

The Role of Educational Psychology for Teachers in Learning Effectiveness

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Abstract: This study is blackfaced with problems in learning processes, such as teachers do not understand the student's situation and condition, they apply incorrect methods, or the learning process tends boring. The important role of psychological education for teachers is to help them understand students' psychological aspects so that teachers have basic rules for applying effective learning techniques to particular student characteristics. This study aims to know the essential role of psychology for teachers in the learning process and the psychological scope for teachers in studying students. The study uses qualitative methods, which is a literature approach (library research). Researchers use documentaries to collect data. This study shows that teachers must study educational psychology. In educational psychology, there is much discussion of the problems associated with human development. So, as an educator, it is very important to understand educational psychology.

Keywords: Learning; Psychology Education; Teachers

Abstrak: Penelitian ini dilatar belakangi dengan adanya masalah dalam proses pembelajaran seperti guru tidak memahami situasi dan kondisi siswa, penerapan metode yang kurang tepat dan proses pembelajaran cenderung membosankan. Peran penting pembelajaran psikologi pendidikan bagi guru membantu dalam mempelajari aspek psikologis siswa agar guru memiliki aturan dasar untuk menerapkan teknik pembelajaran yang efektif yang diterapkan pada karakteristik siswa tertentu. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui peranan penting psikologi bagi guru dalam proses pembelajaran dan mengetahui ruang lingkup psikologi bagi guru dalam mempelajari siswa. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif dengan jenis pendekatan kepustakaan (Library Research). Peneliti menggunakan studi dokumenter untuk pengumpulan data dalam penelitian. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa sangat penting bagi guru dalam mempelajari psikologi pendidikan. Dalam psikologi pendidikan, banyak sekali pembahasan tentang masalah-masalah yang berkaitan dengan perkembangan manusia. Sehingga, sebagai pendidik sangat penting memahami psikologi pendidikan.

Kata Kunci : Guru dan Pembelajaran; Psikologi Pendidikan

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15575/jipai.v2i2.11809>

Received: 03, 2021. Accepted: 10, 2022. Published: 12, 2022.

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INTRODUCTION

As an educator and teacher, the teacher as a central center for students has an important role in influencing students' success (Hermawan, 2017). Thus, teachers are required to study educational psychology. Educational psychology is a very important science that a teacher must master as an educator and teacher. As an educator, teachers must understand all aspects of a student's behavior or character to carry out their duties and roles. Education is inseparable from psychology (Mansir, 2018). Psychological knowledge about students is very important in education. Therefore mastery of psychological science should be a prerequisite for prospective teachers (Haryadi & Cludia, 2021).

Psychology is a science that studies human behavior and attitudes, either as individuals or in their relationship with the environment (Ichsan, 2016). In achieving successful learning, educational psychology emphasizes that there are parties who can help students in learning, namely the students themselves as learning humans, parents, and teachers (Nurulhaq et al., 2019). In the world of education, both formal and non-formal institutions, psychology is needed as a science discipline.

Psychology is a vital aspect of education, and the organizers of an educational institution need it. One of them is a teacher. The learning process that can take place optimally is an understanding of the psychological aspects of students by the teacher. Psychology has a meaningful contribution to the learning process for students because each student has a different personality, characteristics, and attitudes in the learning process (Tindani, 2021). Thus, teachers need to know and understand the characteristics and attitudes of their students in the classroom. Thus, learning can be optimal if students feel satisfied during the learning process, and in turn, learning becomes more effective and conducive.

Teachers who have a good understanding of educational psychology will be able to create a conducive social and emotional atmosphere in the classroom so that students can study comfortably and happily. The teacher's understanding of educational psychology can make interaction with students more wise, empathetic, and attentive. Those become interesting characters in front of students. In essence, education is the process of training students. Educators must have qualifications or skills in educational psychology to make the learning process more effective and conducive (Hasyim, 2014).

Psychology as a scientific discipline is required in the field of education To improve the learning process (Ulwiyah, 2015). Educators who guide and instruct students must fully grasp students' cognitive, psychomotor, and affective development characteristics. Students need a good education based on their age, level of education, and the process of growing and developing. Providing students with direction, motivation, and guidance can help them

achieve their goals in learning. Before teaching, the teacher must know the characteristics of the learners during the learning process. Each child is different in personality, and to achieve success in education, the teacher must know the student's personality (Dodi, 2016). Thus, it is clear that teachers must understand the characteristics of students before the learning process.

