children experience a very rapid development that should be supported by suitable stimulation.

The evaluation of the early childhood classroom setting activities at the Sukamulya PKBM is done daily by conducting continuous observation on students' development and behaviors. The tutor also conducts an evaluation through *buku penghubung*

(literally means: connecting book, a book of written interaction between a teacher and students' parents) and school report book that is returned to students three times in a semester.

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