

## **EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION: THE ROLE OF PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS IN IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION**

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### **Abstract**

The capacity of educators to carry out their primary responsibilities as educators, such as the ability to organize, carry out, and innovate in the classroom, is known as teacher professionalism. In the process of educational innovation, teachers play a crucial strategic role, particularly when it comes to raising the standard of student learning. It goes without saying that a teacher must possess a variety of abilities, including social, educational, professional, and personality competency. Innovation in education will lead to changes in all areas, ensuring that the educational process is always tailored to the demands and circumstances of the moment. Teachers whose role is to create educational innovations can improve the quality of learning, can help explain educational problems and find ways out of the educational process either now or in the future. Apart from that, teachers who master technology will provide good teaching to students. The research method used in this article is a literature review. A variety of resources, such as periodicals, books, documents, the internet, and libraries, are available for literature study. The writing style that is employed is a literature review study, with an emphasis on the findings of writing about educational innovation, specifically the contribution of professional teachers to raising educational standards. This study addresses the function and proficiency of educators, educators and the problems associated with professionalism, and the significance of professional teacher creativity in raising educational standards.

**Keywords:** educational innovation, professional teachers, quality of education

### **INTRODUCTION**

The rapid development of information and technology has impacted many facets of life, including education. This development is an attempt to create a trend toward high-quality education by bringing reforms that will bridge the gap. Reforms or innovations that must be carried out to improve the quality of education in Indonesia include various aspects of technological development used in the education process, the education system used, even innovations that are directly related to the learning process, namely innovations regarding the curriculum, learning strategies, teaching methods or

models applied by educators. In order to make learning more engaging and meaningful, teachers must adopt or implement innovative approaches to learning. One of the things that fosters the formation of new innovations is the teacher's openness to test and investigate different breakthroughs, approaches, methods, and learning strategies. Students' learning will be dull if teachers aren't eager to help them in their constant innovation. Besides that, teachers cannot develop the potential of students considering the very importance of innovation, so innovation is something that must be done by teachers (Avidov-Ungar, O., & Forkosh-Baruch, 2018).

A teacher is someone who combines quality and honesty, according to Garzón Artacho et al. (2020). While anyone can become a teacher, those with experience in education or teaching need to have had the necessary training and education. The capacity of educators to carry out their primary responsibilities as educators, such as the ability to organize, carry out, and innovate in the classroom, is known as teacher professionalism. The quality of education is impacted by the existence of issues in education that have not yet been resolved, teacher professionalism and learning achievement. With these conditions, many problems arise, for example in the implementation of the curriculum, national examinations, the issue of teacher certification which is filled with teaching hours which makes teachers or educators less professional, thus having an impact on the learning process in education.

Serdyukov, P. (2017) states that educational innovation is an effort or method that is felt or observed for someone, whether an individual or a group, to find new or newly discovered discoveries that are used to achieve educational goals or solve problems within the field of teaching. In the field of education, teachers play a critical role in accomplishing learning objectives. In the classroom, the instructor controls the learning process and gives pupils guidance or direction to help them meet the goals of national education. When it comes to educational innovation, teachers' roles in this context include supporting education's decentralization, working with the community, implementing the country's educational system, and raising the standard of instruction to make it more in line with the demands of the rapidly advancing fields of science and technology.

In the educational innovation process, teachers play a very big role, teacher involvement starts from planning, implementing and evaluating educational innovations that have been implemented. Without teacher involvement, it is very possible that teachers do not know and do not care about the innovations offered, and may even reject the innovations that are

introduced. This is because teachers consider that innovation that does not involve them is not their task that must be carried out, but on the contrary, teachers think that it will disturb the calm and smooth running of their duties. Therefore, in an educational innovation, teachers are the main and first involved, because teachers have a broad role as educators, parents, friends, doctors, motivators and so on (Gore et al., 2017).

The goals of school institutions can be achieved optimally if teachers have established professionalism which includes pedagogical professionalism, social professionalism, professional professionalism and personality professionalism. Providing a clear and full picture of the concept of professionalism necessitates the elaboration and explanation of teachers' professionalism. The execution of specialized activities that are defined by proficiency in both subject matter and techniques will demonstrate the qualities of professional educators. In addition, it is shown by his accountability for completing all of his services. Professional educators have obligations on a social, intellectual, moral, spiritual, and personal level. Part of the effects of having sufficient teacher professionalism in the teaching and learning process is student learning achievement (Numonjonov, S. U. 2020).

