



ESSENTIAL CHALLENGES IN IMPROVING EDUCATION QUALITY OF STUDENT LEARNING

Ahmad Jamal Rohmah

Faculty of Islamic Education and Teacher Training
Garut University

email: ahmad.jamalr@uniga.ac.id

* Correspondence : email: ahmad.jamalr@uniga.ac.id

Article

Article History :
Accepted 04 July 2024
Revised July 05 , 2024
Accepted 06 July 2024
Available online July 06 ,
2024

abstract

Education is a fundamental pillar for building an advanced society. However, the education system faces numerous issues that hinder progress in learning quality. This article discusses essential challenges in the modern education world, with a particular emphasis on the efforts required to improve learning quality.

The first challenge is access inequality, where the gap between urban and rural areas, as well as disparities in access, is a major obstacle in ensuring equitable education for all. Additionally, issues related to technology integration are also critical. For example, how technology can be used as a supportive learning tool without leaving behind students who cannot access it.

The article also highlights job readiness, where the gap between the skills taught in schools and those required in the job market is a major issue. In efforts to improve education quality, several key areas need attention: the lack of social skills education, poor mental health education, an unsuitable curriculum, and educational inequality. To address these challenges, the article presents practical ideas and actions that can be taken by stakeholders in the fields of policy, teaching, and social intervention. By gaining a deep understanding of these issues, it is hoped that the education community can take concrete actions to improve education quality and create a more inclusive, adaptive, and responsive education system for future needs.

Keywords :

Educational Challenges, Learning Quality, Mental Health

Introduction / مقدمة

According to Zakiah Daradjat, Allah created humans based on their nature. However, God's character is an opportunity for humans to receive training and education. This potential can be developed through education and training. The obligation to develop this potential is a human burden and responsibility before Allah SWT. Education is the foundation and hope for improving the quality of the Indonesian nation's human resources. Education is a means to develop students' intellectual skills, talents, character and abilities. Therefore, all parties must pay maximum attention to the education sector. (Wahdaniyah & Malli, 2021) . Education is considered the main foundation of a nation's social, economic and cultural development. However, education systems around the world face challenges that hinder progress in the quality of learning (Nations, 2022). The first challenge that needs to be considered is

inequality of access (Bank., 2022). Even though education is considered a universal right, the gap between urban and rural areas and inequality of access are still major obstacles to providing equitable education for all. Additionally, challenges in integrating technology were highlighted; how education can make optimal use of technology without leaving students without access to technological devices (Harris, 2019).

As the backbone of learning, teachers play an important role in helping students achieve the desired learning goals. However, teachers face various challenges during the learning process which can affect the quality of learning. The challenges faced by teachers are very diverse. (Three Rahmadona, Rusdinal, 2023) . Teachers must be able to make breakthroughs in learning, especially in choosing learning strategies in class, so that students are always enthusiastic about learning. Without good and varied strategies in the process of teaching and learning activities, students will quickly feel bored, especially in learning that requires a lot of memorization and other things (Uccang et al., 2022) . Nowadays, the role of technology in the world of education can no longer be avoided. So the government issues regulations that regulate technology needs with various laws and regulations. Based on the law issued by the government, it is also regulated that teachers must be able to adapt to rapidly developing technology so that learning tools and teaching and learning processes appear creative and innovative. The main goal of learning technology is to solve learning problems and provide opportunities for the teaching and learning process.

In the field of education, this technology is usually called e-learning. The advantage of using e-learning facilities is that it makes the teaching and learning process easier. In relation to the use of e-learning in learning, it shows that e-learning has a positive impact on the learning process and learning outcomes. The use of technology itself is also expected to increase students' interest in learning, because the traditional learning process is considered unstimulating and unpleasant so that learning is considered monotonous (boring) (Lainah, 2022) .

This article will explore some of the essential challenges in modern education and the efforts needed to overcome these problems, the aim of which is to ensure the creation of a learning environment that is inclusive, adaptive, and responsive to future needs.

