EVALUATION OF EDUCATION AS A TOOL FOR IMPROVING LEARNING QUALITY TO EMPOWER THE YOUNGER GENERATION[*]

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Abstract:
Quality education is key to empowering the younger generation and preparing them to face future challenges. However, current educational evaluation practices often prove ineffective in enhancing the quality of learning. Therefore, this research explored the role of educational evaluation as a tool for improving learning quality. This study aims to identify the effectiveness of evaluation methods in schools and how they can enhance student engagement and learning outcomes. This research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods. Data were collected through interviews with educators and students, classroom observations, and curriculum document analysis. The research population comprises educators and students from several secondary schools in Aceh. The findings indicate that many educators feel the current evaluation methods are ineffective. Students also desire more varied and interactive evaluation methods. Additionally, a gap between evaluation results and curriculum improvement needs to be addressed. The study concludes that practical educational evaluation must actively involve students and be integrated with the curriculum. Thus, evaluation should not only serve as a measurement tool but also as a means to enhance the quality of learning. This research provides new insights into the importance of student involvement in evaluation and the need for educators to be trained to implement better evaluation methods. The findings are expected to reference policymakers and educators in designing more effective evaluation strategies.
Keywords: Educational Evaluation; Learning Quality; Student Engagement; Evaluation Methods; Education

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A. INTRODUCTION

Education is one of the main pillars in a nation's development, playing a crucial role in shaping the character and competencies of the younger generation. In Indonesia, where cultural and ethnic diversity is an integral part of daily life, quality education becomes increasingly important. Good quality education not only provides knowledge but also equips students with skills relevant to the times. Therefore, efforts to improve the quality of education must be a top priority for all parties involved.[1] One crucial step in improving the quality of education is educational evaluation. Educational evaluation assesses the effectiveness of the learning process in the classroom. By conducting systematic evaluations, educators can identify strengths and weaknesses in the teaching methods used. This allows educators to make necessary improvements to make the learning process more effective and efficient.[2]

Through evaluation, educators can determine the extent to which students understand the material taught and how teaching methods affect students' learning outcomes. With the assessment information, educators can design better learning strategies that are more suited to students' needs. This is especially important in facing the educational challenges that continue to evolve alongside technological advancements and social changes. Furthermore, educational evaluation also plays a role in creating a conducive learning environment. By understanding evaluation results, schools can create programs that support the holistic development of students. This encompasses academic aspects, character development, and social skills necessary for life in society. Thus, educational evaluation becomes a vital tool in creating a younger generation that is not only academically intelligent but also possesses good character.[3] Therefore, educational evaluation should function as a measurement tool and as a means to empower the younger generation and prepare them to face future challenges. With the right approach, educational evaluation can be the key to improving learning quality and producing individuals ready to contribute positively to society.[4] In this article, we will discuss the importance of

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[1] Azfa Nabil Shafi, (2024), Hilalludin Hilalludin, and Adi Haironi, "Education and Social Institutions: Shaping the Future Society," Nakula Journal: Center for Educational Science, Language, and Social Sciences 2, no. 5 (July 1): 157–64, https://doi.org/10.61132/nakula.v2i5.1038

[2] Maria Angélica Dornelles Dias et al., (2024). "Institutional Evaluation: A Tool for Educational Quality," ARACÊ 6, no. 3 (November 18), https://doi.org/10.56238/arev6n3-109.

[3] Wang Ziye, (2024). "Some Issues of Educational Evaluation," International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science, no. 3(43) (September 29), https://doi.org/10.31435/rsglobal_ijitss/30092024/8255.

[4] Dias et al., (2024). "Institutional Evaluation: A Tool for Educational Quality." ARACÊ, 6(3). https://doi.org/10.56238/arev6n3-109.

educational evaluation and how its implementation can enhance the quality of learning in Indonesia.

Although educational evaluation is a crucial tool for improving learning quality, many aspects have yet to be explored. Many studies have been conducted, but the main focus often lies on the final results without considering the evaluation process itself. This creates a knowledge gap regarding how appropriate evaluations can be implemented to achieve better educational goals. Therefore, it is essential to delve deeper into the various evaluation methods available and their impact on student learning.[5] Existing research often does not cover diverse evaluation methods and how each can influence student learning outcomes.[6] Many educators still use traditional evaluation approaches, unaware that various innovative methods can enhance student engagement. This gap indicates the need for further research to explore the effectiveness of various evaluation methods in different contexts. Understanding the most suitable methods can create a more effective and responsive learning environment that meets students' needs.