A professional teacher is one who possesses unique skills and knowledge in the field of education to enable him to perform his obligations and functions as a teacher to the best of his abilities. Instructors who have been officially recognized in accordance with the laws that apply to them, taking into account both their position and formal education. In terms of qualifications and competences, this recognition is conveyed through a decision letter, diploma, deed, certificate, and so on. Therefore, the label "professional" is predicated on an official acknowledgement of the performance competency and credentials of a specific role or employment. Conny Semiawan suggests that to become professional staff, teachers must improve their abilities, namely they must be able to anticipate various changes and developments, be able to design and implement teaching and learning activities that refer to a better teaching and learning process (Rusilowati & Wahyudi, 2020).

With innovation in the field of education, it will bring changes in all matters so that the education process is always adapted to the needs and conditions of the times. Teachers whose role is to create educational innovations can improve the quality of learning, can help explain educational problems and find ways out of the educational process either now or in the future. Apart from that, teachers who master technology will provide good teaching to students (Sonia, 2017).

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

A review of the literature was the research method employed in this paper. A literature review is an organized method for assessing, combining, and summarizing research findings from multiple sources of literature that are pertinent to the subject of the study. A literature review can help us locate methods, ideas, conclusions, and suggestions that have already been published in related works when it comes to educational innovation: the role of professional teachers in raising the standard of education (Denney & Tewksbury, 2013). A variety of resources, such as periodicals, books, documents, the internet, and libraries, are available for literature study. The writing style that is employed is a literature review study, with an emphasis on the findings of writing about educational innovation, specifically the contribution of professional teachers to raising educational standards.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Teacher Roles and Competencies**

An essential part of the teaching and learning process are the teachers. To achieve the desired learning objectives and provide satisfactory results, professional teachers must possess the management skills necessary to effectively oversee all phases of activities and learning processes. Due to the strong relationship between their existence and the effectiveness and caliber of education, teachers play a particularly vital role. The values found in the curriculum must be translated, explained, and transformed for students by teachers during the learning process (Bürgener, L., & Barth, 2018). One of the roles of a teacher is as a motivator in learning for students. In the world of education, motivation is one of the dominant factors in determining whether or not a learning goal is achieved. Motivation is very important for the success of students in the learning and learning process, because with this motivation they will think about what goals they will achieve in the future in facing various tests, whether they are learning tests or tests in their life. With this motivation from a teacher, students are able to have achievements in learning because students will have the motivation to study hard to achieve better learning outcomes continuously. The teacher functions as an inspiration. Teachers enable students to act. Teachers help students so that students can help themselves. Teachers foster initiative and motivation so that students actualize themselves. So expert teachers are able to create learning situations that contain the meaning of interpersonal relationships. Interpersonal relationships

must be created so that student subjects feel "individualized", student subjects have their own identity (Ally, M. 2019).

Due to his critical role in fostering his pupils' achievement, the teacher plays a pivotal role in the implementation of education. No matter how effectively the curriculum is created, teachers' accountability for performing their jobs is ultimately what determines students' success. Numerous segments of society have high expectations for the advancement of science, and these demands have a significant impact on education. Teachers require a wide range of current, appropriate teaching knowledge and abilities in order to effectively carry out their work. The teacher has a crucial part in the teaching and learning process; it is their obligation to organize and carry out the (Blömeke, S., & Kaiser, 2017).

The abilities that must be possessed in relation to developing students include the ability to supervise, develop and develop students' personal, professional and social abilities. As a professional teacher in teaching and learning activities, a teacher not only carries out his duties and functions as a person who is a scientific expert, but also a teacher can function to instill values and be able to build the character of students in an ongoing and sustainable manner. The task and role of teachers as educators is how a teacher is able to improve and develop the potential of students to gain understanding and experience in life such as having knowledge and skills, maintaining physical and spiritual health, having an independent nature, having a strong character and having a sense of responsibility for himself, the people of the nation and state, both personal (individual), social and spiritual. Thus, the duties and roles of teachers as educators in teaching and learning activities have the responsibility to maintain and control all activities carried out and provide direction, guidance and motivation so that students in all activities carried out comply with existing norms.