Method/ منهجية البحث

The method used in writing this article is library research or *literature review* . This article analysis uses four steps in literature review, namely selecting a topic to evaluate, searching for and selecting relevant articles, analyzing and synthesizing literature, and organizing writing. The results of literature research show that there are several essential challenges in education, especially in efforts to improve the quality of student learning, namely: *First*, inequality of access. Several sources highlight that there are differences in access to education in urban and rural areas, which can be an obstacle to improving the quality of learning. *Second*, Technology Integration some sources may offer perspectives on the role of technology in education as well as the challenges associated with utilizing it to improve the quality of learning. *Third*, Job Readiness emphasizes that there is a gap between what is taught in school and what is required by the job market when students have completed their education. *Fourth* , students' mental health is very important because it has a major impact on their overall development. Good mental health allows students to focus, concentrate and process information well. Poor mental health, such as mental disorders or excessive stress, can interfere with learning and absorbing lessons. Therefore, it is important for educational institutions, parents, and society to support students' mental health by providing a supportive environment, resources, and assistance necessary to ensure students' mental well-being.

Results and Discussion / النتائج والمناقشة

A. Challenge Definition

Challenges are conditions, situations, or problems that cause obstacles, difficulties, or obstacles in order to overcome challenges, often required adjustment strategy, thinking, or action so you can face new situation. Although challenge often considered as something difficult however, deep context learning or experience, challenges can also be become opportunity For growth. Overcome challenges are also possible somebody For learn, develop, and improve ability in face situation similar in the future. In education, challenges Can covers inequality access education, lack of source power, gap in need students, or even constraint in adopt technology For learning. Challenge This need solutions that are innovative, collaborative, and sometimes, transformational systemic For overcome.

achieve certain goals. In a general context, challenges can refer to various things that require a person or a system to adapt or find solutions to overcome challenges. Challenges usually appear as obstacles that prevent the achievement of a goal. This could be inability, limited resources, or external factors that hinder progress. Challenges also often require change or adaptation.

B. Definition of Education

In Law on the Education System No. 20 of 2003, it is stated that education is "a conscious and planned effort to create an atmosphere of learning and learning so that students actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character. as well as the skills needed by himself and society." Education is the process of forming basic intellectual and emotional skills towards nature and other humans (Mukodi, 2018). The definition from the Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) is that the word education comes from the word 'didik' and has the suffix 'pe' and the suffix 'an', so this word has the meaning of a method, method or act of guiding. And it can be defined as teaching as a way of changing ethics and behavior by individuals or society in an effort to realize independence in order to mature or mature humans through education, learning, guidance and coaching (Pristiwanti, 2022). The definition of education in the broadest sense is Life. This means that education is all learning knowledge that occurs throughout life anywhere and in any situation, which influences the growth of every living creature. That education lasts throughout life (long life education). Learning in a broad sense is also a process of teaching activities, and carrying out learning can occur in any environment and at any time (Amirin: 2013: 4). Literally the meaning of education is the instructions given by an educator to students, it is hoped that adults can teach children, provide role models, learning, guidance, and improving morals and ethics, as well as gaining knowledge about everyone. Learning is also a very important process in every education system. Basically, learning is an effort to teach students effectively, actively and interactively to achieve predetermined learning goals. Changes in students towards a better direction are a sign that the learning process has ended. (Khairina et al., 2021).

The learning given to students is not only from formal education carried out by those in power, but in this case the function of family and society is very important and becomes a forum for development that can generate and develop knowledge and understanding (Ab Marisyah1, 2019). Education as an initiative to advance and develop human resources. Mental and physical aspects will gradually emerge. Therefore, maturity that leads to the optimization of development and growth can only be achieved by going through every process to achieve the ultimate goal of development and growth. One of the educational

processes that is expected is a process that is purposeful and purposeful, namely a process that guides students (humans) to achieve their best abilities. It can be concluded that education is a process or effort carried out consciously to guide and guide the physical and spiritual development of children towards the wholeness and perfection of the human soul. In other words, we aim to develop mature human resources with perfect skills and expertise, as well as good character and morals (Muntaha, 2021) . Improving the quality of education is one effort to achieve these educational goals. The learning process carried out by students as students is very important for good quality education. Student learning outcomes are said to be achieved if students achieve the development and improvement in behavior expected in the formulation of learning objectives. These learning outcomes can be proven and demonstrated through the teacher's evaluation results of students through tests and exams. The thing that all students want most is good learning results. Learning outcomes can be used as an indicator of how well a student carries out learning activities (Yandi et al., 2023) .

