



## The Role of Teachers in Overcoming Difficulties in Learning to Read: Writing and Counting Elementary School Students

Salmia

Islamic High School (STAI DDI Maros)

\*Corresponding author: [almia99@gmail.com](mailto:almia99@gmail.com)

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### Abstract

*The purpose of this study concerns (1) the role of the teacher in identifying students who have difficulty learning to read, write and count; (2) after the student data is identified, it can be seen the factors that cause students to have difficulty learning to read, write and count; (3) for that the teacher has a role in overcoming difficulties in learning to read, write and count. This type of research is descriptive qualitative. Data were collected through interviews, observation and documentation. This study uses data analysis techniques, which consist of the stages of data collection, data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions, while the validity of the data is done by checking the results of interviews, data sources and implementation time. The results of the research conducted by grade 1 teachers were (1) identifying learning difficulties by analyzing the results of learning tests, basic ability tests, a scale of disclosing attitudes and learning habits, and observations during the teaching and learning process; (2) Factors that cause difficulties in learning to read, write and count are internal factors, external factors and learning approach factors. These three factors can influence the individual process so as to determine the quality of learning outcomes; (3) the role of the teacher in overcoming learning difficulties in grade 1 students is by guiding, educating, training, and assessing (2) Factors that cause difficulties in learning to read, write and count are internal factors, external factors and learning approach factors. These three factors can influence the individual process so as to determine the quality of learning outcomes; (3) the role of the teacher in overcoming learning difficulties in grade 1 students is by guiding, educating, training, and assessing (2) Factors that cause difficulties in learning to read, write and count are internal factors, external factors and learning approach factors. These three factors can influence the individual process so as to determine the quality of learning outcomes; (3) the role of the teacher in overcoming learning difficulties in grade 1 students is by guiding, educating, training, and assessing*

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### PRELIMINARY

Teachers have the most active role in the implementation of the education to be achieved.

Teachers carry out education through learning activities by teaching students. Students are children who receive influence from a person or

group of people who carry out educational activities. The issue of individual differences of students needs attention from the teacher in relation to teaching management so that it can run in a conducive manner (Syaiful, 2000).

Teachers and parents who are serious in guiding and educating children to be diligent in reading and studying will lead children to success. Reading is a complex activity that involves many things, not just reciting writing, it also involves visual, thinking, psycholinguistic, and metacognitive activities. Reading is a very important activity in the world of education (Noviar Masjidi, 2007).

School as one of the formal educational institutions which is the second environment after home. In schools, teachers have an important role because apart from being a facilitator and motivator in the learning process, teachers act as mentors and educators. The task of a teacher is not only to transform knowledge but also to identify problematic students and provide consideration for solving the problems they face.

Students are one of the components of education in schools, for that they need to get great attention from the educational environment. Sometimes a student faces complex problems and can affect his learning achievement at school. The problems faced by students are very important problems and must be known by the teacher. Because it is very influential on the success of learning.

Seeing the importance of improving student learning outcomes, it is required to concentrate more on receiving lessons. To meet these demands, students must be calm and comfortable. While the teacher must be able to identify all the problems faced by students. Students who have problems such as lack of motivation to learn, lack of concentration, lack of confidence, lack of time sharing and cannot socialize.

Motivation to read is very important for children as a foundation to help children become lifelong learners because books are windows to the world that will take anyone and anywhere (Sari Yulia, 2005).

Efforts to foster interest in reading in children require the willingness of parents to provide quality books to read at home. This

situation is a form of cooperation between the school and parents regarding the introduction of reading, writing and arithmetic (calistung) in children.

Some children have high enthusiasm and desire to read, even though at the age of 2-4 years they are only able to read pictures or redraw on paper or on the walls of the house. The condition of the child is greatly influenced by the pattern of parental education at home which can provide opportunities for children to explore or even show their angry emotions because the walls of the house are dirty and tired of reading stories over and over again.

Teaching and learning activities are a core activity. Educational goals will be achieved in the form of behavior in students, and it has become the hope of all parties so that students can achieve the best learning outcomes according to their respective abilities. Because the success or failure of achieving educational goals depends a lot on the learning process experienced by students (M. Surya, 1980).

