

INFLUENCE OF LEARNING STYLE ON ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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Abstract

This study examines the influence of learning styles on academic achievement of primary school students. Learning style is identified as each individual's unique way of receiving and processing information, which includes visual, auditorial and kinesthetic types. The results showed that there is a significant relationship between learning styles and students' academic outcomes. Students who learn with a visual style perform better when the material is presented in a visual format such as pictures and diagrams. Students with an auditorial learning style achieve more optimally through oral teaching methods and verbal interaction. Meanwhile, kinesthetic students attain higher academic achievement when engaged in physical activities and practical learning. The conclusion of this study confirms the importance of adapting teaching methods to suit students' learning styles to improve academic achievement and optimise their learning potential.

Keywords: Learning Styles, Student Academic Achievement, Primary School

Introduction

Education is one of the main determining factors in character building and individual potential development. From an early age, education serves not only as a means of knowledge transfer, but also as a medium to instil moral, ethical and social values. Through education, children are taught the importance of integrity, responsibility, co-operation and empathy towards others. A good education process will form individuals who are not only intellectually intelligent, but also emotionally and socially mature (Sitopu et al., 2024); (Guna et al., 2024); (Fawait et al., 2024). Therefore, education is expected to be able to produce a generation with strong character, who is ready to face challenges and contribute positively to society.

In addition to character building, education also plays an important role in developing individual potential. Every child is born with unique talents and abilities that need to be explored and developed through education. Through a comprehensive and diverse curriculum, education provides opportunities for students to explore their

interests and talents in various fields, such as science, arts, sports and literature (Iksal et al., 2024); (Syakhrani & Aslan, 2024); (Judijanto & Aslan, 2024). With the right guidance, education helps students to recognise their potential and hone their skills so that they can grow into competitive and innovative individuals. In today's era of globalisation and intense competition, the development of individual potential through education is an important key in achieving success and well-being (Nanaware & Baviskar, 2023).

At the primary school level, education becomes an important foundation for students because at this stage, the basics of knowledge and skills begin to be built. The academic achievement of primary school students is often an indicator of success in the next level of education. However, reality shows that there are significant variations in students' academic achievement. Some students are able to achieve high levels of achievement, while others have difficulty in following the lessons. One factor that may influence this difference is the learning style of each student (Koç et al., 2024).

Learning style is a special way or method that individuals use in understanding, absorbing, and remembering information. Each individual has different preferences when it comes to receiving and processing information, which can be categorised into several main learning styles, such as visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and reading/writing. For example, learners with a visual learning style are more likely to understand material through pictures, graphs and diagrams, while auditory learners learn more effectively through listening to explanations or discussions. Understanding the appropriate learning style is essential to maximise the efficiency and effectiveness of the learning process (Lee & Boo, 2022).

The importance of recognising and applying learning styles cannot be overlooked as it has a significant impact on one's academic success and personal development. By understanding individual learning styles, teachers and lecturers can adjust their teaching methods so that they are aligned with students' needs, which in turn can increase students' motivation and engagement in the learning process (Sulistri et al., 2023). In addition, students who know their own learning styles can apply more appropriate learning strategies and reduce frustration, making the learning experience more enjoyable and productive. In an increasingly diverse educational environment, recognising and respecting the unique learning styles of each individual is key in creating an inclusive and effective education system (Sartika & Fransiska, 2024); (Irwan et al., 2024).

Every student has different learning style preferences, and understanding students' learning styles can help teachers adapt the most effective teaching methods. For example, students with visual learning styles tend to prefer the use of pictures, diagrams and graphs in the learning process, while students with auditory learning styles find it easier to understand material through hearing, such as lectures and

discussions. Students with kinesthetic learning styles, on the other hand, are more responsive to physical activities that involve movement (Fransisca, 2024).

Many studies have shown that there is a significant relationship between learning styles and academic achievement. However, research that specifically emphasises primary school students in Indonesia is still limited. The recognition and measurement of students' learning styles at the primary education stage can be an important first step in helping to improve their academic achievement (SARICAN, 2021).

Thus, this study aims to identify the learning styles of primary school students and analyse its effect on their academic achievement. This research is expected to provide insights for educators to design teaching strategies that are more in line with students' learning needs, so as to increase the effectiveness of the teaching-learning process and ultimately improve students' academic achievement.

Research Methods

The study in this research uses the literature method. The literature research method is an approach used to collect, analyse, and synthesise relevant information from various written sources, such as books, journal articles, research reports, and other documents, to support a particular research or study (Sanusi, 2015); (Wekke, 2020). This method involves systematic steps, including identification of the research topic or problem, searching for relevant literature, evaluating the sources found, and organising the data based on specific themes or categories. Literature research aims to gain an in-depth understanding of the topic under study, identify existing research gaps, and provide a strong theoretical foundation and historical context for further research. Thus, this method is crucial in ensuring that the research is based on existing knowledge and avoiding redundancy as well as strengthening the validity and credibility of the research findings (Syafri & Erlina, 2018).