To become a professional teacher is not easy, because you have to have various teaching competencies. According to Martin et al., (2019) competency is the ability to carry out something that is obtained through education and training. Teachers must possess pedagogical, personal, social, and professional competence acquired via professional education, according to Law Number 14 of 2005 of the Republic of Indonesia. All those with the power and duty to mentor and develop students are teachers. It is not always the case that other teachers' educational backgrounds and experiences during a certain time period coincide. Different educational backgrounds might have an impact on how a teacher carries out teaching and learning activities. Thus, the author

argues, the significance of professional teachers in the sphere of education and learning. To put it simply, professional work is labor that is exclusively performed by individuals who have received the necessary training and is not performed by people who are unemployed or unable to find other employment. The professionalism that is founded on transparency and policies toward reform ideas is what will allow the school to continue operating. The goal of education is to help students get ready for their future roles by providing them with training, instruction, and supervision.

The teaching profession itself has a role that calls for specialized knowledge and abilities that are beyond the capabilities of any individual. The scientific domain clearly has unique qualifications for becoming a teacher, and naturally, a teacher has his own set of ethics. Teaching is a profession since it requires specific education and training preparation. A professional educator will do activities that need competence in both subject matter and pedagogy. Professional educators are able to take on and fulfill their duties as educators to children, parents, society, the country, state, and religion. They also demonstrate accountability in the performance of their professional duties. Professional competence is a basic ability that teachers must have. A professional teacher must be able to educate students and advance education in Indonesia, because education in Indonesia is currently very lagging behind other countries. Professionalism is very important for someone who works as a teacher and is a requirement in a profession. Professionalism requires skills and expertise that a teacher must have in his work. Skills and expertise in a particular field and of course it takes time to learn them. Academic ability is a requirement in the teaching profession, so that malpractice does not occur in its implementation (Foulger et al., 2017).

Being able to take on and fulfill obligations as a teacher to pupils, parents, society, nation, state, and religion is how competent instructors show responsibility in performing their job. Every person who works as a teacher must possess basic abilities, which are standard skills. Because of the structured teaching process that educational institutions provide, these abilities are ingrained in the industry. The ability to teach is one of a teacher's fundamental skills. This capacity enables educators to fulfill their roles and obligations as educators (Pit-ten Cate et al., 2018).

### **Teachers and the Challenge of Professionalism**

Among the occupations in the realm of education are teachers. A teacher is someone whose responsibilities include trying to educate the people

of the country about all facets of life—intellectual, physical, emotional, spiritual, and so forth (Powell, C. G., & Bodur, 2019). With the development of information technology, teachers no longer teach like in the past, where teachers only taught through books and only a few media were provided. This is different today, where information technology has developed so rapidly and its impact on education is that it makes it easier for teachers to use it. technology and makes it easier for students to explore various information through various media. Media can foster students' positive attitudes towards the material and learning process. Using the appropriate media makes learning more engaging and inspires kids to have a passion for the science they are studying. Additionally, there are numerous forms of media, including audio, visual, and audio-visual (Kilag, O. K. T., & Sasan, 2023).

Then innovations carried out by teachers in the education process regarding information technology must also be carried out considering that this can be a goal for every teacher because what we already know is that teachers must have innovation in the learning process and this innovation can be in the form of technology and others. In the current era, smartphones and computers are smart tools that everyone has because with these tools we are able to access any information we want without limitations. These two tools are also used to help students discover and formulate their knowledge through interaction and exploration of information technology-based learning resources ( Brevik et al, 2019). In addition, the use of technology in the classroom validates the socio-constructivism idea, which holds that knowledge is acquired by students in collaboration with one another or through engagement with professionals through the use of technology-based communication tools. The most recent innovation in education is the integrated use of technology, which integrates a variety of technological capabilities into the process of teaching and learning. Online tutoring services like Quipper, Ruangguru, and Zenius, as well as the Edmodo and Google Classroom platforms, are examples of technology-enabled online learning. Learning typically occurs through direct system or face-to-face manner. But because to modern technological advancements, learning doesn't necessarily need to take place in person between teachers and pupils. Studying online can be said to be more efficient in terms of time and place, because it can be done in your free time and anywhere, as long as the internet connection is smooth. In Indonesia, there are many websites that provide or offer online learning services. There are several of them, namely Ruangguru, Quipper, and Zenius. All of these websites have advantages in the product sector and the efficiency of the

learning method. Ruangguru, Quipper, and Zenius have different learning methods, ways of learning, and learning systems. That is the importance of the technology used by teachers in the learning process (Spratt, 2019).