Their 6-7 year old students have just entered primary education. In PAUD, most Kindergartens have not been introduced to reading, writing and arithmetic. When they enter grade 1 they are faced with lessons that demand their ability to read, write and count. Reading is a must if we want to rule the world.

The causes of reading, writing and arithmetic difficulties can be caused by various factors. One of them is the lack of attention and guidance from parents in their learning activities. Parents are the main educators for a child. In schools, teachers have tried their best to guide, direct, and also give special attention to students who have learning difficulties. At home a child needs the guidance and support of his parents to succeed in learning.

In addition to parental guidance factors, parental education factors are also very influential on the way parents guide their children. Students whose parents are highly educated have good potential in educating and directing children. Like students at this school, students who are very good in their calistung are children who receive full attention from their parents and also their parents' education is very good.

Learning is the main task of students. experts suggest the notion of learning, can be defined as behavior that is caused or changed through changes because learning involves various aspects of personality, both physical and psychological, such as changes in understanding, problem solving, skills, skills, habits or attitudes (M. Ngalm Purwanto, 2002). In another sense learning is a change in a person's abilities and dispositions that can be maintained within a certain period and is not the result of a growth process. From many psychology defines about learning.

A special learning disability is a disorder in one or more psychological processes that involve understanding and using spoken or written language. The disorder may manifest itself in the form of difficulty listening, thinking, speaking, reading, writing, spelling or counting (Yulinda Erma Suryani, 1997).

This limitation does not include children who have learning problems whose main causes stem from visual, hearing, or motor impairments, barriers due to mental retardation, emotional disturbances, or due to environmental, cultural or economic poverty. Lily (2007) says that learning difficulties are a genetic term which is a heterogeneous group of disorders that manifest as significant difficulties in acquiring and using the ability to listen, speak, read, write, express opinions and mathematics. which is characterized by the presence of obstacles in achieving goals, so it requires even more active efforts to overcome.

According to Slameto (2003), there are two factors that influence learning difficulties, namely: (1) Internal factors, which consist of physiological factors and psychological factors; (2) External factors, including family, school environment, and community.

As educators and educators of children, teachers are like second mothers who teach new things and as facilitators. So that children can learn and develop their basic potential and abilities optimally, it's just that the scope of teachers is different, teachers educate and teach in public or private schools. According to Law no. 14 of 2005, Teachers are professional educators with the main task of educating, teaching, guiding, directing, training, assessing, and evaluating students in early childhood

education through formal education, basic education, and secondary education. According to Law no. 20 of 2003 and Law no. 14 of 2005 the role of the teacher is as an educator, teacher, mentor, director, trainer, assessor and evaluator of students.

## RESEARCH METHODS

The type of research used in this research is descriptive qualitative. What is meant by a qualitative approach is an approach in conducting research that is oriented to natural phenomena because of such an orientation, then it is naturalistic and fundamental or natural and cannot be done in the laboratory but must be carried out in the field (Muhammad Nazir, 1986).

In connection with this research problem, the researcher has a work plan or guidelines for conducting research using a qualitative approach, in which the collected opinions, responses, information, concepts and information are in the form of descriptions in expressing problems. Qualitative research is a series of activities or processes filtering data or information that is reasonable about a problem in certain conditions, aspects or fields in the life of the object (Hadadi Nawawi, 1994)

Qualitative research does not use a population, because qualitative research departs from certain cases that exist in certain social situations and the results of the study will not be applied to the population, but transferred to other places in social situations that have similarities with the social situation in the case being studied. The sample in qualitative research is not called the respondent, but as a resource person, informant, friend or teacher in the study. Samples in qualitative research are called theoretical samples because the purpose of qualitative research is to produce theories (Sugiyono, 2014).

The focus of this research is the classroom where the students learn, teachers, students, principals, and teaching and learning activities.