Additionally, there is still a lack of clear understanding regarding the challenges educators face in effectively implementing educational evaluation in various contexts. Each school and community has unique characteristics that can influence evaluations. This gap calls for more in-depth research to identify the barriers educators may face and solutions that can be applied to address these issues. Thus, we can provide better support to educators in the evaluation process.[7] Furthermore, it has not been well identified how evaluation results can be integrated into curriculum planning and educational program development. Many schools conduct evaluations without linking them to curriculum improvement, so evaluation results are not utilised optimally. This gap indicates the need for a more holistic approach to connecting evaluation with curriculum development. With good integration, evaluation results can serve as a basis for continuous improvement in the education system. Finally, there is still a lack of studies examining the long-term impact of educational evaluation on the younger generation's character development and social skills. Many studies focus on academic aspects, but the impact of evaluation on character

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[5] Islam Muhammad Salama Muhammad et al., (2024). "Assessment Methods and Their Impact on Learning Outcomes in Education," LATAM Latin American Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities 5, no. 5 (October 26), https://doi.org/10.56712/latam.v5i5.2865.

[6] Gülçin Karakuş, (2021). "Solutions for Barriers in Curriculum Implementation," African Educational Research Journal 9, no. 2 (June 8): 591–99, https://doi.org/10.30918/AERJ.92.21.084.

[7] Azfa Nabil Shafi, (2024). Hilalludin Hilalludin, and Adi Haironi, "Education and Social Institutions: Shaping the Future Society."

development and social skills is often overlooked. This gap is essential to fill so that we can comprehensively understand how educational evaluation affects learning outcomes and shapes individuals ready to contribute positively to society. By filling this gap, we can create a better education system more oriented towards the holistic development of the younger generation.[8]

To fill the existing gaps in educational evaluation research, we need to conduct more in-depth studies on various evaluation methods and their impact on learning quality. Many previous studies have highlighted the importance of evaluation in the educational context, but often, the focus is limited to outcomes without considering the evaluation process itself. By understanding the various evaluation methods, we can identify the most effective approaches to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes. Therefore, this research explores diverse evaluation methods and how each can be applied in different contexts. This study will also examine the challenges educators face in effectively implementing educational evaluation.

This study aims to integrate evaluation results into curriculum planning and educational program development. Although many schools conduct evaluations, the results are often not optimally utilised for curriculum improvement. We can create a more responsive and adaptive education system that meets students' needs by filling this gap. This research will provide valuable insights for educators and policymakers to improve learning quality and empower the younger generation.

B. METHODS

This research uses a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods to understand educational evaluation comprehensively. This approach aims to obtain more in-depth and diverse data regarding the evaluation practices applied in schools. The mixed-methods approach also allows researchers to combine the strengths of both methods, making the research results more valid and reliable. The population in this study consists of educators and students from several secondary schools in Aceh, randomly selected to ensure representativeness. The random sampling aims to create objective conditions in data collection, so that the research results can reflect the real conditions in the field. By involving various schools, this research

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[8] Flora Florensia Simanjuntak et al., (2024). "Analysis of Teachers' Difficulties in Implementing Learning Evaluation in Elementary Schools," Cerdik Journal: Journal of Education and Teaching 3, no. 2 (June 30): 148–55, https://doi.org/10.21776/ub.jcerdik.2024.003.02.05.

is expected to provide a broader picture of the effectiveness of educational evaluation in various contexts.

Data collection is conducted through surveys, in-depth interviews, and classroom observations to obtain detailed information regarding the evaluation practices applied. Data analysis techniques will use statistical analysis for quantitative data and thematic analysis for qualitative data, providing a clear picture of the relationship between educational evaluation and improving learning quality. Thus, this research is expected to significantly contribute to developing more effective evaluation strategies to empower the younger generation.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of interviews with educators indicate that most of them feel that the evaluation methods currently applied are not fully effective in improving learning quality. Many educators think trapped in conventional evaluation routines, which focus more on final assessments than the learning process. This creates a gap between the expected educational goals and the evaluation practices conducted. Educators also need further training on innovative and relevant evaluation methods.[9]

Classroom observations reveal that many students are less engaged in the evaluation process, impacting their understanding of the material taught. Students appear passive and less participative in discussions related to evaluations, which should be moments of reflection for them. This inactivity indicates that the evaluation methods do not encourage active student involvement. This aligns with previous findings stating that student engagement in the evaluation process can enhance motivation and learning outcomes.[10]

Documentation of the curriculum and lesson plans shows that evaluation is often poorly integrated into teaching planning. Many educators admit to lacking clear guidelines on how to link evaluation results with curriculum improvement. As a result, evaluation results are not optimally utilised to enhance learning quality. Previous research also indicates that

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[9] Ruşen Meylani, (2024). "A Comparative Analysis of Traditional and Modern Approaches to Assessment and Evaluation in Education," Western Anatolia Journal of Educational Sciences 15, no. 1 (April 28): 520–55, https://doi.org/10.51460/baebd.1386737.

