

Peers and Learning Motivation: The Key to Social Literacy in the Education Space

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Abstract

Learning motivation is a very influential aspect in improving student learning outcomes. The success of the teaching and learning process cannot be separated from the role of a teacher in motivating at the beginning of learning. The purpose of this research is to explore the role of peer interaction and learning motivation in enhancing students' social literacy within the educational environment, particularly at the elementary school level. The research method employed in this study is a qualitative approach, which emphasizes understanding social phenomena from the perspectives of the participants involved. The implementation of this Community Service activity focuses on providing literacy activities and the importance of peer interaction on student learning motivation, whose implementation is centered at Minasa Upa State Elementary School Makassar. This research activity greatly helped participants of this activity because participants gained additional knowledge related to literacy, the importance of peer interaction on student learning motivation, Peers and Learning Motivation: The Key to Social Literacy in the Education Space.

Keywords

Education; Elementary School; Learning Motivation; Peer Interaction; Students.



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INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the most important parts of the development of a nation [1]. Through character education, the younger generation can be formed to the maximum. National education has the goal of developing the potential of students to be able to become more human beings who have faith and devotion to God Almighty [2], as well as have noble character, know, be creative, independent, and can become a society that has a democratic and responsible spirit.

Education is an effort for humans that can guide so that humans can develop their abilities by applicable values, education is also an absolute need that must be fulfilled throughout life [3]. Every human being needs education wherever and whenever he is. Without education, a group of people can't live and develop in line with their aspirations (ideals) to progress, prosper and be happy according to the concept of their outlook on life (Cendiana, 2017).

The implementation and learning process in the classroom is greatly influenced by the role of teachers as educators in improving student motivation and learning outcomes. Motivation can be interpreted as an energy that encourages students to continue to be active and serious in learning [5], [6]. Learning motivation is divided into two: intrinsic motivation, which is the motivation contained in students (individuals). Meanwhile, extrinsic motivation is the motivation that comes from outside the student [7] [8].

Peer social interaction is one example of extrinsic motivation from outside the student. Peers have almost the same position, age, status, and mindset. Blazevic says that peers are a social group of people of the same age or maturity.¹ Peers are the second social group in a person's life where they can learn to work together and help each other (Nihayah, Ulin, Misya'lul Millah Ummul Latifah, 2022) [10].

Peers can provide a positive boost to students' behavior and learning success. An individual's social behavior will be visible when interacting with peers, resulting in a consistent and stable pattern of behavior that can be used in different social situations. Social behavior is the same behavior individuals exhibit when interacting with others. According to Bima Walgito, one factor that affects social behavior is peers. The formation of peer groups is one of the characteristics of this age group. Loyalty to peers becomes stronger than loyalty to family (Nihayah, Ulin, Misya'lul Millah Ummul Latifah, 2022).

The purpose of this research is to explore the role of peer interaction and learning motivation in enhancing students' social literacy within the educational environment, particularly at the elementary school level. By focusing on how peers influence motivation and contribute to the development of positive social behavior, this study aims to provide a deeper understanding of the extrinsic factors that support student learning. The findings are expected to benefit educators by offering insights into strategies that can be implemented to foster collaborative learning environments, improve student engagement, and ultimately enhance educational outcomes through strengthened peer relationships and increased motivation.

METHOD

The research method employed in this study is a qualitative approach, which emphasizes understanding social phenomena from the perspectives of the participants involved. This method was chosen to explore and describe in depth the efforts undertaken to enhance peer interaction among students at SD Negeri Minasa Upa Makassar. The qualitative method enables the researchers to capture the complexity of human behavior and the context in which it occurs. Data collection was conducted through various techniques including lectures, demonstrations, discussions, and question-and-answer sessions. These methods allowed for the exploration of participants' experiences, perceptions, and attitudes toward peer interactions within the learning environment.