### **The Importance of Professional Teacher Innovation to Improve the Quality of Education**

Teachers have a crucial role in the process of educational innovation as educators, particularly when it comes to raising the caliber of learning for students. Teachers play a key role in the current educational system as well as being innovators and collaborators in educational reform. It goes without saying that a teacher must possess a variety of abilities, including social, educational, professional, and personality competency. Later, general educational reform strategies such as preparing for educational decentralization, empowering communities through education, strengthening the national education system, raising the standard and relevance of education, and enhancing the efficiency of the education quality assurance system will be linked to professional competence (Darling-Hammond et al., 2017).

Innovation is really the essence of rebirth or fresh creation. This work relates to strategies, techniques, or concepts. To put it another way, innovation is the capacity to present something novel. These are the qualities that are needed to become a teacher in a few different methods. Before instructing, grasp the subject matter. Teachers must develop lesson materials with the abilities and qualities of their pupils in mind. In order for learning information to be taught and accepted, a teacher must process it in a logical order. The criteria for innovative teachers have not yet been clearly formulated. There are several criteria that characterize innovative teachers according to Razinkina et al., (2018), including:

1. Keep Learning

Learning is something that an inspiring teacher must do. The development of science is a challenge for teachers to continue to follow. Access to increase knowledge is increasingly open, sources of knowledge are not only from books, but also various learning sources that can be accessed. One way to gain as much knowledge as possible is to learn constructively. Continuous learning for a teacher will make teaching always interesting. The spirit of increasing knowledge must continue to be fostered so that a teacher is able to realize himself as an inspirational teacher.

2. Competent

The word "competent" is an important key in the concept of education. Competency is a standard that must be achieved by teachers and students. For an inspirational teacher, there are three types of competence that he must have, namely professional competence, professional competence, personal competence and social competence.

3. Be sincere

For teachers who teach from a sincere basis, teaching is a task that is carried out with full dedication. There are no strings attached to his duties as an educator, other than the aim of providing useful knowledge to his students. Teachers will have a huge influence on the lives of their students. Sometimes this influence cannot be measured empirically-mathematically for a moment, but in the long term, students will feel the benefits of the learning provided by their teacher.

4. Spiritualization

The spiritualization aspect is an important aspect in influencing whether a teacher is inspiring or not. For a teacher, the aspect of spirituality is an aspect that must be possessed because the teacher is not only a transmitter of material, but also a source of spiritual inspiration as well as a guide so that a personal relationship between teacher and students is quite close and is able to create an integration of spiritual and moral guidance with the subject matter. This is proven by their daily behavior and activities which are based on religious values. Whatever a teacher does, especially teaching, must be based on deep religious spirit and values. In the learning process, there are several important aspects of spiritual value that teachers must consider, namely intention as the starting point for all activities, prayer, and sincerity in carrying out their duties. With sincerity, teaching work will feel light, enjoyable, full of appreciation, and not burdened by other aspects.

5. Totality

Totality is the appreciation and implementation of the profession as a whole. As a teacher, totality means pursuing the teaching profession in all its activities. The teaching profession is said to be a totality if it is ingrained in the flesh and is very closely related to everyday life.

6. Can Be

Motivators Many teachers who teach do not find motivation in their students. Many teachers who teach do not find motivation in their students. We can learn about this motivation from Ira Shor and Paulo Faure. In the book, which is in the form of a dialogue, Ira says that when starting a lesson, he tries to describe the motivational profile of the knowledge and cognitive

skills they already have. He managed to find this because he managed to observe carefully what students wrote, said and did. However, for this success, he builds an atmosphere so that students agree to speak, write and do the things they want. To encourage students to talk, teachers must refrain from talking too much. Give students the opportunity to express more of what is on their minds. That way, he found many students who were serious about dialogue and as active as the teacher.

#### 7. Driver of Change

Inspirational teachers will leave a strong influence on their students. They will continue to be remembered, create great spirit and energy for change, and make the lives of their students always move in a better direction. This kind of teacher has given birth to many great figures.

#### 8. Discipline

Discipline in teaching, as previously explained, discipline means getting used to it. In terms of teaching, the goal of discipline is to help students like each lesson at school more and be able to better understand each lesson given so that it becomes easier and more effective. Discipline in schools can be effective if teachers apply effective learning methods or methods.

