

The Strategic Role of Classroom Management in Improving Student Learning Achievement

Allysha Syatifa Fitriana

Universitas Singaperbangsa Karawang

e-mail: allyshasyatifaf@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Issues in classroom management often arise due to a lack of student discipline, challenges in teacher authority, and external factors such as social problems faced by students. These can disrupt the smooth flow of the learning process and reduce its effectiveness. This study aims to analyze effective classroom management strategies and identify obstacles that may affect the success of learning. The method used in this study is a literature review, which examines various references related to classroom management, including theories, strategies, and challenges faced by teachers in practice. The findings show that effective classroom management requires the implementation of varied strategies, such as developing lesson plans that align with the curriculum, applying good communication both verbal and non-verbal, and gaining a deep understanding of students' character and background. Additionally, teachers need to apply the appropriate approach to address discipline issues, such as providing guidance, arranging seating, and offering praise or sanctions accordingly. In conclusion, the success of classroom management heavily depends on the collaboration between teachers, students, educational institutions, parents, and the community, in creating an environment that supports the success of learning and the holistic development of students.



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INTRODUCTION

The strategic role of classroom management is closely linked to improving student academic performance. Effective classroom management not only regulates classroom order and creates a conducive learning atmosphere but also builds healthy interpersonal relationships between students and teachers, as well as between students themselves. Additionally, it fosters an environment conducive to both academic and socio-emotional development. Quality education, as previously explained, requires optimal human preparation and development, and teachers, as the implementers of education, play a crucial role in this. Good classroom management helps teachers manage time, resources, and the teaching and learning process more effectively, allowing students to focus better and actively engage in lessons. With structured classroom management, teachers can create a classroom environment that supports students' social and emotional development, which, in turn, influences their academic performance. For example, proper seating arrangements, group discussions, and the management of conflicts among students can enhance collaboration and communication within the class, which are key factors in the learning process.

Good classroom management plays a key role in creating a safe and enjoyable environment, where students feel comfortable and motivated to learn. When students feel valued and understood by their teacher, they are more likely to achieve higher performance. Thus, strategic classroom management not only influences practical aspects of learning but also impacts students' psychological and emotional aspects, which significantly affect the improvement of their academic achievements. Additionally, through effective classroom management, teachers can utilize various learning approaches and strategies that accommodate the learning needs of each student, whether they are fast learners or those requiring more intensive approaches. By giving appropriate attention to each student, teachers can help them reach their full potential, which will reflect in improved academic performance.

The goal of national education is to develop the full potential of students to become individuals who are faithful and devoted to God Almighty, have noble character, are knowledgeable, capable, independent, creative, and are democratic and responsible citizens. Education plays a very important role, especially for developing countries like Indonesia, which is currently focusing on both physical and non-physical development, including the education sector. Schools are formal educational institutions for students, and the success of education heavily depends on what happens in schools. One of the main components in education is the teacher, who plays a significant role in determining how far education can develop and succeed. In the learning process, teachers need to plan and decide how the learning components will be implemented to teach students in the classroom, including classroom management. The teaching and learning process in the classroom is greatly influenced by how the classroom is managed. Good and effective classroom management will certainly have a positive impact on the learning process. However, it is often found that students feel bored during learning. This boredom can be caused by material that they are not interested in, the teacher's delivery method being unengaging, or an uncomfortable classroom environment. These factors often lead to students lacking interest and motivation to learn.

Learning interest is the natural drive within an individual to engage in learning activities (F. Al Fahmi & L. Hadi, 2022). When students have an interest in learning, they will feel more comfortable and enthusiastic about participating in the learning process in the classroom. Therefore, teachers play an important role in fostering students' learning interest. One way to cultivate this interest is by managing the classroom effectively. Effective classroom management not only creates a conducive environment but also enhances students' motivation and engagement in learning. Teachers who understand and implement the right classroom management strategies can influence students' perspectives on learning and encourage them to be more active in the educational process. In the teaching and learning process, a teacher is not only responsible for transferring knowledge but is also expected to manage the students' overall condition. This management involves applying various approaches aimed at encouraging students to take an active role in learning activities. As stated by Juhji in Nugraha (2018), a teacher needs to apply approaches that enable students to actively participate and explore their own potential.