Sources of qualitative research data can be primary data sources and secondary data sources. Data collection techniques are: observation, interviews and documentation. The instruments used in this research are: Observations, interviews and documentation

and then analyzed through the following stages: Data reduction, data presentation, and data verification or inference. To test the validity of the data the author uses time triangulation.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. The Teacher's Role in Identifying Students Who Have Difficulty Learning to Read, Write and Count

The teacher tries to understand the character of the students, so that in providing guidance it can be classified according to the character of each student so that the teaching and learning process can take place well. The teacher's understanding of the personal character of students is very helpful in providing subject matter, to determine the character of students so that they can determine what learning system is appropriate to be applied in learning, especially in learning to read, write and count. There are many ways that teachers do to teach their students so they are not bored and bored. In learning, one of which is the method of learning while playing. This method really helps the teacher to more quickly catch the lesson given by the teacher.

After doing learning that uses the learning while playing method, the teacher gives tests to the students, the test results are analyzed then the results can be seen how many students experience difficulties in learning. Apart from teaching, guiding and directing, the teacher also always pays attention to the students who are learning. Teachers do various ways to find out the learning outcomes of their students.

Based on the advice given by the principal, the teacher tries to understand the character of the students, so that in providing guidance it can be classified according to the character of each student so that the teaching and learning process can take place well. The teacher's understanding

of the personal character of students is very helpful in providing subject matter.

From this, the teacher must also pay attention to the development of student learning, especially in learning to read, write and count. This is done so that the teacher can find out how many students are able to read, write and count as well as students who are not able to read, write and count.

Teachers can find out how many students have good learning abilities and students who are less able to learn so that they can determine what learning system is appropriate to be applied in learning, especially in learning to read, write and count.

A teacher always does his best for the success of his students. Students are one component of education in schools, for that it needs to get great attention from the educational environment. Sometimes a student faces complex problems that can affect his learning achievement at school. The problems faced by students are very important problems that must be known by the teacher. Because it is very influential on the success of learning.

These learning difficulties can be caused by the fact that these students have never been to school in Kindergarten (TK) so that students find it very difficult to recognize letters and numbers, therefore the task of teachers as educators and supervisors plays a very important role in giving students consideration. Problem solving. Kindergarten schools really help students' learning abilities, because students get a lot of learning experiences provided by teachers while in kindergarten.

Many students do not have experience studying in kindergarten, so they will call the letters or numbers according to what they have heard without knowing the difference or the shape of the letters and numbers. But not all students experience

things like that, because there are also students who have never attended kindergarten but they are able to figure it out quickly.

Based on the steps taken to find out how many students have learning difficulties, it can be concluded that, apart from the basic ability test, the teacher also always observes the teaching and learning process, students' study habits and sometimes there are students who always disturb their friends and that can affect learning outcomes. Students who have difficulty will give characteristics that are not calm when studying and are silent.

His study habits always showed anxiety, maybe he was nervous because his writing instruments were incomplete, his friends always bothered him or maybe because the students did not understand the lessons given by the teacher. Likewise with mathematics lessons, after being given an explanation on how to add up, it appears that there are a number of students, who quickly understand the teacher's explanation and there are also students who need guidance. Not only that, because there are also students who have been guided two to four times but still can't, maybe these students need special guidance to make them understand.

Learning is a student's job, therefore a student needs to have good study habits so that they can achieve optimal performance. Study habits are one of the determining factors for learning success. Study habits and learning outcomes have a very strong relationship, this means that students who have good study habits tend to get good learning outcomes. Giving work or assignments while studying in class, it is a way to find out the condition of students and can distinguish that there are some students who have been able to answer it correctly without any difficulty and there are also

some students who cannot answer and even write they do not know.

The teaching and learning process is the core of the overall educational process with the teacher as the main role holder. Because the teaching-learning process contains a series of actions of educators/teachers and students on the basis of reciprocal relationships that take place in educational situations to achieve certain goals.

## 2. Factors that cause learning difficulties

Learning difficulties are individuals who have disorders in one or more basic psychological abilities which include understanding and using language, speaking, and writing which can affect the ability to think, read, count, and speak.

Learning difficulties often occur in every class, especially grade 1. From the teacher's explanation, it turns out that there are some children who are unable to be registered due to a lack of attention from parents. Parental attention is very helpful for a child's success, especially if the child sees television broadcasts, this can also be a factor in the decline in children's enthusiasm for learning due to television shows that are not educational.