According to Demchenko et al., (2021) A variety of competencies are required of the teaching staff in order for them to fulfill the mission, goals, and functions. Educators must have the following competencies:

1. Personality competency, namely good physical appearance, attitude, intellectual appearance, spiritual appearance, advertising (self-resilience).
2. Pedagogical competence, namely educators must be able to organize, carry out, assess, analyze, and follow up on learning, as well as comprehend the characteristics of children.
3. Social competence, namely having good relationships with family, students and parents, friends, leaders, and the wider community.
4. Professional competence, educators must improve their abilities and insight by attending training, seminars, activating MGMP and KKG, conducting action research, continuing to study at a higher level.

According to Mulà et al., (2017), Professional educators place a high value on the caliber of their output and services. In addition to maximizing students' abilities based on their individual potential and talents, teacher services must satisfy the standard needs of the community, the country, and its users. Increasing teachers' professional abilities can be interpreted as efforts made to help immature teachers become mature, those who are unable to manage themselves become able to manage themselves, those who do not yet

meet the qualifications become qualified. Maturity, abilities and qualifications are the characteristics of a professional. Therefore, Sancar et al., (2021) define improving teachers' professional abilities as an effort to help teachers who are not yet professional to become professional teachers.

According to the views expressed above, teachers have the opportunity to prepare for and enhance their own skills in leveraging information technology advancements to support instruction in schools, even in addition to the obstacles presented by this era of technology. Consequently, innovation in order to enhance the professionalism of teachers is imperative, as educators are crucial to students' performance in both teaching and learning activities as well as the development of high-quality educational processes and results. The first way to improve the professionalism of educators is by holding teacher professional development and coaching programs. Zwozdiak-Myers claims that the government's teacher professional development and coaching program is an innovative approach to teacher professional development, P. N. (2018) is as follows:

1. Academic qualifications, namely academic education certificates that teachers or lecturers must have in accordance with the kind, degree, and format of formal education provided at the assignment site. This is also in line with the opinion of Hardianto (2009) that a mechanism needs to be formulated so that teachers continue to hone their skills and increase their insight. This mechanism is intended to foster a reading movement among teachers. It is hoped that the reading movement can increase creativity, analytical power, innovative ideas or generate new ideas.
2. Teacher certification, Qualification, upon passing a competency exam administered by a certification agency, is the process of granting acknowledgment that an individual is qualified to provide educational services in a specific educational unit (Syafaruddin, 2012).
3. Increasing competency, which is carried out in various ways, including education and training, certification tests, and providing opportunities for improving learning. Teachers can improve learning by conducting classroom action research, so that they can overcome problems in the class concerned.
4. Career development, specifically, actions taken by educators to preserve, enhance, and renew their professional competence in order to raise the caliber of their output or performance. Career development is carried out by teachers participating in professional scientific forums or activities and carrying out research or reviewing their professional work both individually and collaboratively.

5. Respect and protection, namely guarantees of legal protection, profession and work safety. It is every teacher's right to be protected while performing their job. Legal, professional, and occupational safety and health protection are all aspects of teacher protection. As a result, having protection and respect for educators can boost their drive to design better lessons and provide them the freedom to work in a safe and comfortable environment free from outside pressure.
6. Planning teacher needs, or the process of figuring out how many instructors are required to meet demand and strike a balance between supply and demand for teachers. This is intended so that problems related to the shortage or absence of teachers in a school can be resolved.

## **CONCLUSION**

The capacity of educators to carry out their primary responsibilities as educators, such as the ability to organize, carry out, and innovate in the classroom, is known as teacher professionalism. Learning attainment, teacher professionalism, and the quality of education are all impacted by the persistence of unsolved educational issues.

Teachers have a crucial role in the process of educational innovation as educators, particularly when it comes to raising the caliber of learning for students. Teachers play a key role in the current educational system as well as being innovators and collaborators in educational reform. It goes without saying that a teacher must possess a variety of abilities, including social, educational, professional, and personality competency.

With innovation in the field of education, it will bring changes in all matters so that the education process is always adapted to the needs and conditions of the times. Teachers whose role is to create educational innovations can improve the quality of learning, can help explain educational problems and find ways out of the educational process either now or in the future. Apart from that, teachers who master technology will provide good teaching to students.

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