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## Multidimensional Student Development in Elementary School

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### Abstract

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This study aims to examine the importance of a multidimensional approach in the development of students in primary education, focusing on its impact on learning motivation. Using descriptive qualitative research methods through literature studies, this research explores various aspects of student development, such as physical, social, mental, cultural, spiritual, and intellectual development. The results of the analysis show that a comprehensive understanding of various dimensions of development is able to increase creativity, social awareness, environmental awareness, and critical awareness of students. In addition, learning strategies such as the cooperative model are considered effective in fostering students' creativity. This research emphasizes that a multidimensional approach is very important in designing a holistic learning program, responsive to children's needs, and supporting the creation of an inclusive and conducive learning environment. Thus, basic education does not only focus on academics, but also on the formation of students' character and social skills in a sustainable manner.

**Keywords:** student development, multidimensional, learning motivation, creativity, basic education.

### 1. Introduction

Student development is a process of change that includes various aspects of individual life, and occurs gradually and continuously. This development is not only limited to physical growth, but also includes social, mental, cultural and spiritual changes, as well as intellectuals. Each aspect of this development is interrelated with each other and influences each other in shaping abilities and character for students. Development can also be interpreted as a pattern of change that individuals experience gradually and progressively throughout a certain life span. According to Arifudin (2022), development is a series of qualitative changes that occur as a result of the process of maturity and experience, in contrast to growth that focuses more on quantitative physical changes. Development includes various aspects such as cognitive, motor, emotional, social, linguistic, moral, and spiritual which are interrelated and form the functional abilities of children as a whole.

The concept of multidimensionality in student development emphasizes the interconnectedness of every aspect of life, as well as its influence on each other. Therefore, a comprehensive understanding of children's needs and potentials is essential for educators to design effective and relevant learning processes. Thus, children can develop academic and non-academic abilities in a balanced manner. In the context of basic education, understanding multidimensional child development is the key for teachers in determining the right learning strategy. This aims to prepare each child to face various challenges in the future and also optimize their potential. Thus, education at this early level focuses not only on the academic aspect, but also on the formation of personality and social skills that will be useful for the child's life in the future. This understanding is an important foundation for teachers to not only know aspects of child development, but also implement them in learning strategies that are able to accommodate children's needs and potentials as a whole.



Previous research conducted by Mia (2022), in the *Edu-Riligia Journal* reinforces the importance of a multidimensional approach in student development. In her research, Mia showed that attention and stimulation on various aspects of development can increase learning motivation and better adaptability in school. This confirms that multidimensional development is not only a theory, but also has a positive impact on the success of the learning process and the formation of students' character.

With this multidimensional understanding, teachers and education staff can design learning programs that are more holistic and responsive to the needs of students. This approach allows educators to identify students' strengths and weaknesses comprehensively, so that the interventions provided can be more targeted. In the end, a multidimensional understanding of student development will support the creation of an inclusive and conducive learning environment, which is able to facilitate optimal and sustainable student growth.

The purpose of this research article is to find out how multidimensional student development can have a positive impact on students' motivation to learn.

## **2. Method**

The type of research used is descriptive qualitative research is research that aims to explore or clarify a symptom, phenomenon or social reality (Syahrizal & Jailani, 2023). In his research, a literature study method is used. According to Sarnoto, et al. (2023) literature study is a technique for collecting data from various research sources that aims to answer research topic questions. The use of literature study research methods analyzes various kinds of sources that are relevant and related to the multidimensional development of students. The data obtained through literature studies is from various references such as scientific journals, books, and other documents that are considered relevant to the topic being discussed. The data obtained will be explored and analyzed by searching, reading, and understanding various relevant references. Then, there are several interesting things in schools about the development of students in elementary school, one of which is the multidimensional of students.

## **3. Results and Discussion**

### **3.1. Students' Energy and Creativity**

Students' creativity has an important role in realizing success in education. The ability to creativity in children is considered very important, because creativity is a person's ability to produce new knowledge or innovation, where this ability must make combinations that have social meaning. In addition, creativity is the power of reason in humans that can express through the mind and actualize with real works (Hasanah H, Faizi N, Wijaya A., 2023).

To foster the creativity of these students, interaction and environment are important indicators. In the process of fostering students' creativity skills according to (Hasanah H, Faizi N, Wijaya A., 2023), there are several approaches or strategies that can be done:

1. Providing Freedom of Expression  
Provide space for learners to create and express their ideas in their own way.
2. Providing Creative Tools  
Providing facilities that can support the growth of students' creativity.
3. Providing Opportunities to Ask Questions  
Encourage or provide opportunities for students to ask questions. This can help students in honing their analytical mind and curiosity.
4. Getting Students Used to Reading  
Reading more books can help spark their new ideas.
5. Appreciate and Support Their Ideas  
Give positive appreciation and support When students share their ideas or work, as it can increase students' confidence and enthusiasm.



The above strategies or approaches can be applied in developing students' creativity skills. In addition, in learning, teachers must also choose and pay attention to learning models that are suitable for developing students' creativity, such as the Cooperative learning model.