C. Essential Challenges in Education Efforts to Improve the Quality of Student Learning

The challenge in the world of education is to encourage educational values that must be developed. According to Guilford (1985), the fields of application of values education are:

1. Children are trained and educated by working while studying. Children's thinking intelligence is developed as widely as possible
2. Developing the personality of children with Indonesian personality, so that they become dynamic, confident, brave, responsible and independent
3. Learning is not only taught in the classroom, but always outside the school room. O'clock; And
4. Examples of good deeds are done because they are more successful in forming good character. (Syamsuar & Reflianto, 2019) .

The essential challenges in education include a number of aspects that influence the overall educational process, including:

a) Inequality of Access in Education

Getting access to education services is the right of every citizen in Indonesia. Even in global issues, education is a very fundamental need for each country, because through it we can produce the next generation. Education can also build good human resources. Nowadays , education is often considered a measure of a nation's progress. Every country tries to improve, maintain and improve the education they have. In developed countries, education is an important investment in a family. One example is in China, parents are willing to buy houses at high prices in urban areas where there are various quality schools so that their children can go to school in order to get access and quality education services (Wen, 2018). From this study, it can be assumed that education in China is the most valuable thing and parents sacrifice it to send their children to quality schools.

In Indonesia, there are still many areas where the government pays little attention to education. This is an education gap, areas that are in cities or close to government centers have good quality education (Suryana, 2020). Meanwhile, in peripheral areas, the quality of teaching staff is very poor and their numbers are limited. The facilities owned by a school seem modest. This problem is confirmed by research from Itasari, (2021) which states that education in the border areas of Indonesia and Malaysia still has gaps. Apart from that, the opinion of Prasetya and Pribadi, (2021) states that the quality of education in rural areas is still lagging behind compared to urban areas, so it is natural that many families move to urban areas to send their children to school.

The difference in quality between cities and villages is a problem for most countries, including Indonesia. Because Indonesia is an archipelagic country, generalizing the

quality of education between regions is very difficult due to geographical conditions. For example, Central Java Province, specifically Wonosobo Regency, has low quality education. This is proven by data from the Central Java BPS (2020) 2018-2020 census which states that the School Enrollment Rate (APS), Wonosobo Regency has the lowest percentage in the top 3 in Central Java Province. Apart from the low school enrollment rate (APS), the economic condition of the community can also be said to be poor (Anwar, 2022). From the findings of research conducted by Perdana (2015), it can be interpreted that geographical conditions, family environment, and socio-economic status of the community are factors that influence the probability of children attending school. These factors vary in different situations. Limited access to education affects the quality of education, one of which is caused by the low quality of human resources. The development of the world of education in Indonesia must be considered, especially in terms of educational equality, opportunities to learn, optimizing school functions, and service orientation according to needs. To maximize educational equality, these things must be done. Poor people are usually referred to as people who are underprivileged and usually receive unfair treatment in various ways, such as economics, law and education.

b) Technology Integration

Technology integration in education refers to the use of software, hardware, and various technological tools in the learning context. It aims to improve the quality of education by enriching teaching methods, facilitating access to information, and expanding the scope of learning. According to (Hamdan, 2018) there are several ways of integrating technology in education:

- 1) Enhancement Access Source Learning , Technology possible more access wide to source learning , such as e-books, online journals , learning videos , and resources other digital information . Teacher and student can with easy and fast access Educational material from various source .
- 2) Learning Online Platform Based , Online learning platforms or Learning Management Systems (LMS) such as Moodle, Google Classroom, or Canvas allow teachers to make task , give material in a way it's easy , and also possible evaluate progress student in a way structured and measurable .
- 3) Utilization Device Hard in Learning , Use device hard like computers , tablets, and mobile devices make it possible more learning interactive and interesting through application designed learning special .
- 4) Development Digital Skills , Technology integration in Education helps student develop digital skills that are important in the digital era, such as solution problems , skills programming , media literacy , and comprehension about internet security .
- 5) Learning Adaptive and Personalized , Technology possible exists more learning adaptive , where matter customized with level understanding and speed Study student .

