



The Impact of Lack of School Facilities and Infrastructure in Supporting Gross Motor Development

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ABSTRACT

School facilities encompass everything that supports and facilitates the learning process, acting as the means and infrastructure needed to support various educational activities. Given that facilities and infrastructure are crucial factors influencing child development, the provision and use of learning facilities must align with teaching methods, assessment systems, student interests, and teacher competencies. In this study, researchers found a kindergarten that faced deficiencies in terms of facilities and infrastructure, which affected the development of the school in fulfilling both student and educator needs. These deficiencies were reflected in the research findings, which indicated that several aspects were not yet fulfilled in the kindergarten

INTRODUCTION

Student development is a process of alternating changes that include increasing emotions, skills, and abilities that are always in progress until the child reaches the age of 0-6 years (Arifin Muhamad). The golden age is an important period in a child's development that occurs from birth to around six years of age. Children experience a period of extraordinary physical, motoric, emotional, cognitive, and psychosocial development at this age. Early childhood development involves various aspects, such as physical, social, emotional, and cognitive, which are divided into more specific categories by some experts (Muhammad et al., 2023). School facilities include everything that supports and facilitates the learning process and functions as the facilities and infrastructure needed to support educational activities. Because facilities and infrastructure greatly affect student learning outcomes, the provision and utilization of services available to support learning must be adjusted to learning methods, assessment systems, student interests, and teacher competencies (Muhammad et al., 2023).

Facilities refer to anything that is used directly to support certain activities or processes, such as tools or equipment needed to achieve a goal. Meanwhile, infrastructure is a basic facility or infrastructure that is the main support in a system or activity. Infrastructure is more permanent and functions as a supporting basis so that facilities can be used optimally. Facilities are directly proportional to the quality of education (Lamadang & Falimu, 2021). The utilization of learning facilities must be carried out optimally by paying attention to the learning process that takes place in schools. In general, facilities that are in accordance with needs will support the effectiveness of student learning activities. Learning outcomes are the results of the learning process, namely the achievements obtained by students after going through a certain time in learning to achieve the goals that have been set (Arifin Muhammad, 2023).

In the world of education, there is hope to create individuals who are qualified, responsible, and able to contribute to future progress. Facilities are not everything that determines the success of education, but with good facilities the education process is easier (Lamadang et al., 2023) Education also plays a role in shaping the character of students to become dignified human beings in the civilization of a nation. The progress of a nation can be seen from how developed its education system is.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This is regulated in Law No. 20 of 2003 Article 3 concerning the National Education System, national education functions to develop skills, shape personality, and create a dignified national culture. The main purpose of education is to develop individual potential optimally so that they can become knowledgeable, characterful individuals who are able to contribute to society. Education does not only focus on academic aspects, but also includes moral, social, and life skills aspects. Therefore, to create quality human resources, education must be supported by modern and advanced facilities, which are able to provide positive encouragement for students to be more enthusiastic in learning (Muhammad et al., 2023).

METHODOLOGY

This study uses descriptive correlational techniques and quantitative methodology. This method is used to determine the relationship between the availability of school facilities and infrastructure and the development of students' gross motor skills. This research method is carried out through interviews and observations to understand the developments and problems that exist in Assa'adah Bangun Insan Kindergarten. The use of interview and observation methods was chosen because it can accommodate complex phenomena with a flexible and open approach, so that findings in the field can be clarified through direct interaction.

This study aims to uncover the problems studied, where the data collected is in the form of statements or information from respondents which are then analyzed in order to obtain research objectives (Arifin Muhammad, 2023). The location of our research is at Assa'adah Bangun Insan Kindergarten, Bunta 1 Village, on Monday, March 3, 2025.

In making this research, researchers accumulate data including:

1. Observation, observation is an observation and data collection by observing, where a researcher must really know the conditions in the errors and deficiencies that exist in the school.
2. Interview, Interview is a meeting of two people with questions and answers to share ideas and information, which have been prepared in advance and submitted systematically to respondents, so that certain objects can be given meaning.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Definition of Facilities, Means and Infrastructure

In the world of education, facilities, means, and infrastructure play an important role in supporting the learning process. The three are interrelated to create a conducive learning environment. School facilities are all forms of services, equipment, and resources provided by educational institutions to assist the teaching and learning process. These facilities include facilities and infrastructure that aim to improve the comfort and effectiveness of the education process. School facilities are all tools and materials that are specifically used during the education process.

These resources support educators and students in teaching and learning efforts. School infrastructure is a physical facility or infrastructure that supports the continuity of education, although it is not used directly in learning. This infrastructure functions as the main support in creating a comfortable learning environment. School facilities, means, and infrastructure are important elements in supporting the quality of education. Facilities are directly related to teaching and learning activities, while infrastructure plays a role as a supporter of a comfortable and conducive school environment. With adequate facilities, the learning process can run more effectively and enjoyably for students and educators.

A. Impact on Cognitive and Academic Abilities

Lack of facilities and infrastructure can hinder children's cognitive development. Limited teaching aids, story books, and interactive learning media can make it difficult for children to understand basic concepts such as colors, shapes, numbers, and letters. In addition, narrow and unattractive classrooms can also reduce the effectiveness of the learning process (Mulyasa, E., 2013).

B. Impact on Social and Emotional Development

Play facilities such as swings, slides, and other play areas play an important role in developing children's social skills. In Assa'adah Kindergarten, these facilities are available with a large yard, but when it rains during school hours, children cannot use them because the yard is not equipped with a roof or cover. As a result, they can only be in the classroom, which limits opportunities to interact and play with peers. The lack of adequate play space can also make children more passive and less confident in communicating (Suyanto, S. & Djihad, H., 2012).

C. Barriers to Motor Development and Creativity

Kindergartens should be an environment that supports the development of children's motor skills and creativity. Limited facilities, such as educational play equipment, art rooms, and musical instruments, can limit children's opportunities to explore their talents in art, music, and sports. The lack of these facilities can hinder the development of fine and gross motor skills which are very important in their growth (Santrock, J. W., 2011).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The lack of facilities and infrastructure in kindergartens has a broad impact on children's development, both in cognitive, social, health, and creativity aspects. This imbalance can hinder children from optimizing their potential during important periods in early development. Therefore, the provision and improvement of adequate school facilities must be a priority for the government, society, and related parties.

With adequate facilities, children can learn more comfortably and optimally. They will have a better chance to develop cognitive, social, and motor skills that are important for everyday life. In addition, a supportive environment can increase children's self-confidence and independence from an early age. Investing in early childhood education infrastructure is a strategic step in creating a smarter, healthier, and more creative generation in the future. Therefore, cooperation between schools, parents, government and the community is very important to build a conducive environment, quality learning for kindergarten children.

FURTHER STUDY

1. The government should increase the budget allocation for the development and maintenance of kindergarten school facilities and infrastructure in order to create a more conducive learning environment.
2. Schools need to innovate in utilizing existing facilities effectively, including making simple teaching aids that can be used in learning.
3. Parents and the community are expected to participate in supporting the development of school facilities, either through donations, community service, or participation in school programs.
4. Teachers and educators must be creative in developing learning methods that can overcome limited facilities, such as the use of learning media based on nature or the surrounding environment.

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