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Learning Styles of Students With Intellectual Disabilities

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ABSTRACT

Mental retardation is a child with special needs who has below average intelligence, namely between 50-70. They experience obstacles in carrying out activities. anything, especially in learning (Sefni, 2014). Learning style is the preferred way of carrying out activities of thinking, processing and understanding information. The benefit of this research is knowing the learning styles of mentally retarded children. Researchers conducted research with the aim of describing the learning styles of students with intellectual disability and knowing the difficulties of mentally retarded children in learning the material. The subjects of this research are mentally retarded children and teachers of mentally retarded children. The learning styles used by mentally retarded children are different. Some tend to be auditory and some tend to be visual depending on the type of mental retardation experienced. However, in determining the learning outcomes achieved by mentally retarded children through their learning styles, teachers experience a little difficulty. The intellectual abilities of mildly mentally retarded children are below average, making them experience learning difficulties and difficulties in receiving lessons, especially mathematics lessons. Teaching mathematics to children with mild mental retardation will be more successful if it uses something concrete, simple examples, language that is easy to understand, and is done in interesting and fun situations so that children with mild mental retardation do not get bored and are motivated to learn.

Tunagrahita, Learning Styles, Intellectual Disabilities

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INTRODUCTION

Every child has the right to receive education and teaching, including children with special needs (ABK). The rights of children with disabilities are important highlights on each country, incl Indonesia. In fact, not only in Indonesia, but at the world level it is in the spotlight special. Because people with disabilities are included the children therein have the right to receive protection from the relevant countries their lives. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities have been formulated by the Union Nations or UN in 2006 and

approved by Indonesia. In the Convention on Rights Persons with Disabilities include various things in state life and guarantee equality for people with disabilities.(Fatimah Mutia Sari & Muhammad, 2017) According to Arifin (2016), the concept of children with special needs has a broader meaning than the definition of extraordinary children. In general, obstacles to ABK include two categories, namely: children who have special needs that are permanent, namely due to certain disorders and children who have physical disabilities. ABK include: blind, deaf, mentally retarded, physically disabled, hearing impaired, learning difficulties, behavioral disorders, gifted children, and children with health problems. This is to reduce the educational gap between normal children and ABK. (Kleinert et al., 2012; Kubiak, 2015) Education should be able to create educated and skilled people with disabilities, which is indirectly a long-term investment because it reduces the costs of care and services for them. In reality, not all crew members receive education. As is the case in Indramayu, based on the results of interviews with the headmaster of the Bekasi State Special School (SLBN) who stated that many crew members around Indramayu do not go to school because parents have low awareness of the importance of education. Apart from that, the small number of special schools in Indramayu is one of the factors causing the small number of crew members to receive education.

One of the limitations of children with special needs is mental retardation. Mental retardation is a child with special needs who has below average intelligence, namely between 50-70. They experience obstacles in carrying out activities. anything, especially in learning (Sefni, 2014). According to Kosasih (2012) states that mentally retarded students are a condition of students whose intelligence is far below average and is characterized by limited intelligence and incompetence in social communication. Based on this statement, mentally retarded students are students who have limited intelligence and are temporary, namely those who experience obstacles. learning and development caused by environmental conditions and situations. Mardini, et al. (2016) basically humans want to be born perfect and not experience shortcomings or defects, both physical and mental. ABK means children with special characteristics that are different from children in general without always showing mental, emotional or physical disabilities. ABK include: blind, deaf, mentally retarded, physically disabled, hearing impaired, learning difficulties, behavioral disorders, gifted children, and children with health problems. This is to reduce the educational gap between normal children and ABK. Education should be able to create educated and skilled people with disabilities, which is indirectly a long-term investment because it reduces the costs of care and

services for them. . In reality, not all crew members receive education. As is the case in Bekasi, based on the results of an interview with one of the teachers at the Bekasi District State Special School, he stated that many crew members around Bekasi do not go to school because parents have low awareness of the importance of education. Apart from that, the small number of special schools in Bekasi is one of the factors causing the small number of crew members to receive education (Aan J Senjaya et al., 2017).

One of the limitations of children with special needs is mental retardation. Mental retardation is a child with special needs who has below average intelligence, namely between 50-70. They experience obstacles in carrying out activities. anything, especially in learning (Sefni, 2014). According to Kosasih (2012) states that mentally retarded students are a condition of students whose intelligence is far below average and is characterized by limited intelligence and incompetence in social communication (Nel et al., 2011; Weiss et al., 2018).

Based on this statement, mentally retarded students are students who have limited intelligence and are less able to communicate with other people. Basically, mentally retarded children in their activities use gross motor skills and especially fine motor skills, but if the fine motor skills of mentally retarded children are less than optimal, it will result in obstacles in daily life activities such as holding objects, picking up objects, moving objects and turning objects. those around (Amriliyanto & Ainin, 2013).

The intellectual abilities of mildly mentally retarded children are below average, making them experience learning difficulties and difficulties in receiving lessons, especially mathematics lessons. Teaching mathematics to mildly mentally retarded children will be more successful if it uses something concrete, simple examples, language that is easy to understand, and is done in interesting and fun situations so that mildly mentally retarded children do not get bored and are motivated to learn (O'Connor et al., 2012).