In relationships, parents also have to pay attention to where and what children do when playing with their friends, this is also a factor that can reduce the desire to learn because the child will feel comfortable playing rather than studying.

This means that in guiding a student or a child, it is not only imposed on a teacher but also there must be guidance or motivation from parents. Which in this case has more time capacity compared to teachers who can only provide guidance during lesson hours. Teachers are second parents who will provide guidance to their students but apart from teachers, parents must also help guide their children at home. Busy parents will leave it solely to their teachers, while

teachers do not have much time to educate their students.

Attention given to children will be a motivation to learn. In school, teachers are able to give the best for their students but on the other hand, students also need love from their parents, and that love will make them enthusiastic in studying.

A child who is in a period of growth both physically and mentally, must be under the care of both parents. If a child is not under the supervision of their parents, students will have difficulty developing both physically and mentally.

This is caused because a child does not feel he is getting love, attention and guidance from their parents. Love, attention and guidance are very much needed in the mental development of a child, without it the child will have difficulty learning let alone only getting attention from close relatives not from their parents.

Students feel bored, bored and even afraid of a lesson they don't like. This situation makes students' learning desires decrease because they feel that the subject is very difficult to learn such as Mathematics. Children who can learn a subject well will enjoy the subject. Vice versa, children who do not like a subject usually do not or are less successful in learning these subjects. Therefore, the main task that is very decisive for a teacher is how to help students so that they can learn each material well.

Conditions like this usually happen to every student, learning boredom caused by a lesson that is not liked will have a negative impact on students, so teachers are required to know what their students like and don't like. Parents who are always angry, watch TV all the time, are not open or lack of love for their children wholeheartedly are examples of several factors that cause student learning difficulties.

In essence, the environment around students must be able to help them to learn as much as possible while they are studying at school. With

In this way, the environment and schools will help students who are the hope of the nation to develop and grow to be smarter. Students with sufficient abilities should be able to be developed into students with good abilities, those with less ability can be developed into sufficiently capable students.

Again, parents, teachers, and society, intentionally or unintentionally, can cause difficulties for students. Therefore, the role of parents and teachers in fortifying students from the negative influence of the surrounding community. Students who experience retardation will be increasingly left behind by the different attitudes of students. Elementary school institutions in each class, students often do not want to be friends with friends who are less intelligent.

Such an attitude makes students with problems even more left behind with what is conveyed by the teacher, because their friends always make fun of them and will eventually feel insecure. The teacher must play an active role in guiding these students and must convey to all students that helping each other is commendable and must introduce students to how to learn peer tutoring.

Not all students have the same character, there are students who like to study alone, there are also those who like to study in groups and there are even students who like to annoy their friends. Usually students who often disturb their friends while studying will be left behind in lessons and their friends will feel disturbed in learning.

The teacher must immediately deal with students who always disturb their friends because such habits will be carried over to high school. Not only he who loses but his

friends will be harmed and will have a negative impact.

Factors that affect learning achievement in positive conditions, both internal, external and learning approach factors, a student can be sure will gain success in learning and become a high achiever student, on the contrary if these factors are in a negative condition found by students it is certain that these students will encounter many problems in their studies and will not get good success in their studies.

### **3. Teacher's Role in Overcoming Learning Difficulties**

The teacher acts as a motivator for students, in other words the teacher is a substitute for parents who are responsible for providing guidance, direction and assistance to students in their physical and spiritual development so that they are able to be independent and carry out their duties so that they can become useful human beings for society. To grade 1 students, the teacher applies a learning while playing system that can make students active. This system is very effective in helping students to improve learning patterns because students do not feel burdened by the lessons given by the teacher so that learning objectives can be achieved properly.

The system that is often used in the teaching and learning process for grade 1 students is learning while playing. The principal also admitted that grade 1 teachers are very creative in teaching their students, teachers are able to arrange various tools or materials that can stimulate students to learn. With the various teaching aids, students will feel happy, students will be active and motivated to learn. Grade 1 teachers must be able to create a comfortable atmosphere in learning. Apart from that, teachers must also have various learning materials that can support students

in learning, especially learning to write, read and count.