Specifically, lectures and discussions were utilized to equip partners with the necessary knowledge about the role of peers in educational settings. To develop the partners' ability to interact effectively with peers, demonstrations were combined with discussions and interactive question-and-answer sessions, encouraging active engagement and reflective thinking. Moreover, in order to improve peer interactions in actual learning activities, focused discussions and question-and-answer sessions were employed to stimulate collaborative learning and mutual understanding. Through this qualitative approach, the research aimed to produce a rich, detailed understanding of how these methods support the development of interpersonal skills among students.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Activities that aim to provide knowledge about peer interaction and increase familiarity between peers in learning and existing social interactions so that they have an impact on increasing learning motivation.

This activity was attended by 24 students who were training participants. The community service activity team presented material using powerpoint slide media accompanied by discussion or question-and-answer activities with students. The material provided in the implementation of service activities can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Peer Training Materials

Activities	Training Materials
	Peers
	Types of peer groups

Peer interaction
Factors that affect peer relationships
Learning motivation
Intrinsic motivation
Extrinsic motivation

Table 2. Materials for the Implementation of Peer Interaction

Activities	Material
II	Exercise 1 is in the form of: Selection of peer counselors
III	Exercise 2 is in the form of: Tutor training or peer mentoring
III	Exercise 3 is: Using conditional formatting Using cell styles Setting row height and column width

Table 1 and Table 2 show the training materials provided, ranging from a basic understanding of peers, Peers refer to individuals in the same age group or status, often with similar interests, backgrounds, or experiences. Peers have closeness in age, social circumstances, and common interests[5].

Interaction with peers significantly influences an individual's social, emotional, and cognitive development, especially during the development of children and adolescents. Here are some key points about peers: Importance in Social Development: Peers help individuals learn about social norms, share values, and build communication and social interaction skills. Emotional Support: Relationships with peers can be an important source of emotional support, helping to cope with challenges and stresses that may be faced. Influence on Identity Formation: In adolescence, peers have a strong role in shaping an individual's identity. They often influence how individuals see themselves and determine interests, lifestyles, and values. Honing Social Skills: Through interactions with peers, individuals learn to communicate, work together, resolve conflicts, and form healthy relationships. Influence in Education: Peers can also influence attitudes towards school and learning. Positive interactions with peers in education can increase learning motivation and academic performance [11].

Relationships with peers not only affect social life but also relate to the development of the individual as a whole. Therefore, it is important for individuals, especially children and adolescents, to have a supportive and healthy social environment with positive interactions with their peers [12], [13].

Peer interactions can vary according to the context and purpose of the interaction. Here are some common types of peer interactions: Socialization: This is the most common type among peers. Through socialization, individuals learn social norms, rules, and values accepted by their peer group. Emotional Support: Peers often provide emotional support to each other. They can be a place to vent, provide support when there is a problem, or help in situations that require emotional help. Collaboration and Cooperation: This interaction involves working together to achieve a common goal. Whether in a school project, sports, art, or other activities, peers can collaborate to achieve better outcomes. Influence and Peer Pressure: Peers can also have a significant influence in making decisions or taking action. Sometimes, peer pressure can be positive or negative, depending on the situation. Role Model: Peers can be powerful role models. They can provide examples of specific behaviors, ways of thinking, or interests that affect others in their group. Friendship: This is the most intimate interaction between peers. Friendship encompasses a strong, trusting, and caring emotional bond between individuals and others in their group [14], [15].

Each type of peer interaction has its role and influence on individual development. The combination of these different types of interactions forms a complex social environment and plays an important role in the formation of individual social identity, values, and development [16]. Types of peer interaction that have a strong influence on learning motivation and academic achievement and are provided with training on the material that has been presented [17]. The purpose of providing exercises is to provide understanding or reinforcement related to the material being taught.

CONCLUSION

Implementing literacy activities on the importance of peer interaction on students' learning motivation focuses on training how peers provide encouragement and motivation to other students, become models or examples of behavior for other students, become agents of socialization, and teach social skills to other students.

The implementation of activities can run smoothly according to the previously prepared plan. This activity greatly helps participants of this activity because participants gain additional knowledge related to the importance of interaction with peers in increasing learning motivation. This can be seen from the results of

observations carried out intensively before and after the program's implementation; there is an increase in learning motivation with positive interaction with peers so that literacy in the educational space can be achieved optimally.

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