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The Analysis of Learning Process of Formal Junior High School Education and Non Formal Paket B Education at Gunungsitoli

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Abstract:
This study aims to determine and describe the learning process in the Paket B education program, as well as the differences between Junior High School and the Paket B education program. This research was conducted at PKBMs that implement the Paket B Program in Gunungsitoli City, consisting of PKBM Ziona, PKBM Pelita Bangsa, PKBM Kreasi, and PKBM Perjuangan. The research method used was a qualitative descriptive approach. Data was collected through observation, interviews, and documentation. The results show that the learning process in Paket B consists of 3 types, namely, Independent, Tutorial, and Face-to-Face, and there are differences in the learning process between SMP and Paket B in Gunungsitoli city, such as the characteristics of students, facilities and resources, learning schedules, teaching methods, and examinations carried out. In addition, there are also similarities between these two institutions, such as the curriculum used, which is the national curriculum, and the diploma issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture, which means that Paket B is recognized and has the exact legality of junior high school. The learning process in junior high school tends to be more structured and formal, while in Paket B, it is more flexible and individualized to suit the students. Efforts are needed to integrate the advantages of each learning system to create a more effective learning environment for all learners in each education unit.

Keywords: Junior High School, Paket B, Learning Process

Introduction

Education is an activity to acquire knowledge, skills, abilities, to build attitudes and behaviors useful in the development of students in order to improve the quality of the nation as a whole. Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that learning citizens actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and hone skills. Pusat Kegiatan Belajar Masyarakat (PKBM), is an institution formed for the community engaged in Non Formal education. PKBM is still under the supervision and guidance of the National Education Office. The Pusat Kegiatan Belajar Masyarakat (PKBM) implements various programs and services such as Equivalency Education, Paket A equivalent to elementary school, Paket B equivalent to Junior High School and Paket C equivalent to high school, pre-school, courses and vocational training. The Paket B program is an education program equivalent to the Junior High School (SMP) level in the formal school sector. Non formal education that provided equivalency education services for the Paket A Program equivalent to elementary school, Paket B Program equivalent to junior high school and Paket C Program equivalent to high school, with an emphasis on increasing the ability of knowledge, skills, personality attitude development to learning citizens. This program is one of the government's education programs intended for people whose were less or unable to send their children to school for various reasons.

In practice, the implementation of non-formal education is carried out to achieve national education goals through several programs. So that researcher was interested in knowing how the learning process is and what are the differences between formal school SMP and Equivalency Education Paket B. The subjects of this research were the head of the PKBM education in Gunungsitoli and the junior secondary school subject teachers. An in-depth understanding of the differences in the learning process between junior high school and equivalent education Paket B will provide valuable insights for educators and other education stakeholders.
By understanding the differences in learning processes between these two types of educational institutions, it is possible to identify areas where one type of educational institution may have certain advantages or disadvantages. This information can be used to improve education policy and allocate resources more efficiently to improve the learning process in both types of educational institutions.

This research was also important because it can help improve educational inclusion. Paket B equivalent education is often an option for those who cannot attend formal junior high school for various reasons, such as financial limitations or limited learning opportunities. By understanding the differences in the learning process between these two types of education institutions, strategies can be identified to improve access and quality of education for students who may face barriers to formal junior high school.

Literature Review

The learning process is a series of activities that occur between educators, students, and the learning environment in an educational context, which aims to facilitate understanding, mastery, and application of knowledge and skills in achieving optimal learning outcomes. Formal education is education that is carried out through educational channels in schools. This pathway has a coherent and clear level of education. Formal education, starting from basic education, continues to secondary to higher education. Schools, which are formal channels in the education system, have a very large share to contribute to the achievement of national education goals. Because the curricula used are designed in such a way with various experiments or special studies to formulate them (Haerullah and Elihami, 2020).
Equivalency Education Paket B is a non-formal education program equivalent to the Junior High School (SMP) level in Indonesia. The program is designed to provide individuals, especially those who are hampered by economic, time, or social factors, with the opportunity to obtain relevant education. With a curriculum similar to junior high school, as well as flexibility in implementation, Paket B allows participants to acquire basic knowledge and skills. Graduates of this program receive a recognized certificate, opening up opportunities to continue their education to a higher level or improve their quality of life.