Learning is a behavior change, which can lead to better behavior, and some lead to destructive behavior (Purwanto, 2011). Then, the task of a teacher, in this case, is to learn, know and understand the educational psychology of students to achieve an effective, efficient, and conducive learning process. So, teachers can teach effectively, and students can learn well and effectively.

Some scholars have analyzed studies relevant to this research. These are research on "The Role of Psychology in the Student Learning Process in Schools (Christopher, 2018), "The Role of Educational Psychology as a Basic Competency of Educators and Education Personnel" (Sanjaya, 2019), and "The Role of Educational Psychology through Digital Literacy Towards Society 5.0" (Nikita & Supraba, 2021). Based on existing research, the novelty of this study is a variable of learning effectiveness for teachers.

Based on the description above, teachers must study educational psychology to succeed in the learning process. For this reason, this study aims to determine the importance of educational psychology for teachers in the learning process.

RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this study is a qualitative method with a type of library approach (Library Research). The purpose of this approach is to collect data and information with the help of materials related to books, documents, notes, stories, and so on that support this research (Arikunto, 2013). The data collection technique in this study is documentary techniques or document studies. Document study techniques assist researchers in collecting data or information by reading letters, announcements, meeting activities, written statements of certain policies, and other written materials (Nilamsari, 2014). Researchers use this technique to collect data on the important role of educational psychology for teachers through books or literature studies that support this research and complement researchers in conducting interviews with teachers. This study's data is from psychology books that support the important role of educational psychology, as well as secondary sources through interviews and teacher actions that support this research. Meanwhile, data analysis in this study uses content analysis, a qualitative research technique that emphasizes the plurality of communication content, the meaning of communication content, the reading of symbols, and the meaning of the content of symbolic interactions that occur in communication. Content analysis refers to the study of documents in the form of

texts in various formats and publications using the focus of analyzing social phenomena of a general nature (Arafat, 2018).

RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research Result

A. Understanding Educational Psychology

Rudi Haryadi mentioned that psychology, as Sujanto states, the definition of Educational Psychology can be seen from two angles, namely etymology, and terminology. Etymologically, Educational Psychology consists of two words: "Psychology" and "Education." Psychology derives from the Greek words "Psyche" and "logos." "Psyche" is interpreted as spirit, soul, or life force, and "logos" is interpreted as science. Terminologically, psychology means the science of the soul or the science that studies or investigates statements (Haryadi & Cludia, 2021). Gloria conveys that, as Sagala mentioned, psychology is the science of the soul or the science that studies the soul because the word psychology comes from the Greek *psyche* means soul. In comparison, *logy* or *logos* means science and knowledge (Christopher, 2018). Thus, psychology is a science that studies behavior, attitudes, and problems in a person's psyche.

"Education" originally came from the Greek "educere," which means to lead, guide, and orient. It comprises the transitive active verb «educate» and the suffix «ción,» which indicates effect, fact, or action. The term education means development or guidance. Meanwhile, according to Herskovits, education is "directed learning," namely as a learning process, providing knowledge, skills, and attitudes through thoughts, character, and physical capacity using institutions to meet goals (Suharyanto, 2015).

Herskovits' statement shows that education does not only occur within the scope of the classroom. However, it occurs within the scope outside the classroom. As Yayan Alpian et al. said that the first educational environment obtained by everyone was in the family environment (Informal Education), school environment (Formal Education), and community environment (Non-formal Education) (Alpian et al., 2019).

In a broad sense, education is the entire stage of developing human abilities and behaviors that can change behavior and thinking patterns. Also, the learning process is almost all life experiences. In essence, the concept of education is the service of students in particular, and education is also an institution that gives authority based on whether or not a learning process is good for students. Thus, educational psychology is a psychology that studies human behavior and mental processes that occur in an educational process.

According to Suryabrata, Gloria said that education is essentially a service specifically intended for students (people who are studying). The existence of educational psychology is basically to make it easier for educators to apply the

teaching and learning process. By studying educational psychology, at least prospective teachers or teachers have received an idea of the conditions and situations of personal existence, students, and educational institutions (Christopher, 2018).

Thus, educational psychology is a branch of psychology that studies and understands the characteristics and behavior of students and teachers and the activities that occur in the educational process. As for educational psychology, according to leading psychology, Lindgreen said that the purpose of educational psychology is to help teachers and the future development of teachers in understanding the educational process best. Meanwhile, according to Bernad, educational psychology aims to understand how the teaching and learning process is in a more effective and targeted way.

