

The Impact of Learning Difficulties on Academic Achievement Students: Analysis of Causal Factors and Solutions

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Abstract. *In the world of education, learning difficulties are a complex problem that can have a significant impact on student academic achievement. Analysis of causal factors and solutions is important in understanding these dynamics. Factors that cause learning difficulties include health conditions, learning environment, and individual characteristics of students. The impact of learning difficulties can be felt in declining grades, emotional disturbances, and limitations in developing students' potential. However, through the right approach, solutions can be found. Solutions such as learning differentiation, additional support programs, and partnerships with parents are key in helping students overcome learning difficulties and improve their academic performance. These steps provide opportunities for all students to reach their optimal learning potential. This research explores in depth the relationship between learning difficulties and academic achievement, and analyzes the underlying causal factors. Through a better understanding of these issues, educators, education professionals, and parents can work together to create learning environments that are inclusive, supportive, and facilitate students' holistic development. This will have a positive impact in improving student learning outcomes and preparing them for success in the future.*

Keywords: *Learning Difficulties, Academic Achievement*

INTRODUCTION

The problem of learning difficulties in students is a condition that can hinder the teaching and learning process and be detrimental to students' academic and psychosocial development. In this introduction, we will explain in detail what learning difficulties are, why they are an important concern in the educational context, and how learning difficulties can affect various aspects of a student's life. Learning difficulties refer to the difficulties experienced by some students in understanding, remembering and applying information taught at school. This can include difficulties with reading, writing, arithmetic, understanding mathematical concepts, or grasping information in general. Learning difficulties are not an indication of low intelligence; rather, it often occurs because of individual differences in how we learn and understand information.

According to Djamarah in M. Nur Ghufon and Rini Risnawita (2015:298) that disorders that cause someone to experience learning difficulties can be in the form of psychological syndromes which can take the form of learning disabilities. Syndrome means symptoms that appear as indicators of psychological abnormalities that cause children's learning difficulties. Learning difficulties are deficiencies that are not visible outwardly. Learning disabilities cannot be recognized in a physical form that is different

from people who do not experience learning difficulties. Meanwhile, the National Joint Committee on Learning Disabilities in Hallahan and Kauffman (2005), states that learning difficulties is a general term associated with a heterogeneous group of deviations that indicate actual difficulties in the assignment and use of listening, speaking, reading, writing, thinking, or mathematics skills.

According to Utami (2020:96-97), learning difficulties are the condition of students where there are obstacles in the learning process towards achieving learning outcomes, namely the student's inability to learn well. These obstacles come from within and outside the student. Learning difficulties are a problem that teachers often face, and it is the teacher's responsibility to overcome their students' learning difficulties. Learning difficulties are understood as a situation where students are less able to face the demands placed on them in the learning process, as well as the learning process and learning outcomes are less than satisfactory or less than optimal. This article attempts to identify the factors that cause learning difficulties and how to overcome them.

THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

The importance of understanding the impact of learning difficulties on students is enormous, because this not only affects their academic development, but also their psychosocial aspects and overall well-being. In an educational context, a deeper understanding of the impact of learning difficulties can assist educators, parents, and other stakeholders in designing effective intervention strategies to help students overcome their learning challenges. Learning difficulties directly affect students' academic performance. When students experience difficulty understanding subject matter or completing academic assignments, this can result in lower grades, difficulty achieving expected academic standards, and can even hinder progress to higher levels of education. Endah Nurfina (2022) said that learning difficulties are defined as students whose learning results are poor, students who do not achieve results commensurate with their efforts, students who are slow in carrying out learning activities, students who show inappropriate attitudes, students who show inappropriate behavior. , and emotional students exhibit inappropriate behavior. Students with learning disabilities require special accommodations and services to achieve maximum learning outcomes.

According to Erni (2020:7), changes in the behavior and learning of each individual can occur through manipulation of environmental and genetic variables in certain individual development situations. Therefore, children with learning disabilities,

intellectual disabilities and cerebral palsy have a significant impact on their ability to deal with environmental conditions that are different from normal children. If intelligence is operationally defined as "the process of learning by using cultural means to understand and manipulate the environment", then the development of any intelligence is supported by the principles of heredity (genetics) which are part of the environment in which individuals and their children live. Differences in environment have different influences on the development of intelligence. And the relative contributions of genetics and environment also vary depending on intelligence test results.