Research Method

This research was conducted using qualitative research with descriptive methods. According to Creswel (Kusumastuti et al, 2019: 2) qualitative research involves important efforts, such as asking questions, procedures, collecting data from participants, analyzing data, and interpreting the meaning of data In this study, researchers used descriptive qualitative to find out how the learning process in Paket B and understand the differences in the learning process between junior high school and Paket B equivalency school in Gunungsitoli City. By using descriptive qualitative methods, researchers will analyze and provide explanations and descriptions in the form of words and sentences that will be arranged in accordance with the results of the research that has been conducted.

Results

Based on the research results, there are three learning processes in non-formal education Paket B, namely, independent learninhg, tutorial, and face-to-face which are carried out by each institution with an agreement between tutors and students at each learning meeting. The presence of non-formal education Paket B

equivalent to formal junior high school is an alternative for people who have dropped out of school to continue their education. These two institutions have differences such as in terms of the characteristics of students, existing facilities, learning processes, and challenges faced by tutors and teachers. Of course, in terms of these differences, there are also similarities, namely that both institutions use the national curriculum and the legality of diplomas from both non-formal education Paket B is recognized as equivalent to formal junior high school.

Discussion

There are 3 learning processes in Paket B education, namely:

1. Independent Learning: Independent learning in the context of equivalency education refers to a learning process where students are actively involved in learning activities without direct supervision from teachers or tutors continuously. Students have the initiative to manage their research time and research the material that has been delivered or sent by the tutor.
2. Tutorial Learning: The tutorial learning process is learning that helps students with subjects studied in a tutorial manner, both in terms of material and questions. The tutorial learning process is, the tutor sends a video tutorial discussing questions or materials to students sent by the tutor via digital media.
3. Face to Face Learning: The face-to-face learning process is learning that is carried out directly to students at the learning location.

In this research, there are differences between Formal Junior High School Education and Equivalency Education Paket B. In terms of the characteristics of students, in junior high school students are limited in age from 13-15 while Paket B has no age limit, in terms of facilities in junior high school complete facilities such as libraries, teaching aids, computer labs and others while in Paket B it is adjusted to the needs of students, then in terms of the learning process, In junior high school, the learning process has been determined by the academic calendar while in Paket B it is adjusted to the time of students and tutors, meaning that the learning time is flexible, then in the challenges faced by teachers, in junior high school the challenges faced are more varied such as the use of technology, more interesting teaching methods, while in Paket B the main challenge faced is the existence of several different age categories ranging from young to adult. Both programs still have the same goal of achieving national education standards. SMP has a more organized structure and complete facilities, while Paket B is more flexible and adjusts to the needs of students. The challenges in implementing both programs are also different, but with the right approach, Equivalency Education Paket B can provide equal results for its participants.

Conclusion

From the results of the research, it can be concluded that there are significant differences in the learning process between junior high schools and Paket B in Gunungsitoli city. The learning process in junior high schools tends to be more structured and formal, while in Paket B it is more flexible and individual. The discussion of the results of this research shows the importance of understanding the differences in the learning process between junior high schools and Paket B to improve the quality of education in both types of schools. Efforts are needed to integrate the advantages of each learning system in order to create a more effective and inclusive learning environment for all students.

Paket B education is here to be an alternative for those who drop out of school or are elderly. Graduates of equivalency education according to what informants told researchers, some have worked as village officials, opened their own businesses and were accepted at work, because the diploma from Paket B is equivalent to junior high school and is recognized by other institutions because it is issued by the Ministry of Education

and Culture. The presence of Paket B Equivalency Education has the same goal as formal education, namely to educate the nation's life.

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