Use technology in education can increase involvement students , facilitate more learning dynamic , and prepare student For face the demands of the times are increasing connected digitally . (Roblyer, 2014)Technology is very helpful in the world of education, especially in Islamic education. Educational technology includes tools and techniques to improve teaching and learning processes as well as system development, evaluation, and implementation. In Islamic educational institutions, the integration of information and communication technology can help and improve the quality of education. The integration of technology encourages students to learn technology more quickly. Because technology is very important, educational progress, especially Islamic

education, can be achieved by making the best possible use of technology. There are several things that must be considered when using technology, such as adapting to the environment by considering current conditions and circumstances so that the actions taken can have an impact on the practice of Islamic education in that environment (Hanifah Salsabila, 2023).

c) Job Readiness and Relevant Curriculum

Work readiness is the most important issue to be discussed because currently it is one of the things needed to meet needs in the era of globalization. Students are expected to be able to compete in the era of globalization, which means they must be ready to work and advance in the world of business or industry, as is the aim of the high school teaching profession, one of which is creating a work-ready environment. Work readiness is a set of skills and behaviors that are mentioned when working or carrying out work, according to Law no. 13 of 2003 concerning Employment. Work readiness is defined as an individual's work capacity which includes aspects of knowledge, skills and work attitudes that are determined by standards.

Students' employability is assessed based on their basic skills and their ability to adapt to advances in science and technology. It is expected that students have the ability to search for information, express ideas, organize activities, work together, and solve problems. Additionally, it is expected that students have strong critical thinking skills, as well as the ability to speak a variety of languages spoken throughout the world.

In the world of education, curriculum is very important. Without the right curriculum, students will not achieve the right learning goals. The world of education also continues to experience curriculum changes as time goes by. Everything is designed to meet the needs of students in their respective eras. With this change, it is hoped that every student can adapt well in the future. The curriculum is very important for all schools to have as a guide for teachers, especially for formal schools, where the curriculum functions as a guide and direction in teaching. Curriculum is defined as something that is planned, which means that all student activities can be arranged in this way in the world of education so that educational goals can be achieved. One of the efforts is to implement a relevant curriculum because this curriculum is very important for building a foundation for education that will meet future and current needs. The relevant curriculum emphasizes active, creative and fun learning so that students can learn meaningfully and effectively. Can improve student learning outcomes. The quality of learning can be improved in various ways, including:

- Student-centered learning: Students should be the subject of learning so that students can learn actively and meaningfully.
- Learning that uses active, creative and fun learning methods: Active, creative and fun learning methods can motivate students to learn actively and motivated.
- Learning through appropriate learning media and resources: Appropriate media and learning materials can help students learn effectively. (Loso Judijanto, 2023).

By studying and observing changes in the educational curriculum you can gain the necessary understanding of how to implement education that is more relevant and effective for students. There are some points you can get explain in a way detailed How relevant curriculum contribute to improvement quality Study student :

1. Relevance Material Learning

Relevant curriculum ensure that material learning in accordance with needs and developments over time. This No only covers ability academic , but also relevant aspects with life everyday , like digital skills , literacy and relevant skills with situation certain .

2. Involvement Student

Relevant curriculum usually emphasize student - centred learning , which motivates and engages student in learning . This matter can done through approach attentive learning interests and needs student .

3. Development Relevant Skills

Besides knowledge Academic , relevant curriculum also focuses on development important skills in life real , like Skills think critical , skills communication , creativity , and skills collaboration .

4. Flexibility in Learning

Relevant curriculum possible various approach differentiated learning , paying attention style diverse and rewarding learning student chance For Study in accordance with speed and interest they Alone . Relevant curriculum own role important in increase quality Study students , because focusing on aspects that are not only academic , but also practical and relevant with life students in the real world .

d) Mental Health for Student

Mental health is one of the most important aspects of human life (Desty Febria, 2021). Mental health refers to all aspects of a person's growth, both physical and psychological. Mental health is a state where a person can realize his potential, overcome daily stress, be productive and influence the environment (Ilmi & Harahap, 2024) . Mental health also includes efforts to overcome stress, inability to adapt, how to interact with other people, and is related to decision making. Every person's mental health is different and experiences dynamics in its development. Because in essence humans are faced with conditions that they must resolve with various alternative choices. Sometimes, quite a few people at certain times experience mental health problems in their lives (Fakhriyani, 2019). and mental health for students is the condition of their psychological and emotional well-being. It involves how students respond, understand, and manage their emotions as well as how they interact with the world around them. Mental health for students is very important because it has a significant impact on their well-being, personal development and learning abilities. In addition, when students are in a healthy mental state during the learning process, they will feel comfortable and calm, which allows them to increase their concentration on learning during the learning process. (Setiawan & Soraya, 2020) .