The basic principles of student management emphasize the importance of the active role of students in the educational process. Students should be treated as subjects who play a significant role in learning, rather than mere objects who only receive information. Therefore, they need to be encouraged to participate in the planning and decision-making processes related to their activities. Additionally, the diverse conditions of students, including physical, intellectual, social, economic, and interest factors, require a variety of activities that accommodate these differences and support the development of each student according to their potential. Students' motivation to learn is also strongly influenced by their interest in the material being taught, so relevant and engaging lessons can enhance students' interest in learning. Furthermore, the development of students' motivation should involve cognitive, affective, and psychomotor aspects, all of which contribute to shaping students' attitudes and skills holistically. As stated by Mulyadi in Nugraha (2018), classroom management is an essential skill that teachers must possess, including the ability to understand, diagnose, decide, and act to create a dynamic classroom atmosphere. Thus, teachers are not only responsible for the teaching process but also for managing the development of students so that they can achieve their life goals optimally.

In the classroom, a teacher has two main tasks: teaching and classroom management. Teaching activities fundamentally involve organizing and structuring the learning environment around students. On the other hand, classroom management goes beyond just the physical arrangement of the classroom or daily routines; it focuses more on creating and maintaining a conducive atmosphere so that the learning process can take place effectively and efficiently. The importance of classroom management becomes more apparent as student behavior tends to change over time. Today, students may be able to learn calmly and stay focused, but tomorrow, the classroom environment could become less conducive. For instance, healthy competition among student groups today could shift to unhealthy competition in the future. Therefore, classrooms are always dynamic, with changes in student behavior, attitudes, mentality, and emotions that need to be managed wisely by teachers to ensure the creation of a learning environment that supports students' development to the fullest.

Based on the background outlined earlier, it can be identified that classroom management and teaching skills are closely related to both the process and outcomes of learning in schools. Effective classroom management can create a conducive learning environment, which in turn will enhance the quality of teaching and the results achieved by students. On the other hand, the teacher's ability to teach also affects how the material is delivered, how students engage in the learning process, and how interactions in the classroom unfold. These two aspects complement each other and are key factors in creating a successful and meaningful learning experience for students. This phenomenon is the primary reason why the author is interested in conducting further research on the implementation of classroom management to improve the learning process in a junior high school in Karawang. This research aims to explore how classroom management is implemented by teachers at this school and the extent to which it impacts the quality of learning. By analyzing the classroom management practices applied, this study hopes to provide insights into best practices that teachers can adapt to create a more effective learning environment.

In addition, this study will also explore the role of teachers in creating a learning environment that supports student motivation, enhances positive interactions, and optimizes students' potential in learning. It is hoped that the results of this study will provide a tangible contribution to the development of better classroom management strategies that directly impact the improvement of education quality in junior high schools. Therefore, this research is not only relevant to the school in question but can also serve as a reference for other educational institutions in implementing more effective classroom management.

RESEARCH METHODS

The method applied in this study is a qualitative approach. A qualitative method is used because it prioritizes in-depth descriptions of the phenomenon being studied, where the data obtained will be presented in the form of narrative words that describe the reality in the field. This approach allows the researcher to understand the social, cultural, or situational context of events in a more holistic way. By using this method, the data produced is not only in the form of numbers or statistics, but also provides information that offers a clear picture of the condition being analyzed. The data collection techniques used in this study involve two main methods: literature review and interviews. The literature review technique is conducted by examining and studying various relevant sources, including previous articles related to the topic discussed in this research. The author gathers various references that include theories and previous findings, which can support the understanding of the topic being investigated. These sources provide a strong theoretical foundation to strengthen the arguments and analysis results that will be presented in the study. The literature review also enables the researcher to identify gaps in existing research and establish the context of the study within the broader body of knowledge.