According to Bening & Nawangsari (2024), the Cooperative learning model is one of the models that is considered to encourage student creativity, because this model uses a group-centered approach and active learning by involving students in groups.

### **3.2. The Five Dimensions of Development**

Development is a qualitative change where development is not emphasized in terms of material, but in the functional aspect it can be interpreted that development is a change that cannot be measured but how changes in the behavior of students' learning outcomes. According to Mia (2022), the dimensions of student development follow the flow of human development, which are as follows.

#### **1. Physical Development**

Physical development includes changes in body size, shape, and function that occur from infancy to adolescence. In childhood, gross motor abilities such as walking, running, and jumping begin to develop, while in adolescence there are secondary physical changes such as the growth of bones, muscles, and the characteristics of puberty that differ between males and females. Optimal physical development has a direct effect on motor skills and also has an impact on students' self-concept and social adjustment. Physical growth, either directly or indirectly, will affect children's daily behavior. Directly physical growth will determine the child's ability to move, indirectly the growth and development of physical functions will affect the way the child views himself and others. Physical growth occurs gradually, such as the rise and fall of waves, sometimes fast and sometimes slow. In general, the physical growth of a child is divided into 4 main periods, two periods characterized by rapid growth and the other two periods characterized by slow growth.

#### **1. Social Development**

Social development is related to the ability of students to interact with others, manage emotions, and form personality and morals. Emotions are strong feelings that influence social actions and interactions. The need for students as social beings is to interact and adapt to their social environment. Psychological, social, cultural, and physical factors influence an individual's moral and spiritual development.

#### **2. Mental Development**

Mental development, where students grow more mental, stable, wise, mature, and wise. As part of society, students become more sophisticated in the application of science and technology.

#### **3. Cultural and Spiritual Development**

Cultural and spiritual development is related to the formation of values, attitudes, and behaviors that are in accordance with social norms and religious teachings. Students learn to respect others, carry out religious commandments, and live in harmony and tolerance in a pluralistic society. Spirituality is defined as an attitude of obedience to religious teachings and tolerance towards other people, which is an important part of the formation of students' character

#### **4. Intellectual Development**

Intellectual development includes the ability to think, solve problems, and understand abstract concepts. In elementary school-age children, the ability to think logically begins to emerge and they begin to understand other people's point of view. This intellectual aspect also involves different creativity and special talents in each student. The learning process is a change in behavior and thought that is influenced by experience and the learning environment.

### **3.3. Dimensions of Awareness of Elementary School Students**

Consciousness is an inherent element in an individual's daily life. Most of the individual's day is filled with mindfulness while doing activities. Such as, eating, drinking, going to school, working,



walking, thinking, remembering something that has happened, communicating with other individuals, and other activities.

In essence, dimension is one of the media needed by students to shape themselves, attitudes, mental, social, cultural, and personality in the future (maturity). Widodo Supriyono, in his book entitled Human Philosophy in Islam, broadly divides the dimensions into two, namely the physical and spiritual dimensions. In his book he stated that spiritually human beings have an infinite amount of spiritual potential. These potentials are seen in the form of understanding something (Ulil Albab), being able to think or reflect, using reason, being able to believe, being devout, remembering, or taking lessons, hearing God's words, being able to be knowledgeable, being artistic, being able to master appropriate technology and finally humans are born both by bringing fitrah. According to (Efendi, 2020), students' awareness at school is still minimal or still low about something, for example, maintaining the school environment. Students at school are still disposed of garbage in the wrong place, after using the bathroom they are not flushed again, and still doodle on the table. Increasing student awareness is a challenge for teachers in schools, especially elementary schools.

The dimension of awareness of elementary school students can be seen from several aspects related to social, environmental, and character awareness, in accordance with relevant educational studies and research.

#### 1. Dimensions of Gender Awareness in Elementary School Students

One of the important dimensions of awareness is gender awareness. Gender awareness of elementary school students is interpreted as an understanding of the social roles inherent in male and female students. The research developed a valid and reliable Gender Awareness Scale (SKG-SD) to measure this awareness, with 16 items covering important indicators of gender awareness. This scale helps to accurately map the level of gender awareness of students.

#### 2. Critical Consciousness Dimension

In the critical education paradigm, student awareness also includes the dimension of critical awareness. Through the process of critical identification, students are able to develop potential, creativity, and a sense of social responsibility. This critical awareness helps learners to think reflectively and understand the impact of their behavior in social and environmental contexts. Critical awareness means understanding and analyzing the causal relationships in which humans find themselves in a situation (Santika, 2022). Paulo Freire states that critical consciousness is the pinnacle of human consciousness.

#### 3. Environmental Awareness Dimension

Environmental awareness is another important dimension that is often studied in the context of elementary education. Students' environmental awareness includes several dimensions such as cognitive (knowledge), affective (feelings of care), and conative (actions or behaviors). Increasing students' awareness to protect the environment cannot be done in a short time, it takes days, months, or years. Increasing awareness of protecting the environment is also an effort that can be made by a teacher by going through stimuli in the form of learning experiences and making an individual or group experience a certain condition by communicating, providing information in the form of education to grow and improve knowledge, attitudes, behaviors, and understanding to help students recognize and overcome mistakes with itself which aims to make them aware, willing, and able to practice protecting the surrounding environment (Hidup et al., 2022).