Meanwhile, Siti Latifah (2017:574) explains that although the social emotional aspect is very important in fulfilling children's development tasks, the negative impacts resulting from learning difficulties can hinder children's development. In general, most people worry about school problems and their children's achievements at school, but the social and emotional aspects of children are very important aspects for children. This is rarely paid attention to by the public, especially those involved in the education sector such as teachers. A life where children build relationships with the people around them. Therefore, this research aims to help teachers, the community and parents understand that the difficulties faced by children in learning to write have a big impact on both their own lives and the lives of the wider community. Knowing the impact of learning difficulties on writing can help you find the most appropriate solution to minimize the impact of your child's learning difficulties.

FACTORS CAUSING LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

The factors that cause learning difficulties in students are very diverse and complex, including various aspects that can originate from internal factors of students, the learning environment, and the interaction between these two factors. Here we will outline several main factors that are often the main causes of learning difficulties in students:

1. Student Internal Factors

Among students' internal factors there are physiological factors and psychological factors. In terms of physical factors, general health has a big influence on student learning. If you are in good physical condition and have good physical strength when studying, you will not easily feel tired, unlike students whose physical condition is not good. they will feel tired. Apart from that, the psychological factors of mentally retarded students will influence their learning abilities, students who lack special talents

will have different learning difficulties from students who have special talents, so that this will create motivation for students to study more actively and enthusiastically. Students who have high egos are basically intelligent and capable, so they don't want to help each other in the learning process (Endah Nurfina, 2020).

Students' internal factors include individual characteristics and conditions that can influence their learning abilities. Some of these factors include:

- a. **Health Issues:** Physical or mental health conditions such as hearing loss, vision impairment, ADHD, or other neurological disorders may hinder a student's ability to focus and understand course material.
- b. **Intelligence and Personality:** Every student has a different level of intelligence, and some students may have higher intelligence in certain areas than others. A student's personality, such as their level of self-confidence, motivation, or persistence, can also influence their ability to overcome learning challenges.
- c. **Special Learning Conditions:** Some students may have special learning conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, or dysgraphia, which make them difficult to understand or express information in writing or orally.

2. Learning Environment Factors

External (environmental) factors that influence students' learning difficulties according to Endah Nurfina (2020) are the availability of facilities and infrastructure that support the learning process, good communication between teachers and students, a supportive home environment, a pleasant learning environment as well as strategies and management when learning occurs. which is incorrect.

The learning environment at home and at school can also play an important role in causing learning difficulties. Some environmental factors that can contribute to learning difficulties include:

- a. **Teaching Quality:** Teaching methods that do not match students' needs, lack of use of varied teaching techniques, or a mismatch between the curriculum and students' needs can hinder their ability to understand course material.
- b. **Class Conditions:** Classes that are too large, an environment that is less conducive to learning, or a lack of learning resources and facilities can affect the quality of student learning.
- c. **Family Support:** Lack of support and guidance from parents or family in terms of learning and school assignments can also worsen students' learning difficulties.

Interaction Between Internal and Environmental Factors It is important to remember that internal factors of students and the learning environment do not stand alone, but interact and influence each other. For example, students with certain health conditions may need a more structured learning environment and additional support from teachers and families. Likewise, teaching methods that are adaptive and responsive to students' individual needs can help overcome some learning difficulties that may arise.

Understanding the factors that cause learning difficulties in detail is an important first step in developing effective intervention strategies. By identifying these factors, educators and parents can work together to create a supportive learning environment, design inclusive teaching methods, and provide the support needed for students to overcome their learning difficulties.