To educate students with mild intellectual disabilities, teachers must prepare all aspects that support the teaching and learning process. One aspect that supports the success of teaching and learning activities is that teachers know how students learn. DePorter, B & Hernacki, M (1999) stated about how to learn, in essence how to learn is a combination of how one absorbs, then organizes and processes information. The way children with mild mental retardation learn is different from normal children. Mildly mentally retarded children have different abilities and emotional conditions from normal children. In order for teaching goals to be achieved, teachers must also know how students learn. Teachers need to understand students' difficulties and habits. Children with mild mental retardation generally experience difficulty in solving

problems that are not balanced with understanding the concept of arithmetic operations in mathematics. Therefore, teachers must know students' learning difficulties so they can overcome the learning difficulties experienced by students.

By knowing the causes of students' difficulties and learning styles, it is hoped that the learning process will be more effective. Teachers who know how their students learn make students more comfortable in learning, especially students with special needs. Apart from that, if teachers know how each student learns, they can apply appropriate techniques and strategies both in learning and in self-development. Therefore, the aim of this research is to describe the learning styles of students with mild intellectual disabilities in learning multiplication at school and at home.

RESEARCH METHODE

The method that researchers use in research is qualitative methods. at the present time based on facts that appear as they really are (Nawawi, 2002:63). The form of this research is Classroom Action Research (PTK). The form of this research is qualitative. According to Bogdan and Taylor in Moleong (2014: 4), research produces descriptive data such as written and spoken words from the people being observed. The research location at the Bekasi State Special School is located on Jalan Pasir Randu Gg Asem, Sukasari, Serang Baru District, Bekasi Regency, West Java Province. This research was conducted starting November 6, 2023.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The characteristics of mentally retarded children are that their physical characteristics appear like normal children, only experiencing slight delays in sensomotor abilities. Psychological characteristics: difficulty thinking abstractly and logically. Lacks analytical skills, weak associations, less able to control feelings, easily influenced, less harmonious personality because unable to judge good and bad. Their social characteristics are that they are able to socialize, adapt to an environment that is not limited to the family, but some are able to be independent in society, able to do simple work and do it fully as adults. Ability in the field of education includes being able to learn.

On November 6 2023, based on the results of classroom action research on one of the mentally retarded classes and interviews with teachers of mentally retarded children, it was found that the learning styles used by mentally retarded children were different. Some tend to be auditory and some tend to be visual depending on the type of mental retardation experienced. However, in

determining the learning outcomes achieved by mentally retarded children through their learning styles, teachers experience a little difficulty. Therefore, teachers as educators must be able to understand the learning styles of their students so that they can understand the subject matter more quickly, whether their students prefer to learn visually, auditorily or using kinesthetic and other learning styles. Moreover, some mentally retarded children have difficulty focusing on learning when there are strangers around them, so that's why. Teachers must calm and create a sense of security for students. soothe and create a sense of security for students. As a supervising teacher in class, the teacher also doesn't forget provide related learning motivation introduction to numeric where the teacher approach children and requires also to be creative teacher. Motivation is formed by energy sourced from each individual, to energy the.(Setiawati, n.d.)

Children with intellectual disabilities have difficulty learning anything academic, especially reading and arithmetic. However, this can be overcome by providing basic and intensive learning assistance. The study room also influences their comfort in studying, such as a soundproof room and a cool room temperature so that children can focus on studying.

Discussion

Education is a very important need in human life, because education can lead humans to a higher level, thus making humans useful for society, religion, nation and state. According to M. Ngalim Purwanto, education is leadership given deliberately by adults to children in their growth (physical and spiritual) so that it is useful for themselves and society.

Based on these educational goals, every citizen has the right to receive a decent education, just as children who experience developmental disorders, both mental and physical, also have the right to receive a decent education as well. Education cannot be separated from the learning and learning process. The learning process is the interaction of students with educators and learning resources in a learning environment. Learning is a complex student action and behavior. As an action, learning is only experienced by the students themselves. Students are the determinants of whether a learning process occurs or not. The learning process occurs thanks to students acquiring something from the surrounding environment.

Mentally retarded children are another word for mental retardation, which is mentally retarded. Literally tuna means loss, while grahita means mind. Mental retardation is a term used to refer to children or people who have below average intellectual abilities or can also be called mental retardation.

Mental retardation is characterized by limited intelligence and incompetence in social interactions. These limitations make it difficult for mentally retarded people to take part in educational programs like children in general. Therefore, mentally retarded children need school, especially with special education. In the learning process, each child has a different learning style according to their own character. Even if they are at school or even sit in the same class, a person's ability to understand and absorb lessons is definitely different.

Learning style is a preferred way of carrying out activities of thinking, processing and understanding information. According to Bobbi De Potter and Mike Hernacki, learning style is a combination of how a person absorbs and then organizes and processes information. Meanwhile, according to M. Joko Susilo, learning style is a process of behavior, appreciation and the tendency of a student to learn or acquire knowledge in his or her own way.

CONCLUSION

Mental retardation is a student who has limited intelligence and is less able to communicate with other people. Basically, mentally retarded children in their activities use gross motor skills and especially fine motor skills, but if the fine motor skills of mentally retarded children are less than optimal, it will result in obstacles in daily life activities such as holding objects, picking up objects, moving objects and turning objects. those around (Amriliyanto & Ainin, 2013). Mentally retarded children are another word for mental retardation, which is mentally retarded. Literally tuna means loss, while grahita means mind.

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