The second method, interviews, is employed to gain insights directly from individuals who are involved in or have knowledge about the subject matter. This technique helps capture firsthand experiences, perspectives, and opinions that are not readily available in existing literature. Interviews can provide richer, more nuanced data, and enable the researcher to delve deeper into the views and motivations of the participants. The combination of both methods allows for triangulation, which enhances the validity and credibility of the research findings. Overall, the qualitative approach provides a comprehensive understanding of the topic being studied by exploring it from multiple perspectives, using diverse data sources, and interpreting the findings within the context of real-world situations. This method allows for a more thorough analysis of complex phenomena that cannot be fully captured through quantitative measures alone.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Classroom management plays a key role in enhancing students' interest and academic performance. In the interviews conducted, the informants emphasized that classroom management is a strategic element that significantly influences how teachers organize the classroom, both administratively and practically. With effective management, teachers can perform their roles as educators, facilitators, and learning managers in a more structured and efficient way. This aligns with the opinion of Suhaebah in Maylitha, E., et al. (2023), who states that good student organization has a positive impact on the smoothness of the teaching and learning process, one of which is through the

provision of adequate teaching tools. Therefore, good classroom management is expected to enhance students' interest in learning, which ultimately contributes to their academic achievement. Furthermore, effective classroom management is closely related to the provision of adequate facilities to support learning, such as desks, chairs, and other teaching aids (F. Al Fahmi & L. Hadi, 2022). In this regard, providing appropriate infrastructure will ensure comfort and smoothness in students' learning activities. A well-organized classroom can create a conducive atmosphere, where students feel comfortable and can focus on following lessons. Orderliness and a supportive environment in the classroom are crucial in maintaining students' motivation, as a pleasant and well-structured classroom tends to increase their interest in participating actively in learning.

Optimal classroom management not only helps create a positive learning environment but also plays a role in building better relationships between teachers and students. A teacher who understands the characteristics of students, both individually and in groups, can more easily identify the challenges students face and provide appropriate solutions. This creates a more inclusive and relevant learning process for all students, which, in turn, encourages them to be more enthusiastic about learning. Overall, effective classroom management has a direct impact on student learning outcomes. With an organized environment, adequate facilities, and an adaptive approach to students' needs, good classroom management can create conditions that enable students to reach their full potential, both in terms of learning interest and academic achievement.

Classroom management plays a crucial role in ensuring that the learning process runs effectively and that learning goals can be achieved. One important aspect of classroom management is strategic seating arrangements. With a well-organized seating arrangement, interaction between active and passive students can be fostered, which in turn can motivate less active students to become more involved in the learning activities. This contributes to creating a livelier dynamic in the classroom, which can increase participation and learning outcomes. In addition to seating arrangements, other supporting factors such as relevant and engaging teaching materials also play an important role in the smoothness of the learning process. Teaching materials that are aligned with learning objectives and appealing to students can enhance their interest and involvement in lessons. Adequate infrastructure, such as comfortable classrooms, sufficient learning tools, and other facilities, also supports the effectiveness of learning. With these adequate facilities, teachers can manage the teaching process more easily and provide a better learning experience for students.

According to Warsono in Maylitha et al. (2023), effective classroom management is influenced by both internal and external factors. Internal factors include emotions, behavior, and personality traits of the students, which can affect how they interact and engage in learning. External factors are related to the physical environment of the classroom, student grouping, and the number of students in the class. These two factors interact with each other and have a significant impact on the success of classroom management. Therefore, it is important for teachers to understand the individual characteristics of students and the overall classroom conditions in order to develop appropriate lesson plans, organize seating effectively, and implement open and productive communication. The classroom management strategies implemented by teachers should be able to create a conducive learning atmosphere. This may include various approaches, such as providing clear directions, fostering active two-way communication, and monitoring student progress during the learning process. By managing the classroom well, teachers can not only increase student interest and motivation but also ensure that each student has the opportunity to learn in a way that suits their needs.