Apart from the system, grade 1 teachers also use media which really helps the learning process in the classroom. There are many ways that teachers can do to make students know, one of which is to activate students to learn to read using letter cards, the card is the teacher mentions the letters one by one then students spell them, students can find the letters themselves and then spell them, in a way like students will easily remember it.

Number cards are often used to help students count, the teacher can mention number by number then students are invited to add up the numbers, apart from that to make it easier to find out the number of these numbers the teacher gives tools such as stones, the teacher mentions the number 3, students look for the number 3 and the number of stones 3, then the teacher mentions the number 2, the students take the number 2 and the stones as much as 2 then the teacher asks the students to count how many there are and take a number card according to the number.

While the picture media, the teacher uses for writing skills, the teacher shows pictures, such as sweeping pictures, the students mention what the picture is doing and the teacher invites the students to write it down. The teaching and learning process can be achieved with the creativity of the teacher, as a teacher must create a conducive atmosphere. Liked by students, creating a pleasant atmosphere, teachers must really educate, guide and direct students to become better.

The existence of props and number cards that can support active learning, students will feel happy and feel proud by finding the right answer for themselves. In that way, students will be easy to remember how to count.

One of the backgrounds that affect the ability to learn to read, write and count is that these students have never attended kindergarten. Students who have attended kindergarten have different abilities, students bring provisions from previous schools, such as students who are able to recognize letters, numbers and even write.

Teachers play a very important role in teaching such students, teachers must have the right system, develop various methods, media that are able to activate students so that they achieve the goals expected by the teacher. Kindergarten schools really help students' learning abilities, because students get a lot of learning experience given by the teacher while in kindergarten.

In addition to playing, students are also given knowledge that can shape the character, abilities and talents of students. From these schools students get a lot of experience that will be taken to elementary school. So this is where the teacher's role is in guiding, fostering and directing students who have never been to kindergarten.

The teacher is very creative in creating a media that can support the learning process, in grade 1 students will feel comfortable learning if the teacher displays various types of media that are colorful, unique and interesting, the media is prepared according to the learning objectives to be achieved. Apart from the ability of teachers to make media, schools also prepare various kinds of teaching aids which are tools to increase student interest in learning.

Students will feel happy in learning if the teacher always creates a new atmosphere. Teachers should try to make students know from the unknown. The teacher will feel happy if the learning objectives can be achieved in accordance with what is expected.

Letter cards are very helpful for students who have difficulty reading, students are

taught in various ways so that they are able to read, because reading is the key to knowledge itself.

The teaching and learning process is the core of the overall educational process with the teacher as the main role holder. Because the teaching-learning process contains a series of actions of educators/teachers and students on the basis of reciprocal relationships that take place in educational situations to achieve certain goals.

The interaction or reciprocal relationship between teachers and students is the main requirement for the teaching and learning process to take place. Interaction in teaching and learning events has a broader meaning, not just the relationship between teachers and students, but in the form of educational interactions. In this case, it is not only delivering messages in the form of subject matter, but also instilling attitudes and values in students who are learning.

The role of the teacher in the teaching and learning process is that the teacher does not only appear again as a teacher, such as his prominent function so far, but turns as a coach, mentor and learning manager. This is in accordance with the function of the role of the future teacher. Where as a coach, a teacher will play a role in encouraging students to master learning tools, motivating students to work hard and achieve the highest achievement.

How to solve learning problemselementary school students is a very important factor. because if this happens continuously, it can affect the process andchild's learning development stageor students in achieving their achievements.

From the various characters of students in learning, teachers must focus on student problems, especially with students who have learning difficulties. Sometimes there are students who need special guidance from the



teacher. The teacher is obliged to help students who are always silent in class, silent in the sense of not interacting with their friends and the teacher increases their motivation in learning. The teacher must create a challenging, stimulating and fun learning atmosphere and give it a reward. Because usually students will be motivated to learn because they want to get the prizes offered by the teacher.