Several aspects related to the importance of mental fitness for students include:

a. Well-being Student

Good mental health increase well-being student . Student tend more productive , happy and optimistic with life they If they can understand and manage emotions and stress they with Good .

b. Ability Study

Good mental health influence ability student in Study . Student with good mental health tend more focus , have Power remember more OK , as well ability more cognitive strong . Understanding about mental health can help prevent problem more mental health carry on . Student can prevent problem mental health with know signs start and strategy prevention . Understanding about Mental health can too help reduce the associated stigma with mental health . Students who are aware importance more mental health Possible help make a supportive environment in which to talk open about mental health can happen without Afraid or Embarrassed (Putri et al., 2023) .

c. Balance Emotional

Students who have good mental health can overcome pressure academic and social with more Good . They can too handle conflicts and interpersonal problems with more

Good . Student with intelligence more emotional low tend experience difficulty in find answer in self they myself , so they also experience it difficulty understand questions that will answered and resulted questions that don't answered , so intelligence emotional play very role important in achievement results Study student . (Puji & Rondonuwu, 2022) .

d. Related Physical and Mental Health

Poor mental health Can impact on health physique . Excessive stress Can influence pattern eating , sleeping , and activity physique they .

e. Support and Engagement

Students who have good mental health can more involved in activity social , building healthy relationships , and feeling comfortable For request help from friends , family , and professionals If needed .

f. Development Skills

Good mental health help student in development Skills cognitive , social , and emotional needs For succeed good at school or outside educational environment . Maintaining good mental health plays an important role in supporting students' ability to learn, interact positively, and grow and develop holistically. Being aware of and supporting students' mental health is critical to creating an educational environment that supports their overall growth.

Conclusion/ الخلاصة

Article This emphasize a number of problem important in education as well as a number of possible steps taken For increase quality Study . Access equitable education for all Still become challenge main Because inequality geography and technology . Technology integration temporary give Lots benefits , it also raises problem accessibility . Besides there it is significant difference between the skills taught in school and those required by the job market . Appropriate curriculum with future needs and preparedness Work student become factor decider in reach quality optimal learning .

Students' mental health is also affected focus in effort increase quality Study . Give environment supportive education mental health really important For make student Ready For Study . With aware and responding problems This is collaboration between government , institutions education , society , and sectors private For create change positive in education . Harmony working together will enable improved learning quality and more comprehensive solutions to overcome these problems, which will lead to a better future.

Reference/ المصادر والمراجع

- Ab Marisyah1, FR (2019). KI HADJAR DEWANTARA'S THOUGHTS ON EDUCATION.
- Anwar, MS (2022). Inequalities in educational accessibility from a multicultural education perspective. *FOUNDASIA* .
- Bank., TW (2022). *World Development Report 2022* . Retrieved from Education for a Changing World. : <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2022>
- Desi Pristiwanti, BB (2022). Understanding Education. *Journal of Education and Counseling* .
- Desty Febria, EM (2021). EDUCATE THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING MENTAL HEALTH FOR STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC. *Proceedings of the National Conference for Community Service Projects (NaCosPro)* .
- ELSEVIER. (2017). *Guide for Authors* . Retrieved 1 27, 2017, from ELSEVIER:

- <https://www.elsevier.com/journals/learning-and-instruction/0959-4752/guide-for-authors>
- Emerald Publishing. (2017). *Author Guidelines*. Retrieved 1 27, 2017, from Emerald Publishing: http://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/products/journals/author_guidelines.htm?id=JHOM
- Fakhriyani, DV (2019). *Mental health*. Pamekasan: Duta Media Publishing.
- Hamdan, N. (2018). The Role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Education. *SSRN Electronic Journal*. , DOI: 10.2139/ssrn.3168647.
- Harris, A. &. (2019). Perspectives, Challenges, and Possibilities. Routledge. *Education in the Global South* .
- Hanifah Salsabila. (2023). Integration of Information and Communication Technology in the Field of Islamic Education. *Journal of Education* , 11 (1), 172–177.
- Ilmi, N., & Harahap, PS (2024). MENTAL HEALTH, How Important is Mental Health for Teenagers? *Tambusai Education Journal* , 8 , 577–582.
- Khairina, K., Alberida, H., Fitri, R., & Ardi, A. (2021). the Effect of Applying Cooperative Learning Model on Student Competence: Literature Study About Student Facilitator and Explaining. *Atrium Journal of Biology Education* , 6 (1), 57. <https://doi.org/10.24036/apb.v6i1.9800>
- Lainah, S. (2022). *PAI Teacher Challenges in Facing the Digital Era* . 3 , 459.
- Loso Judijanto. (2023). Implementation of Competency Based Curriculum in Improving Education Quality. *Journal of Education and Teaching Review* , 6 (4), 237–242.
- Mukodi. (2018). Explore the Philosophical Meaning of Education and Educational Factors in Educational Sciences. *Journal of Educational Research* , 10 (2), pp. 1468-1476.
- Vomiting. (2021). The Nature of Education (Review of the Philosophy of Islamic Education). *Fighshare* , 1–15.
- Nations, U. (2022). *Sustainable Development Goals: Quality Education*. Retrieved from United Nations: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal4>
- Personal, B. A., & Delfy, R. (2015). Implementation of Concept Mapping Strategy in the Scientific Article Writing Technique Tutorial Program. *Journal of Open and Distance Education*, 16 (2), 76-88. Retrieved from <http://jurnal.ut.ac.id/JPTJJ/article/view/408/421>
- Pristiwant, D. (2022). Understanding Education. *Journal of Education and Counseling* .
- Putri, A., Wicaksono, L., & Fergina, A. (2023). *Mental Health Awareness Seminar in Building Student Character at SMAN 6 Pontianak in 2023* . 1 (3), 80–86. <https://doi.org/10.26418/djpk.v1i3.72849>
- Puji, Y., & Rondonuwu, AT (2022). The Relationship between Emotional Intelligence and Science Learning Outcomes in Class VII Students of SMP Negeri 2 Tondano. *SCIENING : Science Learning Journal* , 3 (1), 54–58. <https://doi.org/10.53682/slj.v3i1.2884>
- Roblyer, M.D. (2014). Integrating educational technology into teaching. . *Pearson*.
- Rohmah, N., Huda, M., & Kusmintardjo, AY (2016). Strategy for Increasing Lecturers' Capacity in Writing Scientific Papers (Multi Case Study at UNISDA and STADRA in Lamongan Regency). *Journal of Education*, 1 (7), 1312-1322. Retrieved from <http://journal.um.ac.id/index.php/jptpp/article/view/6560/2795>
- Suryana, S. (2020). Education Quality Problems in the Perspective of Educational Development. . *Education* .
- Setiawan, D., & Soraya, IM (2020). The Relationship between Mental Health, Interest in Learning, and Teaching Competence on Gymnastics Learning Outcomes. *Indonesian Journal of Sports and Health* , 1 (1), 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.55081/joki.v1i1.292>
- Wahdaniyah, W., & Malli, R. (2021). The Urgency of Islamic Education in Facing the Challenges of

Modernity. *TARBAWI: Journal of Islamic Religious Education* , 6 (02), 158–175.
<https://doi.org/10.26618/jtw.v6i02.6158>

Wen, H. X. (2018). Education quality, accessibility, and housing price: Does spatial heterogeneity exist in education capitalization? *Habitat International* .

Yandi, A., Nathania Kani Putri, A., & Syaza Kani Putri, Y. (2023). Factors That Influence Student Learning Outcomes (Literature Review). *Journal of Indonesian Cyber Education* , 1 (1), 13– 24.
<https://doi.org/10.38035/jpsn.v1i1.14>