Results and Discussion

Learning Styles of Primary School Students

Primary school students' learning styles vary widely and are influenced by a variety of factors, including individual tendencies, the learning environment, and social interactions with friends and teachers. At this age, students are at an important stage of cognitive and emotional development, so understanding their learning preferences is crucial. Learning styles can be categorised into several main types: visual, auditory, kinesthetic and reading/writing. Each type of learning style involves specific ways of absorbing and processing information, which if recognised properly, can help students achieve their optimal learning potential (Teeraputon & Nuankaew, 2020).

Students with visual learning styles tend to understand information more easily through pictures, diagrams and graphs. They usually like the use of colours and shapes in learning materials and often have a strong memory for what they see. In the

classroom, teachers can support visual students by using visual aids, such as concept maps, slide presentations and information posters. In addition, optimising the use of whiteboards and other media that support visual learning can help these students understand the material more easily (Abdul et al., 2022).

In contrast to visual students, auditory students learn more effectively through listening to oral explanations, discussions and instructions. They tend to have good listening skills and can remember information better when it is delivered verbally. To support auditory learning styles, teachers can integrate activities that involve group discussions, debates, and the use of audio media such as recorded lessons or educational songs. Giving auditory students the opportunity to repeat information back verbally can also help reinforce their understanding (Rana et al., 2023).

Students with kinesthetic learning styles prefer learning that involves physical movement and hands-on experience. They tend to be more active and often feel restless if they have to sit still for a long time. For kinesthetic students, learning methods that involve practical activities, experiments and educational games will be very beneficial. Activities that allow them to move, such as drama, art projects and science experiments, can help them absorb information better. In addition, providing adequate breaks between study sessions is also important to maintain their focus and energy (Nadrah, 2023).

Students who have a reading/writing learning style usually find it easier to understand and remember information through written text. They tend to enjoy reading books, writing notes and making lists. To support this learning style, teachers can provide a variety of reading materials, textbooks and detailed written guides. Providing assignments that involve writing summaries, taking notes or compiling reports will also help reading/writing students internalise the information learned. In addition, providing access to libraries and other written resources can further enrich their learning experience (Noreen, 2021).

Understanding and accommodating the different learning styles of primary school students is key to creating an inclusive and effective learning environment. Teachers need to implement varied and flexible teaching strategies to meet the needs of all students. By doing so, students will not only be more motivated and engaged in the learning process, but will also develop valuable lifelong learning skills. Creating an atmosphere where all students feel valued and supported according to their learning styles will result in a more fulfilling and empowering educational experience for each individual.

The Effect of Each Learning Style on Student Academic Achievement

Learning style is one of the important aspects that affect students' academic achievement. Each student has a different way of receiving, processing and understanding information. These differences are often expressed through three main

learning styles: visual, auditory and kinesthetic. Understanding how each of these learning styles affects students' academic performance can provide valuable insights for educators in designing more effective teaching strategies (Kim & Kim, 2021).

Students with visual learning styles tend to understand information more easily through vision. They tend to be more effective in capturing subject matter when presented with diagrams, graphs, pictures or videos. The academic achievement of visual students can improve significantly if they are frequently provided with materials that contain visual elements. Facilitating the use of visual aids in the teaching and learning process can have a positive impact on their understanding and long-term memory (Tabassum et al., 2021).

Auditory learning style also focuses on hearing. Students with this learning style rely on their listening skills to absorb information. Discussions, lectures and the use of audio multimedia are very effective learning methods for them. By maximising the use of technology and audio-based teaching methods, auditory students' academic performance can be improved. They usually also thrive better in activities that involve verbal interaction such as debates and presentations (JECCE, 2023).

Meanwhile, students with kinesthetic learning styles require physical involvement in the learning process. They understand and remember information more easily through activities that involve body movement or manipulation of objects. Kinesthetic students tend to excel in practical activities and project-based learning. By providing opportunities to learn through hands-on experiences, their academic performance can be optimised. Practicals, experiments and field activities are examples of methods that can be applied to support kinesthetic students (Shi, 2024).

In conclusion, learning styles have a very significant influence on students' academic performance. Recognising and understanding these differences gives educators an advantage in designing teaching methods that suit the needs of each student. Thus, supporting a variety of learning styles not only improves academic achievement but also increases students' learning motivation and satisfaction in the learning process. Applying a holistic and flexible approach to each student's learning style can result in a more inclusive and productive learning environment.

Conclusion

Learning styles clearly have a significant impact on the academic achievement of primary school students. Students, as unique individuals, develop different ways of receiving and processing information. Those who are visually inclined, for example, find it easier to understand and remember information when it is presented in visual form such as pictures or diagrams. In this context, subject matter rich in visual elements can help visual students achieve better.

On the other hand, students with auditory learning styles perform better in situations where information is presented verbally. They thrive in environments rich in

verbal discussions, lectures, and the use of audio media. Teaching methods that rely on listening and verbal interaction have proven effective in improving comprehension and academic outcomes for auditory students. Similarly, kinesthetic students who require physical activity to process information, show improved achievement when they engage in practical activities and hands-on learning experiences.

Thus, recognising and understanding different learning styles can have a positive impact on the academic achievement of primary school students. By applying diverse teaching methods that are tailored to students' learning styles, educators can create a more inclusive and effective learning environment. An approach that considers individual differences in learning styles not only helps improve academic achievement, but also builds students' motivation and interest in their learning process.

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