[10] Robert Cassidy and Arshad Ahmad, (2021). "Evidence for Conceptual Change in Approaches to Teaching," Teaching in Higher Education 26, no. 5 (July 4): 742–58, https://doi.org/10.1080/13562517.2019.1680537.

integrating evaluation and curriculum is crucial for creating an effective learning environment.

Results from student interviews show that they desire more varied and interactive evaluation methods to enhance their learning motivation. Students feel monotonous evaluations based solely on written tests do not reflect their overall abilities.[11] They propose using projects, presentations, and portfolio-based assessments as more engaging alternatives. This indicates that students know the importance of a more holistic and comprehensive evaluation.

Overall, the data obtained from interviews, observations, and documentation indicate an urgent need to improve educational evaluation practices to be more effective and relevant to students' needs. Active student involvement in the evaluation process should be a primary focus in developing new evaluation methods. Thus, evaluation should function as a measurement tool and as a means to enhance overall learning quality.[12]

The discussion of the research results shows a gap between the evaluation practices conducted by educators and students' expectations regarding the learning process. This finding aligns with the theory that practical evaluation must actively involve students in the learning process. Student inactivity in assessments can lead to low motivation and understanding of the material, affecting learning outcomes. Therefore, educators need to adopt more interactive and participatory evaluation methods.

Additionally, the results of this research also highlight the need for integration between evaluation and curriculum in the learning process. Previous research indicates that well-integrated assessment can enhance the effectiveness of teaching and learning. When evaluation results are used to improve the curriculum, the teaching and learning process will become more relevant and aligned with students' needs. Thus, developing a curriculum responsive to evaluation results is essential in improving education quality.

Finally, it is essential to provide training and support to educators in implementing innovative evaluation methods. Interview results indicate that many educators feel less confident using new evaluation methods. Therefore, training programs focused on developing practical and relevant evaluation skills

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[11] R Meylani, (2024). A comparative analysis of traditional and modern approaches to assessment and evaluation in education. Batı Anadolu Eğitim Bilimleri Dergisi, 15(1), 520–555. https://doi.org/10.51460/baebd.1386737.

[12] R Meylani, (2024). "A Comparative Analysis of Traditional and Modern Approaches to Assessment and Evaluation in Education.

are necessary. By enhancing educators' competencies in evaluation, it is hoped that learning quality can improve, and the younger generation can be better prepared to face future challenges.

D. CONCLUSION

This research explores the effectiveness of educational evaluation as a tool for improving learning quality and empowering the younger generation. The research findings indicate that the evaluation practices currently applied still have many shortcomings, particularly in terms of student engagement and integration with the curriculum. Although many educators recognise the importance of evaluation, they often find themselves trapped in conventional methods that do not encourage active student participation, negatively impacting their understanding and learning motivation.

The results of interviews, observations, and documentation reveal that students desire more varied and interactive evaluation methods. This indicates that evaluation should serve as a measurement tool and a means to enhance overall learning quality. Educators can create a more engaging learning environment responsive to students' needs by adopting more innovative evaluation methods. Integrating evaluation results into curriculum planning is crucial to ensure the learning process remains relevant and practical.

This research contributes by emphasising the importance of student involvement in the evaluation process and the need for educators to be trained to implement better evaluation methods. By providing deeper insights into the challenges and needs in evaluation practices, this research is expected to serve as a reference for policymakers and educators in designing more effective evaluation strategies. Furthermore, this research also offers recommendations for developing a curriculum more responsive to evaluation results, thereby improving overall education quality.

This research emphasises practical educational evaluation is key to empowering the younger generation. By improving evaluation practices and integrating them with the curriculum, we can create a better education system capable of meeting the challenges of the times. Therefore, all parties involved in education must work together to implement the necessary changes to achieve better and higher-quality educational goals.

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Wang, Z. (2024). Some issues of the educational evaluation. International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science, (3)(43). https://doi.org/10.31435/rsglobal_ijitss/30092024/8255