#### 4. Dimension of Awareness in Pancasila Student Profiles

In the Independent Curriculum, the dimension of awareness of elementary school students is also reflected in the Student Profile

Pancasila consists of six main dimensions, namely:

1. Faith, fear of God Almighty, and have noble character
2. Self-sufficient
3. Work together
4. Global diversity



5. Critical reasoning
6. Creative

Students' awareness in this dimension includes awareness of the consequences of behavior on the natural and social environment, as well as awareness of state and social justice. This awareness is developed gradually according to the stage of psychological and cognitive development of elementary school students.

### **3.4. Physical Development of Students**

Physical development is the changes that occur in a person's body. The shape and size of the body undergo the most changes. The physical development of learners begins long before they start entering formal school. It begins in the early stages of life, when fertilization between the sperm and egg cells occurs. This process produces the zygote, the first form of human life. The zygote will divide the cell very quickly, then enter the uterus and attach to its walls. At this stage, the organs of the body have not yet formed, but the zygote contains all the genetic information that will determine the physical characteristics and possible development of the child.

After the zygote stage, physical growth continues to the embryonic stage, which occurs in the second to late weeks of pregnancy. At this stage, the basic structure of the body such as the heart, nervous system, and the forerunner of other organs begins to form. The fetal stage, which occurs in the 8th week until birth, is when the organs of the fetus begin to develop and function, including the growth of muscles, bones, and the nervous system that allows the fetus to move. The quality of a child's physical growth in the future is greatly influenced by this early stage. Optimal child development is greatly influenced by variables such as maternal nutrition, pregnancy health, and environment. Therefore, it is important for educators, parents, and everyone involved in the educational process to understand the physical development of the zygote from the beginning of life.

This is because children's development does not only begin when they start school. During childhood, a person is very dependent. Therefore, it begins after a period of infancy full of dependence, that is, between the ages of zero and two years. Then comes the early childhood period, which is between the ages of 2 and 6 years, and the end period of the child, which is between the ages of 6 and 12 years. In addition, this phase is very important in a child's life because it determines their health and physical abilities as they grow up. Factors that ensure ideal physical growth include healthy nutrition, regular physical activity, and a supportive environment (Umar & Masnawati, 2024). Good physical development is not only good for health but also has a big impact on cognitive, emotional, and social development in children. Children with good physical growth have higher levels of energy and concentration when learning, and the emotional development of children with good physical growth increases their confidence, especially when they are able to actively participate in a variety of activities. When children are given the opportunity to participate in group activities, such as games at school or sports, their social relationships also improve. As a result, maintaining ideal physical growth for elementary school-age children is essential to improve their quality of life now and in the future. (Rumawatine & Ritiauw, 2023).

The physical growth of elementary school-age children is a major concern in many education and health studies because it has a major impact on the overall development of children. Data spread around the world shows that stunting in school-age children is still a major problem in many developing countries, including Indonesia. Data compiled by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF shows that in 2021, around 24.4% of Indonesian children will be stunted, which can hinder their physical growth and cognitive abilities. In addition, changes in diet and contemporary lifestyles have caused obesity in children to become a new problem. One of the main causative factors is malnutrition, both excess and lack of nutrition in children. Children who grow up in families with low economic status are less likely to have access to nutritious food.

On the other hand, children who grow up in families with an unbalanced diet tend to be more prone to obesity. In addition, not all children do not have many opportunities to exercise because the



school does not have a health program or exercise room. Many parents and educators are not yet fully aware of the importance of physical growth for ideal child development, which helps with this problem. To solve this problem, a holistic approach is needed that involves families, schools, and governments in ensuring that all children have the opportunity to grow optimally physically. (Dea Mustika et al., 2023).

### Conclusion

Based on the above discussion, it can be concluded that students have a lot of physical, mental, and emotional energy that encourages them to actively participate in the class. Creativity, which is the result of creative thinking skills, allows learners to discover new innovative solutions. Student development can be seen through five main dimensions in holistic education: physical, social, mental, cultural and spiritual and intellectual. These five dimensions are interrelated and need to be developed in a balanced manner so that students grow into strong individuals. The dimension of awareness, which includes gender awareness in elementary school students, critical awareness, environmental awareness and awareness in the Pancasila student profile, is another important component. With this awareness, learners can cultivate emotional intelligence, empathy, and self-reflection, as well as understand their roles and responsibilities in personal and social lives. Learners' physical development, which includes physical growth, motor coordination, and general health, is essential to support learning activities and engagement in sport and social activities. Ideal physical development will help learners improve concentration, endurance, and emotional balance. Therefore, it is crucial for educators to understand the energy, creativity, five-dimensional development, awareness, and physical components of their learners as they create effective learning strategies and support their overall growth.

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