SOLUTIONS AND COUNTING STRATEGIES

Solutions and strategies for overcoming learning difficulties are a very important aspect in the world of education. With a deep understanding of the factors that cause learning difficulties, the next step is to develop and implement effective strategies to help students overcome their learning challenges. In explaining in detail the solutions and strategies for overcoming learning difficulties, we will outline various approaches and methods that can be used by educators, education experts, parents and other related parties:

1. Identification and Evaluation

The first step in dealing with learning difficulties is to identify and thoroughly evaluate students who are experiencing difficulties. This can be done through observations, performance assessments, psychological tests, and interviews with students and parents. By clearly understanding students' learning needs and challenges, we can design appropriate solutions.

2. Individualization Approach

Every student has different needs and learning styles. An individualized approach to teaching can help overcome learning difficulties more effectively. This includes:

- a. Learning Differentiation: Tailoring methods, materials, and assessments to individual student needs.

- b. **Skills-Based Learning:** Focuses on developing basic skills such as reading, writing and arithmetic through an approach tailored to the student's abilities.

3. Additional Academic Support Program

Implementation of additional academic support programs can help students overcome learning difficulties. This program may include:

- a. **Remedial Classes:** Additional classes or tutoring for students who need improvement in certain academic skills.
- b. **Tutoring Program:** Tutor or mentor services that provide individual assistance in understanding course material.
- c. **Use of Technology:** Utilization of technology such as learning applications, educational software, or interactive media to facilitate learning.

4. Psychological Intervention and Counseling

Psychological interventions and counseling can help students overcome the emotional and psychological challenges associated with learning difficulties. These include:

- a. **Individual Counseling:** Counseling sessions with a professional to help students overcome anxiety, depression, or other emotional issues that impact their learning abilities.
- b. **Social Skills Development:** Training to improve communication, collaboration and cooperation skills between students.

5. Partnership with Parents and Families

Close partnerships between schools, educators and parents are very important in overcoming student learning difficulties. This includes:

- a. **Consultation and Collaboration:** Sharing information and understanding about student learning needs between schools and parents.
- b. **Parent Education Program:** Training and support for parents to help students with learning at home.

6. Development of an Inclusive Learning Environment

Creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment can help students overcome learning difficulties. This involves:

- a. **Inclusive Classroom:** Ensures that every student feels welcome and supported in the learning environment.
- b. **Use of Support Resources:** Utilize resources such as special education specialists, school psychologists, or counselors to provide additional support to students in need.

7. Measurement and Evaluation of Progress

It is important to regularly measure and evaluate students' progress in overcoming learning difficulties. This can be done through formative assessments, progress tests, and regular evaluation of the strategies that have been implemented.

8. Development of Collaborative Learning Communities

Building a collaborative and inclusive learning community can help students overcome learning difficulties. These include:

- a. Cooperation between Students: Encourages cooperation, peer tutoring, and support between students in solving problems and understanding lesson material.
- b. Active Participation: Encourage students to be active in the learning process, ask questions, discuss and participate in learning activities.

By combining various strategies and solutions to overcome learning difficulties, we can create a learning environment that is supportive, inclusive, and provides opportunities for all students to reach their maximum learning potential. These steps also prioritize a proactive and holistic approach in helping students overcome the learning challenges they face.

Evaluation of the implementation of solutions to learning difficulties is an important stage in ensuring the success and effectiveness of the strategies that have been implemented. This evaluation aims to evaluate the extent to which the solutions that have been implemented have had a positive impact in overcoming student learning difficulties, as well as to identify areas that need to be improved or perfected.

CONCLUSION

From the analysis of the factors causing learning difficulties and the solutions that have been discussed, it can be concluded that learning difficulties have a significant impact on students' academic achievement. Factors such as health conditions, learning environments, and individual characteristics can influence students' learning abilities. However, implementing appropriate solutions such as learning differentiation, additional support programs, and partnerships with parents, can help students overcome learning difficulties and improve their academic performance. These steps provide opportunities for all students to reach their optimal learning potential.

It is equally important that to provide feedback to all relevant parties, including students, parents, and educators. Recommendations can be provided to improve or

enhance solutions that have been implemented based on evaluation findings, identify additional needs or changes that need to be made in the learning approach strategy and develop follow-up plans and develop more effective solutions for the future.

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