Picture 1 Classroom management learning documentation

Classroom management strategies implemented by teachers can vary significantly depending on the needs and situation of the class. One key approach is to design a lesson plan that aligns with the applicable curriculum, ensuring that the material being taught is relevant and comprehensible for the students. In addition, teachers may also engage students in learning activities outside the classroom, which not only provides variety in teaching methods but also allows students to connect theory with the reality of the world around them. Understanding the character and background of students is another important aspect, as this helps teachers tailor their teaching methods to meet the individual needs of students, ultimately facilitating the learning process.

Communication, both verbal and non-verbal, is also a crucial element in classroom management. Effective communication can help build better relationships between teachers and students, as well as encourage active participation from students in every learning activity. For example, a teacher's open, expressive attitude and ability to read students' body language can encourage students to engage more in discussions and classroom activities. However, in practice, classroom management does not always run smoothly. Various obstacles may arise, such as a lack of discipline from students who frequently disrupt the learning process, issues with the teacher's authority in enforcing rules, and challenges from external environments, including students' social factors or insufficient parental support.

These obstacles can hinder the effectiveness of learning and potentially reduce students' academic achievements. To address these issues, teachers need to implement appropriate strategies. One approach is to provide guidance to problematic students in a constructive manner, rather than using punishment, which could lower their motivation. Effective seating arrangements can also help create a more conducive environment, such as placing less active students near more active ones to encourage interaction. In addition, appreciating students who demonstrate positive behavior or applying appropriate sanctions for undisciplined students can promote better attitude changes. Furthermore, the role of educational institutions, parents, and the surrounding community is crucial in supporting classroom management. Educational institutions are responsible for creating a supportive environment, providing adequate facilities, and implementing policies that promote effective classroom management. Parents also play a role in educating students to become more disciplined and in supporting teachers in maintaining continuity of learning at home. Finally, the community should also help address students' social issues, such as undesirable behavior outside of school. A strong collaboration between teachers, parents, and the community will create an educational ecosystem that supports students' academic achievements.

Thus, effective classroom management plays a strategic role in improving student learning achievements in schools, particularly at the junior high school level. Through structured and adaptive classroom management, along with support from various stakeholders, students will be more motivated to learn and can absorb learning material more effectively. As a result, learning objectives can be achieved, and student performance can improve significantly.

CONCLUSION

Effective classroom management requires the implementation of diverse strategies, such as developing lesson plans that align with the curriculum, encouraging students to learn outside the classroom, and understanding students' character and backgrounds. Good communication, both verbal and non-verbal, is also a key factor in promoting active student participation. However, various obstacles, such as student discipline issues, teacher authority, and challenges from the external environment, can affect the smoothness of the learning process. Therefore, teachers need to apply appropriate approaches to address these issues, such as providing guidance, arranging seating, and giving appropriate appreciation or sanctions. The role of educational institutions, parents, and the community is crucial in supporting good classroom management, especially in shaping student discipline and addressing social issues they face outside of school. Cooperation among these parties will create an environment that supports the success of learning and the holistic development of students.

To overcome these obstacles, teachers need to apply more diverse approaches, including providing guidance to problematic students, arranging seating to create more positive interactions in the classroom, and offering appropriate appreciation or sanctions to guide better behavior. Additionally, in a broader context, the role of educational institutions, parents, and the community is critical in supporting effective classroom management. Strong cooperation among these three parties will reinforce student discipline and help address social issues they may face outside of school, such as family problems or unsupportive social environments. With close collaboration, it is hoped that a conducive environment will be created for students to develop maximally, both academically and non-academically, which, in turn, will support the overall success of learning.

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