According to the two expert opinions presented above, studying educational psychology aims to help students reach their full potential to learn effectively, enhance learning, and offer support and guidance. It also aims to encourage teachers to comprehend and study educational psychology so they can facilitate effective and optimal learning. Therefore, the science of educational psychology is very important for teachers to help the teaching and learning process to be smooth and effective following learning objectives. Thus, it is necessary to have educational psychology for teachers and prospective teachers.

Thus, teachers will better learn, know and understand the stage of students' development based on their level of education. As we know, before psychology entered the world of education, teachers only mastered learning materials. It is a condition that a teacher and prospective teacher must meet. Many assume that before psychology contributed to education, teachers had not entirely taught well. In conclusion, it is good if the teachers know students' personalities, attitudes, and interests; know how to overcome every problem in learning; use methods and media that follow the subject matter, and prepare learning plans. Nevertheless, teachers must also work with students to optimally carry out learning. The existence of educational psychology is to apply a learning process that can make it easier for teachers to teach. Thus, with the existence of educational psychology, teachers can find out an overview of the state of an educational institution and the personality of students.

B. Definition of Learning

Study and learning are two things that are interrelated with each other that cannot be separated in the educational process. The interaction between teachers and students is a form of the educational process that can be said to be study and learning. A process that can regulate the teaching and learning process and the environment of students so that it can motivate students is the essence of learning.

The learning process provides direction, guidance, and assistance to students. The number of problems for students is very contrary to the role of the teacher as a guide. In learning, of course, there are many differences, such as students who can digest the subject matter and those who are slow to digest the subject matter. These two differences cause teachers to be required to be able to set strategies in learning that follow the circumstances of each student. Learning is essentially an effort, a process of change that occurs in individuals due to experience or interaction with their environment (Fakhrurrazi, 2018). In other words, a learning is an arrangement for a person to change situations and conditions.

The existence of a learning process characterizes purpose-conscious interaction through educational interactions that occur. If learning proceeds through certain stages, it is learning that does not occur immediately, namely the interaction of teachers in learning activities paedagogically in the students, proceeding systematically through the stages of design, implementation, and evaluation. In learning, teachers facilitate students so that they can learn well. As expected, this interaction will produce an effective learning process (Hanafy, 2014).

Oeamar Hamalik stated that learning is a combination of human elements: students and teachers; materials such as books, blackboards, chalk, and learning tools; facilities such as rooms and audio-visual classes; and procedures that interact with one another to accomplish learning objectives (Hamalik, 2011). In simple terms, learning is the continuous interaction of development and life experiences. Meanwhile, it is an aspect that cannot be fully explained in a complex activity. According to Trianto, the essence of learning is an effort by a prospective teacher and teacher to provide a learning process to students and guide and direct student interaction with other learning resources so that learning objectives can be achieved.

Based on the description and explanation above, it is clear that learning is a two-way interaction between teachers and students. There is direct communication toward the target set. Thus, it can be concluded that learning is a process to help students learn well, acquire knowledge, and form attitudes of students who are guided and directed by the teacher. Previously, the above has also been mentioned about the differences between each student. Therefore, by understanding and studying educational psychology, teachers can provide or direct students based on their characteristics and personalities because it is very influential in the learning process to be successful and achieve goals. Good learning is learning that can achieve the objectives of learning itself. Thus, teachers not only transfer knowledge but also know the interests and attitudes of students in the learning process.

C. The Importance of Educational Psychology for Teachers

The field of education requires knowledge of psychology since the field of education is faced with behavioral characteristics, personality, attitudes, interests, motivations, attention, perceptions, thinking abilities, intelligence, fantasy, and other psychological aspects that vary from student to student. For the learning process to be successful, every teacher in the classroom who plays the role of educator and teacher must understand the different psychological characteristics of students. By understanding the psychological characteristics of each student, school teachers will be able to carry out personalized learning based on the psychological characteristics of students (Haryadi & Cludia, 2021).

In every educational institution, the teacher has never thoroughly studied educational psychology. As we have mentioned above, there are still teachers who have never studied educational psychology at the high school or *Madrasah Aliyah* level and can only be studied at the college level. However, there are still some teachers who have not applied educational psychology to students at all. In fact, teachers need to understand students through educational psychology to achieve a good and effective learning process goal.

Many teachers still use only the lecture method for learning. However, many methods can still be used, not just lectures. Therefore, students must pay attention and listen to the lesson with focus and good. Students are also required to memorize a certain lesson. Thus, learners are required to be obedient to the teacher. The learner will get punishment, such as memorizing the lesson while standing in front of the class, if they refuse to do what the teacher requests.