In addition, the teacher must also create an atmosphere of warm and dynamic relationship between the teacher and his students, the teacher must also complete the learning resources and equipment that makes him curious. Apart from that, the teacher must also study the learning outcomes obtained by the students and will be an improvement in the learning process. The attention of a teacher is the hope of a student, the teacher must provide special guidance to students who have learning difficulties, these students will feel excited to receive guidance from the teacher and will be a motivation for these students to study harder.

From the results of the study, students will be able to overcome their difficulties in learning by getting special guidance from the teacher, because students will be guided one by one according to the problem. Guidance is a motivation for students.

Solving learning difficulties can be done by providing guidance. Guidance is an effort to deal with learning difficulties that plague students. By providing individual guidance to each student who has learning difficulties, students will feel cared for, and feel motivated. Gradually, students will feel comfortable learning.

Therefore the teacher must provide guidance on tasks that are considered difficult by students after which the teacher provides improvements and the results are definitely better than before. Remedial or

remedial teaching that is often done by teachers to produce grades as expected or in accordance with the Minimum Completeness Criteria (KKM), apart from teacher satisfaction, students will also feel proud of the results obtained.

After getting guidance from the teacher, students will feel more understand what is given by the teacher. Sometimes students have an interest in learning but these students must be approached, praised and motivated, in that way students will learn well.

A teacher must motivate students so that they will learn well, with the motivation given by the teacher, students will try to be better. By motivating students, these students will try to do better. One of the motivations often used by grade 1 teachers is giving gifts to students who finish their assignments early.

The form of gifts given by the teacher is not expensive, but the gifts obtained from the teacher are a source of pride for students. Because with prizes students will continue to try to get what was promised by learning.

The interaction or reciprocal relationship between teachers and students is the main requirement for the teaching and learning process to take place. Interaction in teaching and learning events has a broader meaning, not just the relationship between teachers and students, but in the form of educational interactions. In this case, it is not only delivering messages in the form of subject matter, but also instilling attitudes and values in students who are learning.

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students to master the lesson, motivating students to work hard and achieve high achievements.

#### 4. Research Discussion

Based on the results of the research above, it can be described in the form of discussion as follows: (1) Teachers play a role in identifying students who have learning difficulties through analysis of test results, basic ability tests, attitude scales and study habits as well as observations during teaching and learning. give a test, the teacher gives a lesson that does not make students bored and bored, after that the teacher gives a test, and the results are analyzed. Through analysis the teacher can know the level of ability obtained by students.

Reading, writing and arithmetic are basic lessons that must be mastered by early grade students, to find out whether the student is capable or not, the teacher gives him a basic ability test or a test to recognize letters, numbers and mention them. teachers make direct observations to find out what causes them to have learning difficulties. (2) Factors that make students have learning difficulties include internal and external factors.

Internal factors or factors from within that greatly affect the learning. Internal factors include physiological factors, namely the condition of weak organs and psychological factors that greatly affect the learning process such as lack of attention, talent, interest, motivation, maturity and readiness. While external factors are factors that include schools, communities and the environment.

Teachers play a very important role in overcoming learning difficulties in students, while what they do is provide guidance, educate, teach, direct, train and assess. will have a change from not knowing to knowing.

#### CONCLUSION

Based on the description above, regarding the role of teachers in overcoming difficulties in learning to read, write and

count in students, the authors can draw several conclusions as follows: (1)The role of the teacher in identifying students who have learning difficulties through basic ability tests, analyzing student learning outcomes, observing student learning habits and making observations while teaching and learning is in progress; (2)Many factors make students have learning difficulties, namely attention, interest, motivation and talent factors which are categorized as internal factors, while external factors such as family, friends, and environmental factors; (3) Teachers play a very important role in educating their students, especially in lower classes who still need guidance from a teacher. A student can achieve success in learning with the help of teachers as educators, instructors, mentors, directors, coaches and assessors.

The results showed that the teacher's role in overcoming learning difficulties in students was an effort to increase the intelligence of students. The results of this study can be used as consideration for elementary school teachers in dealing with children with learning difficulties in reading, writing, providing guidance, remedial and using teaching aids in learning will be more interesting and fun for students. For students who have learning difficulties will be motivated to improve their learning achievement.

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