This kind of thing is said to use the theory of behaviorism still. In fact, the science of educational psychology must have been mastered and owned by teachers to properly and effectively educate students in the teaching and learning process properly and effectively. As we know, the science of educational psychology is very important for teachers. It also has a crucial role in establishing or organizing education in schools, colleges, and others. Meanwhile, the psychological principles of educational activities are all things that regulate all activities in the educational process, be it accepting students, planning education, curriculum, administration, subject matter, and teaching and learning processes.

Therefore, the principles of psychology above are needed, and the professionalism of teachers who are competent in the teaching and learning process and able to apply educational psychology in schools is needed. Teachers who are professional in carrying out the learning process and applying educational psychology in learning can take responsibility for the tasks set as teachers. Meanwhile, in reality, in the field, there are still teachers who do not understand and know and learn the science of educational psychology.

However, such a thing does not mean that teachers cannot teach well. It is just that teachers teach with limited knowledge.

All of these make prospective teachers and teachers demanded and required to study educational psychology for the convenience of students in learning and to achieve good learning goals. Usually, students are used as objects of education, while teachers as subjects of education are the teachers who teach them who have never studied educational psychology. In fact, not all students with normal circumstances. There are also those with special needs who need education as well. In this case, it will not be easy for teachers who do not understand educational psychology to carry out the learning process. Also, sometimes teachers only accept the normal ones, while those with special needs are not accepted. Due to the lack of knowledge about educational psychology, teachers think that students with special needs do not seem to deserve a good education. It happened in ancient times before educational psychology developed.

The core problem of educational psychology lies in students because education is the treatment of students who, psychologically, must be in harmony with their situation (Umi Kulsum, 2021). Teachers should not only give knowledge but must pay attention to how to educate students well. Thus, students who are normal or abnormal or have special needs do not feel distinguished, and all of them are entitled to a proper education according to the characteristics of their respective students.

The benefits of studying educational psychology for teachers are: a) giving teachers an understanding of every difference that exists in students, b) creating an effective and conducive learning process in the classroom and related matters in the learning process, c) choosing the right learning strategies and methods, d) providing guidance and direction to students, e) evaluating learning outcomes, interaction with students, learning outcomes, learning objectives, learning media, learning schedules, and f) guiding the learning process of students and provide facilities (Irham & Ardi Wiyani, 2013).

Based on the above explanation, teachers need to study educational psychology. Thus, it can create good, effective, and smooth learning conditions in the learning process, either in or outside the classroom. Although they have different characteristics, understanding educational psychology can easily overcome differences in students' character and create effective and smooth learning. Studying educational psychology for educators/teachers can solve the problems faced during the learning process.

The strategies, methods, and learning methods that teachers can use when teaching students with low interest and motivation to learn are the Active Student Learning Method method which uses the Process Skills Approach, constructivist approach, discussion method, cooperative learning method,

discovery and inquiry learning method, Contextual Teaching Learning method, experimental method, and various methods, strategies, and approaches to learning that demand student learning activities in following the learning process in the classroom, in the laboratory and other places of learning (Dewi, 2021).

In addition, the factors of learning strategies, approaches, and methods must concern teachers. Psychological characteristics that reflect students' personalities and behaviors in the classroom must also be taken into account by teachers in order to adapt their learning to the personality and behavioral characteristics that students possess. It will ensure that the teaching is accomplished following the interests and needs of the students, as the job of an educator involves more than just creating teaching materials and presenting them (Umi Kulsum, 2021). As such, Muhibbin Syah said that among the important roles of educators is to study and understand applied psychology which is closely related to the learning process (Supriyanto, 2017).

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION

Conclusion

Based on the description above about the importance of educational psychology for teachers, psychology cannot be neglected by educators in the learning process because it has an important role in understanding the heterogeneity of students in the classroom. In addition, it is also essential to achieve the expected learning goals because teachers can easily find and apply suitable learning methods and strategies to help achieve learning objectives.

Implication

As educators, teachers must understand educational psychology to help achieve learning objectives by studying student character. Teachers must not only teach well but also prepare plans and strategies for the learning process to get learning objectives to work well. Besides being a teacher who provides knowledge, teachers must be able to provide direction and guidance to students by understanding each characteristic of the learner. Therefore, teachers and prospective teachers must also overcome students with different personalities to learn and achieve educational goals effectively.

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